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CHAPTER 14

and LINE CLICHES

Essential Concepts / Skills covered in chapter 14

- 6th chord, m6, aug triad, and 7#5 chords
- 5, #5, 6 line cliches
- Descending line cliches from a major chord
- Descending line cliches from a minor chord
- Dim7 chords: dominant function, chromatic function, and minor key VII dim7
- Songwriting devices for creating focal points
- Ear training: 6th, m6, aug, 7#5, dim7, line cliches

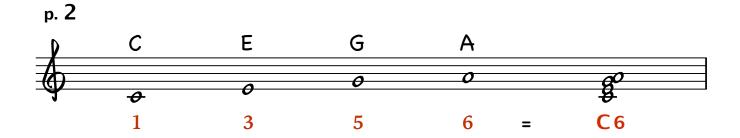
6th Chord

A sixth chord is created by adding the <u>6th degree to the major triad</u>. For example, a C6 consists of the C major triad (C, E, and G) with an added A note (6th degree figured from the root C).

(i)) ex.1

For AUDIO, see "Theory Examples" on top-right sidebar, click on "Show List" button, then click on Ex. 1 in the pop-out menu.





The formula 1, 3, 5, 6 remains the same for all 6th chords. Therefore, a D6 would be spelled D, F#, A, B - representing 1, 3, 5, 6 figured from the D root, and an E6 would be spelled E, G#, B, C# (1, 3, 5, 6 figured from E), etc.

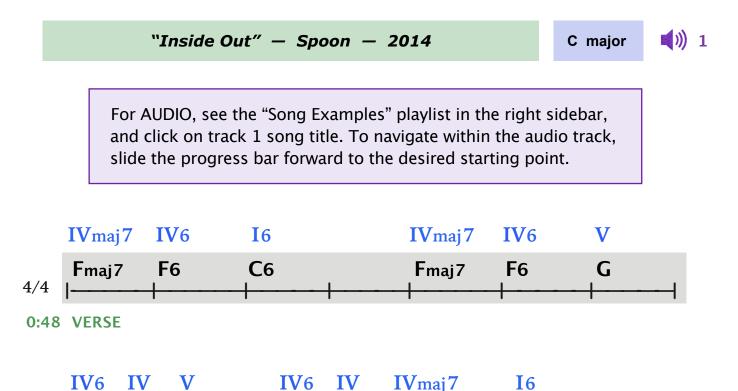
I6 or **IV**6

F6

F

G

In pop & rock music, sixth chords are often used as "color" variations of the I or the IV chords. Our first song example features both the <u>I6</u> and the <u>IV6</u> chords, as shown below. START LISTENING AT **0:48**



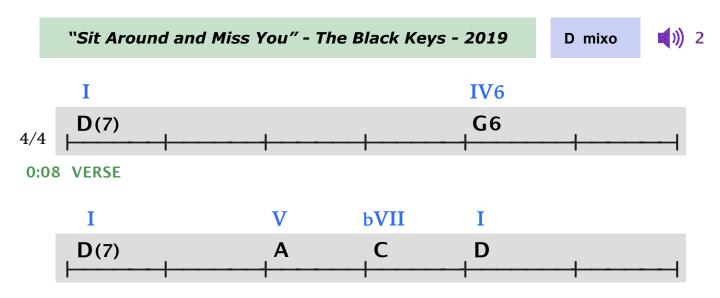
F

F6

Fmaj7

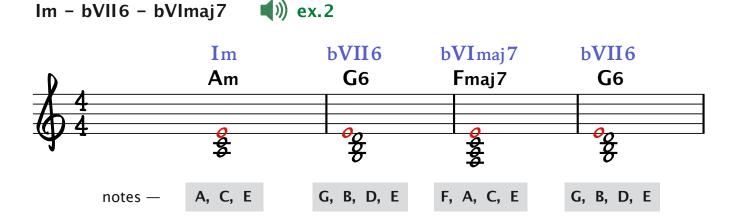
C6

The following song by The Black Keys is an example of the IV6 chord in a **mixo- lydian key**. The guitar is actually playing a D triad for the I chord. However, it is labeled as D(7) because there is a strong b7 note sung in the vocal melody, providing the mixolydian flavor.

