

# Altered and Enharmonic Modulation

F: I IV V  
C: I V I

**ALTERED COMMON CHORD MODULATION IS EASY: REMEMBER DIATONIC COMMON CHORD MODULATION, WHERE WE USED A CHORD THAT WAS DIATONIC IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW KEYS?**

**ALTERED COMMON CHORD MODULATION IS THE SAME THING, ONLY USING THE PIVOT CHORD AS AN ALTERED CHORD IN EITHER THE OLD KEY, THE NEW KEY, OR BOTH.**

F: I IV V  
E: **bVI** V I

NOW, IN BOTH DIATONIC MODULATION AND ALTERED MODULATION, WE HAVE **ONE** CHORD THAT PLAYS **TWO DIFFERENT ROLES**, ONE FOR EACH KEY. BUT THE CHORD TYPE DOESN'T CHANGE... IF IT WAS A MAJOR CHORD IN THE OLD KEY, IT'S STILL A MAJOR CHORD IN THE NEW KEY.

...BUT WHAT IF THE CHORD TYPE DID CHANGE?

IN **ENHARMONIC MODULATION**, WE RESPELL A CHORD ENHARMONICALLY SO THE CHORD TYPE ITSELF IS DIFFERENT IN THE OLD AND NEW KEYS.

THIS TECHNIQUE IS SO - WELL, **ODD** - THAT THERE ARE ONLY **TWO SPECIFIC WAYS** TO DO IT.

EVER NOTICE THAT THE **GERMAN AUGMENTED SIXTH CHORD** IS JUST LIKE A **MAJOR-MINOR SEVENTH CHORD** WITH THE SEVENTH RESPELLED ENHARMONICALLY?

C: Ger.6 Db: V<sup>7</sup>

**BEETHOVEN DID!**

WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND USE IT AS A PIVOT CHORD... WHERE IT ACTS LIKE A GERMAN AUGMENTED SIXTH IN ONE KEY BUT LIKE A V<sup>7</sup> (OR A V<sup>7</sup>/X SECONDARY DOMINANT) IN THE OTHER KEY!

Db: IV<sup>6</sup> V<sup>7</sup> V I  
C: Ger.6

NOTE THAT THE PIVOT CHORD ABOVE IS APPROACHED LIKE A **DOMINANT SEVENTH**, BUT RESOLVED LIKE AN **AUGMENTED SIXTH CHORD!**

**FULLY DIMINISHED SEVENTH CHORDS** ARE COOL FOR A LOT OF REASONS, AND ONE OF THEM IS THAT THEY ARE **EQUIDISTANT CHORDS**: INVERTING A FULLY DIMINISHED SEVENTH YIELDS ANOTHER ROOT-POSITION FULLY DIMINISHED SEVENTH CHORD.

a<sup>o7</sup> INVERT a<sup>o5</sup> RESPELL c<sup>o7</sup>

MEANING THAT A **FULLY DIMINISHED LEADING TONE SEVENTH CHORD** CAN BE A PIVOT CHORD INTO **THREE OTHER POSSIBLE KEYS**:

G: I vii<sup>o7</sup> WHICH CAN BE RESPELLED AS vii<sup>o7</sup>  
E: vii<sup>o5</sup> I

G: I vii<sup>o7</sup> WHICH CAN BE RESPELLED AS vii<sup>o7</sup>  
Db: vii<sup>o3</sup> I

G: I vii<sup>o7</sup> WHICH CAN BE RESPELLED AS vii<sup>o7</sup>  
Bb: vii<sup>o2</sup> I