

Non-Harmonic Notes



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

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

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**