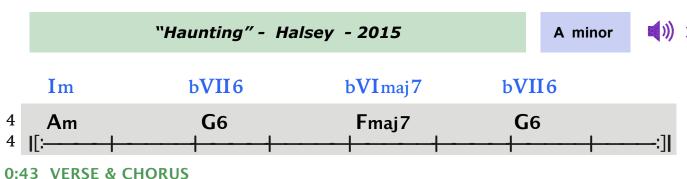


bVII6 in MINOR KEY

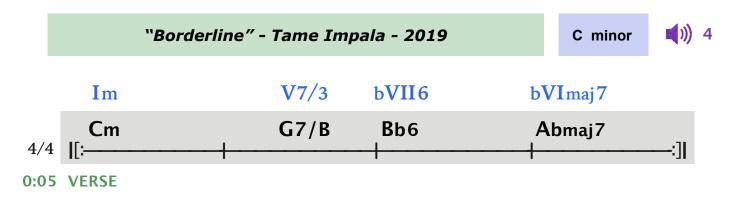
The next example by Halsey is in a minor key, featuring the common <u>stair-step</u> <u>progression</u> (Im - bVII - bVI) discussed in Chapter Three. You will notice that the bVII is actually a <u>bVII 6</u> (G 6) chord, with the sixth degree (E note) as the highest voice. This creates a droning E note when combined with the other two chords in the progression, as shown below. START LISTENING AT **0:43**



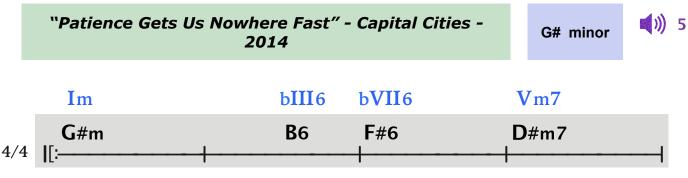




Here's another example based on the stair-step progression with a bVII6 chord. However, in this case, a V7/3 chord (G7/B) is inserted after the Im, creating a compelling **chromatic descent** through the bass notes C, B, and Bb.

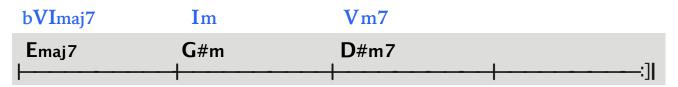


The next example by Capital Cities is also in a minor key. Like the previous song, it has a bVII6, but it also features a brief **bIII6** chord.



0:00 INTRO & VERSE

р. 5



Additional songs with PROMINENT 6th CHORD

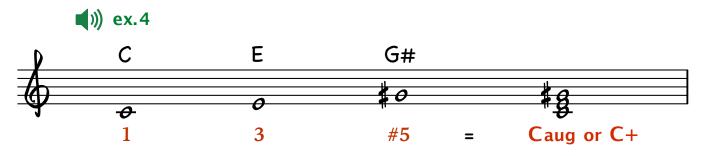
1957	Wonderful Wonderful	Johnny Mathis	Bb major
1961	Amor	Ben E. King	Bb major
1973	Love Train	O'Jays	C major
1976	Tequila Sunrise	Eagles	G major
1996	That's Right (You're Not from Texas)	Lyle Lovett	Bb major
2003	Doin' Fine	Jewel	D major
2017	Talk Too Much	COIN	E major

(Pages 6 and 7 omitted from this sample)

