

Diatonic Seventh Chords



HERE THEY ARE IN MAJOR AND MINOR.

REMEMBER: WE ONLY RAISE THE LEADING-TONE OVER DOMINANT-FUNCTION HARMONY!

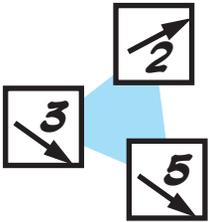
WHAT ARE THEY?

DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORDS ARE THE SEVENTH CHORDS YOU CAN CREATE USING ONLY THE NOTES IN A PARTICULAR KEY.

C: I⁷ ii⁷ iii⁷ IV⁷ V⁷ vi⁷ vii^{o7}

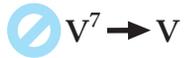
a: i⁷ ii^{o7} III⁷ iv⁷ V⁷ VI⁷ vii^{o7}

IN HARMONIC PROGRESSIONS, DIATONIC SEVENTHS CAN BE USED ANYWHERE YOU CAN USE A DIATONIC TRIAD WITH THE SAME ROOT.



IN FACT, THESE CHORDS CAN BE APPROACHED AND RESOLVED USING ANY OF THE SAME THREE **ROOT MOVEMENTS** AS TRIADS USE.

WITH THE DIATONIC SEVENTH CHORDS, WE ADD A FOURTH ROOT MOVEMENT: **THE COMMON ROOT**. HOWEVER, THIS ROOT MOVEMENT CAN ONLY BE USED TO **INCREASE TENSION**, SO GOING FROM A **SEVENTH CHORD** TO A **TRIAD** IS AVOIDED.



SEVENTH CHORDS HAVE **FOUR NOTES**, SO DOUBLING IN FOUR-PART HARMONY IS NOT AN ISSUE... BUT IF YOU NEED TO USE IRREGULAR DOUBLING, **DOUBLE THE ROOT** AND **OMIT THE FIFTH**.

REMEMBER, **DIATONIC** MEANS "FROM THE KEY." SO A DIATONIC CHORD IS ONE THAT ONLY USES NOTES IN THE KEY SIGNATURE. **NO ACCIDENTALS!**

THERE ARE EIGHT POSSIBLE TYPES OF SEVENTH CHORDS IN TERTIAL HARMONY, BUT THE COMPOSERS OF THE COMMON PRACTICE PERIOD ONLY USED **FIVE**:

THE MAJOR SEVENTH

THE MAJOR-MINOR SEVENTH

THE MINOR SEVENTH

THE HALF-DIMINISHED SEVENTH

THE FULLY DIMINISHED SEVENTH

WE USE "°7" FOR HALF-DIMINISHED SEVENTHS AND "o7" FOR FULLY DIMINISHED SEVENTHS.

WHEN USING THESE CHORDS IN FOUR-PART WRITING - IN FACT, WHEN YOU USE **ANY** SEVENTH CHORD IN FOUR-PART WRITING, YOU MUST ALWAYS, **ALWAYS** REMEMBER TO...

THE SEVENTH OF THE CHORD IS MOST OFTEN APPROACHED BY **THE COMMON TONE**.

RESPECT THE SEVENTH!

HOWEVER, IT IS OKAY TO APPROACH THE SEVENTH FROM BELOW BY A STEP OR A LEAP, OR FROM ABOVE BY A STEP.

YOU MUST **NEVER** APPROACH THE SEVENTH BY A **LEAP** FROM ABOVE!

THE SEVENTH OF THE CHORD IS **ALWAYS** RESOLVED **DOWN** BY STEP. ALWAYS!

NO, I'M SERIOUS. DON'T **EVER** RESOLVE THE SEVENTH OF A SEVENTH CHORD ANY OTHER WAY.

DOING SO WILL CAUSE YOU **CERTAIN DEATH!**

