

# Non-Harmonic Tones



A **NON-HARMONIC TONE** IS A NOTE THAT DOESN'T FIT INTO A CHORD. WE CLASSIFY NON-HARMONIC TONES BY HOW THEY ARE **APPROACHED** AND **RESOLVED!**

NAME	ABBREVIATION	APPROACH	RESOLUTION	NOTES	EXAMPLE
PASSING TONE	PT	STEP	STEP	RESOLVES BY CONTINUING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE APPROACH.	
NEIGHBORING TONE	NT	STEP	STEP	RESOLVES BY RETURNING TO THE NOTE PRECEDING THE NON-HARMONIC TONE.	
APPOGGIATURA	APP	LEAP	STEP	RESOLVES IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM APPROACH.	
ESCAPE TONE	ET	STEP	LEAP	RESOLVES IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM APPROACH.	
CHANGING TONES	CT	ANY	STEP	TWO NON-HARMONIC TONES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE NOTE OF RESOLUTION.	
ANTICIPATION	ANT	ANY	COMMON TONE	A CHORD TONE PLAYED BEFORE THE REST OF THE CHORD ARRIVES.	
SUSPENSION	SUS	COMMON TONE	STEP	A NOTE HELD OVER FROM A PREVIOUS CHORD AND RESOLVED DOWN.	
RETARDATION	RET	COMMON TONE	STEP	A NOTE HELD OVER FROM A PREVIOUS CHORD AND RESOLVED UP.	
PEDAL TONE	PED	COMMON TONE	COMMON TONE	A CHORD TONE WHICH TEMPORARILY BECOMES A NON-HARMONIC TONE.	

**SUSPENSIONS** ARE TYPICALLY FURTHER IDENTIFIED **BY NUMBER**. THE FIRST NUMBER REPRESENTS THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE **NOTE OF SUSPENSION** AND THE **BASS**. THE SECOND NUMBER REPRESENTS THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE **NOTE OF RESOLUTION** AND THE **BASS**.

THE EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS THE **2-3** OR **BASS** SUSPENSION, WHERE THE NUMBERS REPRESENT THE INTERVALS BETWEEN THE **BASS** (WHERE THE SUSPENSION OCCURS) AND WHICHEVER VOICE HAS THE NOTE WHICH IS A **SECOND** (NOT COUNTING OCTAVES) ABOVE THE BASS.

**4-3  
SUS**

**7-6  
SUS**

**9-8  
SUS**

**2-3  
(BASS)  
SUS**