Augmented 5th Chords

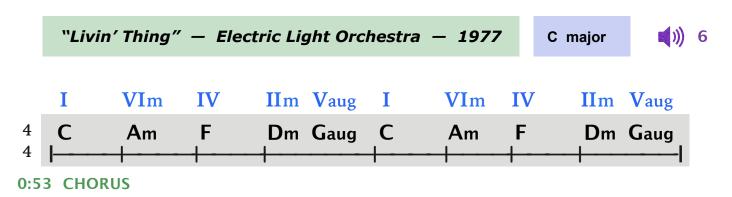
THE AUGMENTED TRIAD

The major triad can be altered by <u>raising the fifth degree one half step</u>, creating an **augmented triad**. This chord consists of scale degrees 1, 3, and #5, and is written with the word "aug" or the "+" symbol after the letter name. For example, the Caug chord would be spelled with the notes C, E, and G#, as follows.



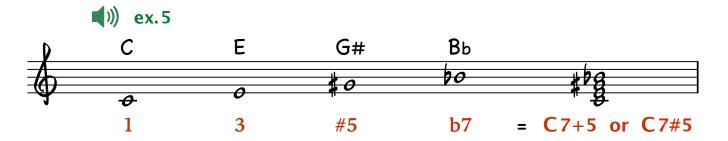
Vaug CHORD

In practice, the augmented triad is sometimes used as a color variation of the **V chord**, as seen on the chorus of the song "Livin' Thing" by the Electric Light Orchestra. START LISTENING AT **0:53**

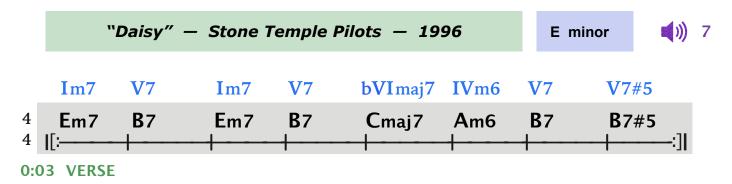


V7#5 CHORD

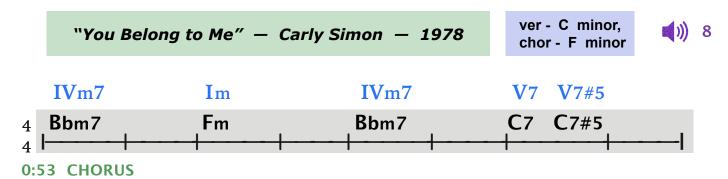
The 5th degree is also sometimes raised on the V7 chord. This chord can be written as either <u>V7+5</u> or <u>V7#5</u>.



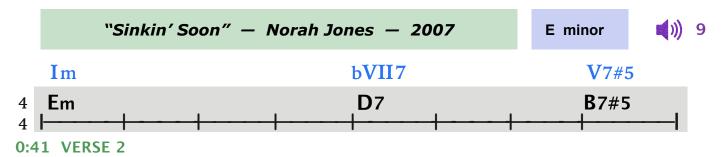
Stone Temple Pilots' 1996 song "Daisy" offers a great example of the **V7#5**, placing the regular V7 and V7#5 back to back for easy comparison.



Here's another example with the V7#5 preceded by the regular V7. START LISTENING AT **0:53**



On Norah Jones' "Sinkin' Soon," the distinctive sound of the V7#5 chord on the last bar of the verse highlights the song's title phrase. START LISTENING AT **0:41**



Additional songs with 7#5 CHORD

1955	Mr. Sandman	Chordettes	A major, D major
1960	Carolina Moon	Connie Francis	Eb major, E major

WRITTEN EXERCISE

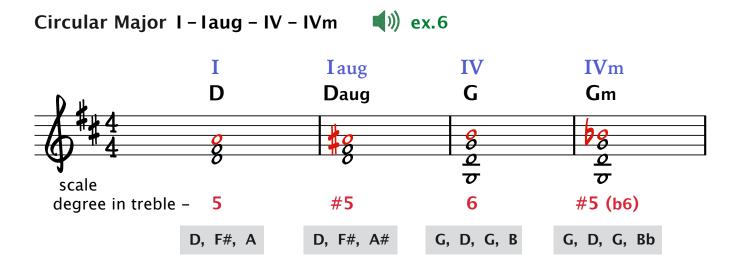
Use **Exercise 14.1** (see "Textbook Contents"/ "Volume 2"/ "Written Exercises") to practice spelling some common m6, 6, aug, and 7#5 chords.

