

## $\frac{6}{4}$ (Second inversion) Chords

### Explanation:

$\frac{6}{4}$  chords are triads in second inversion.

They should be used in four-part writing and in music in general with extreme caution because they are unstable chords since they contain the interval of the fourth above the bass (a dissonance).

### Second inversion triads should be used only in the following ways:

#### Cadential:

Even though the chord looks like a tonic chord, it really is a dominant chord. As such, it is labeled as a V chord with a 6 and 4 above the bass that move to a 5 and 3 above the bass.

Since the chord is a V chord, the bass is doubled.

The musical notation shows a four-measure progression in C major, 3/4 time. The first measure is the IV chord (F major) in root position. The second measure is the V chord (G7) in second inversion, with a 6-5 interval above the bass and a 4-3 interval below the bass. The bass is doubled in the V chord. The third measure is the I chord (C major) in root position. The fourth measure is a whole rest.

C: IV V( $\frac{6-5}{4-3}$ ) I

**Passing bass:**

The bass note of the  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord acts as a passing note in the bass (see examples below).

C: I  $V\frac{6}{4}$  I $\frac{6}{4}$  C: IV  $I\frac{6}{4}$  IV6

The bass note of the  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord is doubled.

**Pedal or neighbor (or static bass):**

In this type of  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord, the bass note is approached and left by the same tone and is between two root position triads that are the same.

The bass note of the  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord is doubled.

C: I  $IV\frac{6}{4}$  I C: V  $I\frac{6}{4}$  V

**Arpeggio:**

The bass note of this  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord participates in an arpeggiation of the same chord.

This type of  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord use may occur with any type of triad (usually major and minor chords).

The bass note of the  $\frac{6}{4}$  chord is doubled.

The image shows three chords in C major. The first two are in treble clef: C major (I) and C major 6 (I6). The third is in bass clef: C major 6/4 (I6/4). The bass note of the I6/4 chord is doubled.

C: I      I6      I $\frac{6}{4}$