5, #5, 6 Line Cliches

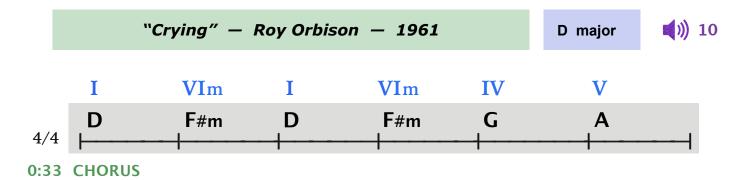
Sometimes the chords in a short sequence will share mostly the same chord tones, and only one voice (usually in either the treble or the bass) will change from chord to chord. These chord sequences are called "**line cliches**." In this situation, the changing notes tend to stand out, creating a descending, ascending, or "circular" line across the progression. Several types of line cliches will be discussed in this chapter, starting with cliches that use the 5, #5, and 6 degrees of the key.

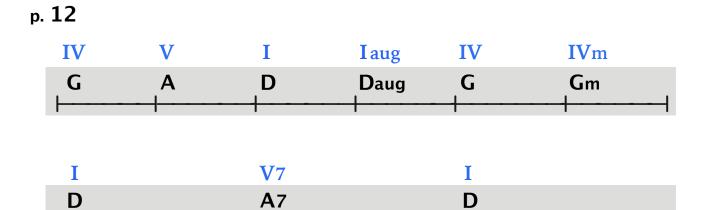
CIRCULAR MAJOR 5, #5, 6, #5

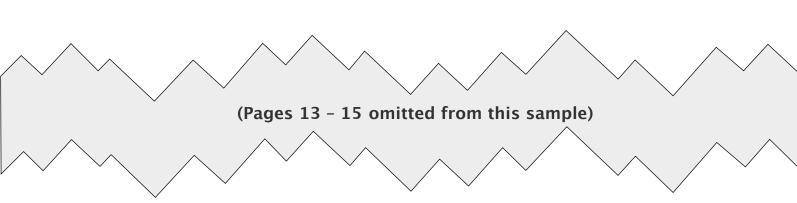
We just heard an example of the aug triad as a V chord. However, a more common usage of the triad would be as part of a line cliche, such as the progression <u>I - I aug - IV - IVm</u>, shown below in Roy Orbison's "Crying" (end of line 2). The treble notes create the line <u>5</u>, #5, 6, #5, and with the return back home to the I chord (on line 3), the overall effect could be described as "circular." You will notice in the following score that the final treble voice of the Gm chord is actually spelled enharmonically as a Bb note (b6) instead of A# (#5). This preserves the correct chord spelling for the individual Gm chord (1, 5, 1, b3 figured from the low root G).



In Orbison's song, the arresting sound of the cliche helps highlight the song's title, which is sung four times during the sequence — once for each chord in the cliche. START LISTENING AT **0:33**





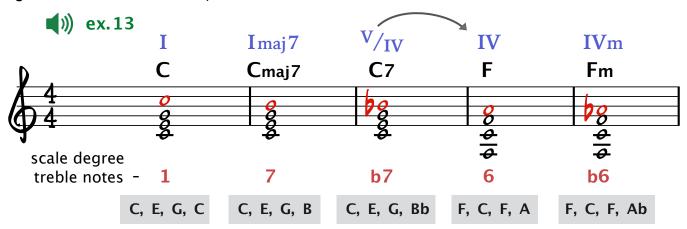


Additional Line Cliches from Major Chord

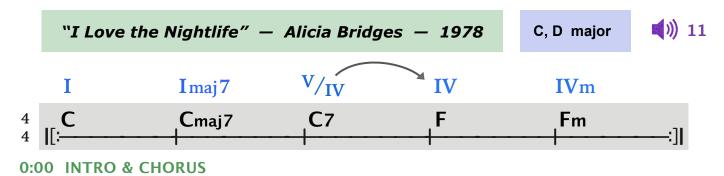


MAJOR CHROMATIC DESCENDING

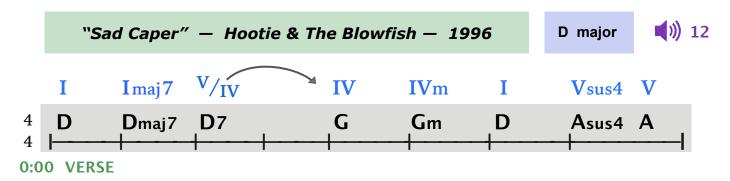
Sometimes an additional half step is added to the descending line 1, b7, 6, b6 by including the <u>natural 7th degree</u> between the 1 and the b7 notes. This creates a continuous chromatic descent through degrees <u>1, 7, b7, 6, and b6</u> (shown below with descending line in the treble voices).



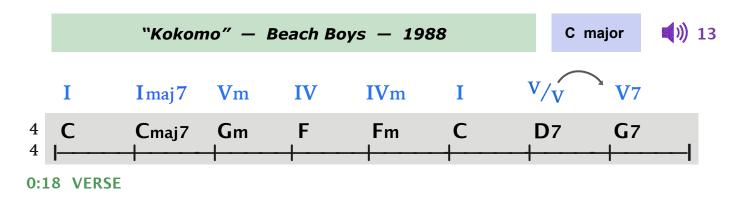
This descending chromatic cliche is clearly heard in the chorus of Alicia Bridges 1978 disco hit "I Love the Nightlife," shown below.



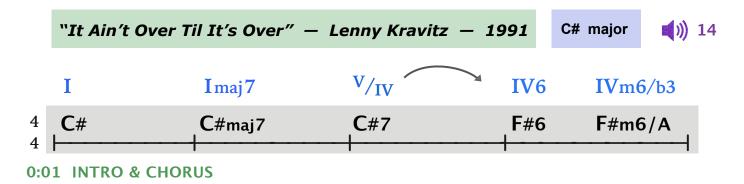
Here's the cliche stretched out over eight bars in the key of D major.



The next example by the Beach Boys features a variation of the major chromatic descending cliche, with a **modal interchange Vm** as the third chord of the progression.



The following Lenny Kravitz song features two versions of the major chromatic cliche. On the intro and chorus, the descending line is in the **treble** voices as shown below.



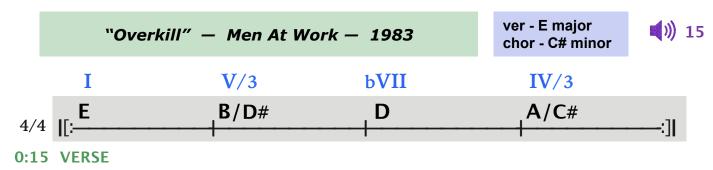
However, during the verse the descending line starts in the <u>bass</u> with the chords C#, E#m/B#, C#7/B before jumping to the treble again on the last two chords F#6 and F#m6.

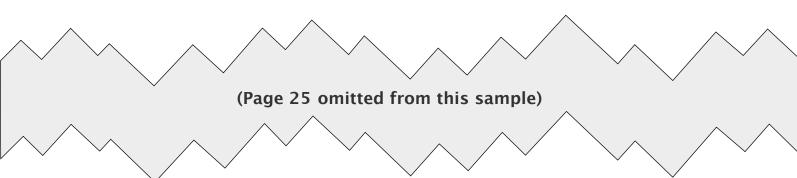
Additional songs with MAJOR CHROMATIC DESCENDING CLICHE

1983	Always Something There to Remind Me	Naked Eyes	D major
1999	What a Girl Wants	Christina Aguilera	ver - A minor chor - C major
2007	Real Girl	Mutya Buena	E major
2010	They Try (chorus)	Rascal Flatts	Db major
2018	Let's Make It Last	Ray LaMontagne	Eb major

MAJOR CHROMATIC DESCENDING using I - V - bVII - IV

A common varation of the major chromatic descending uses the <u>I - V - bVII - IV</u> progression, as heard on the 1983 hit "Overkill" by Men At Work. In this song the descending line is in the bass in the key of E major, as follows.

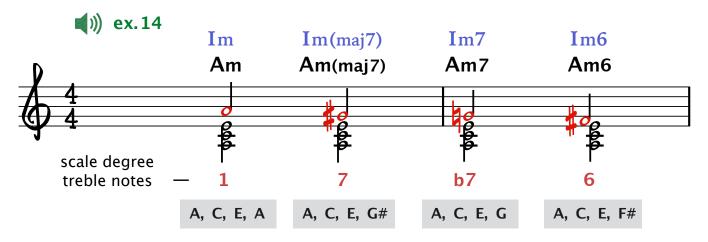




Descending Line Cliches from Minor Chord

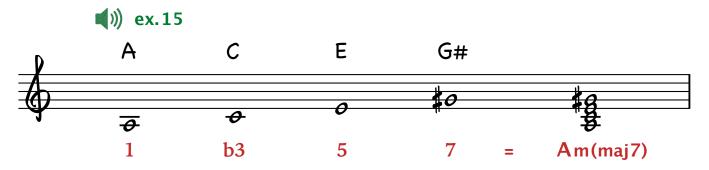
MINOR CHROMATIC DESCENDING using Im(maj7)

The 1, 7, b7, 6 descending line can also occur in a minor key or from a minor chord. In the key of A minor, the chord progression would look like this if all other chord tones remain stationary and the descending line moves only in the treble voices.



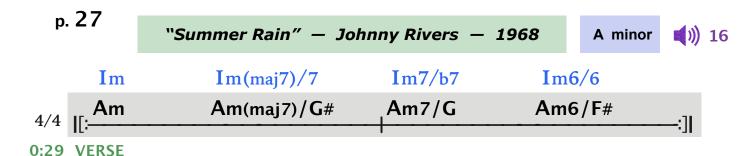
THE m(maj7) CHORD

You will note that the second chord, **Am(maj7)**, is a new type of chord with the following formula.



This minor descending cliche can be heard on the 1968 hit "Summer Rain" by Johnny Rivers, with one slight variation — the descending 1, 7, b7, 6 notes are in the <u>bass</u>. This creates the chord sequence <u>Im - Im(maj7)/7 - Im7/b7 - Im6/6</u> as shown below.

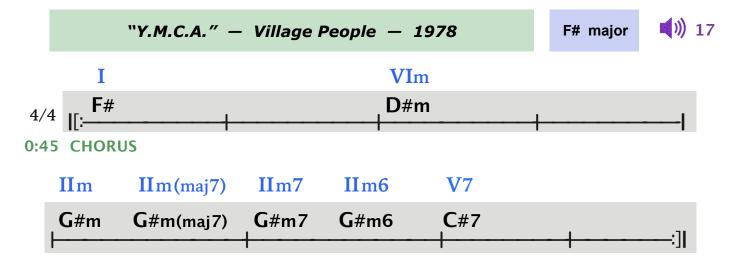
START LISTENING AT 0:29



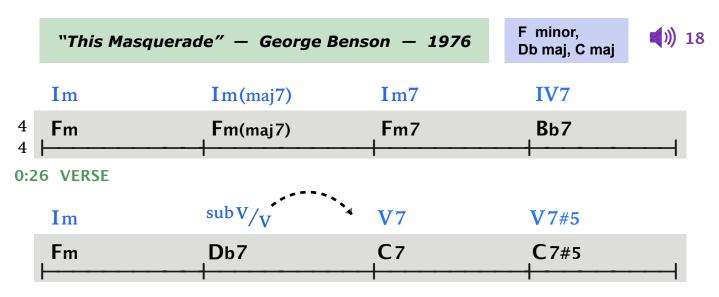
In the above progression the Am6/F# (Im6/6) chord could be written as F#m7b5 (VIm7b5) if notes are figured from the F#, since these two chords contain the same four notes A, C, E, and F#. scale degree from root - 1 b3 5 C f# Am6 note name a e f# $= F \pm m7b5$ note name a C e **b**5 scale degree from root **b**3 **b**7

However, the first three chords in the progression were figured from the tonic root A, so it probably makes the relationship between all four chords a little clearer to write the chord as Am6/F#.

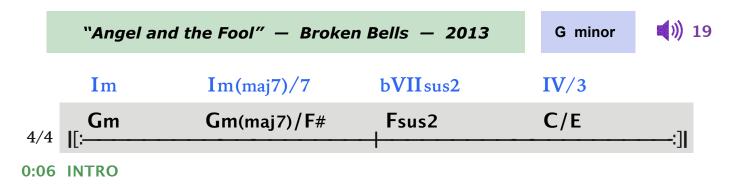
The minor descending cliche does not always have to start on the tonic Im chord. For example, the 1978 hit "Y.M.C.A" by the Village People is actually in a major key (F# major), and the cliche is used on the <u>Ilm chord</u> (G#m) as shown below. Also note that the descending line is in the <u>treble</u> voices instead of the bass. START LISTENING AT **0:45**



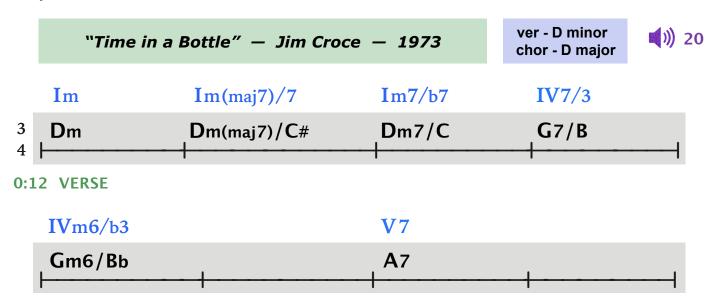
Here's a variation of the minor cliche from George Benson with a <u>IV 7</u> as the fourth chord. Also notice on the second line the <u>subV/V</u> chord (Db7) and the <u>V7#5</u> (C7#5). START LISTENING AT **0:26**



This variation of the minor cliche has a **bVIIsus2** as the third chord in the progression. Notice that the descending line is back in the **bass**.

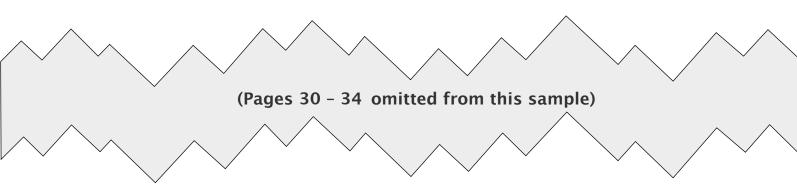


The following Jim Croce classic, "Time in a Bottle," carries the descending bass line one step further, adding a IVm6/b3 chord to the sequence. You will note that once again the m6 chord (Gm6/Bb) could have been written with the equivalent m7b5 name (Em7b5/Bb), but since the previous chord in the progression was G7/B, the chord was written as Gm6/Bb to make the chord movement a little clearer.



Additional songs with MINOR CHROMATIC DESCENDING CLICHE using Im(maj7)

1968	Gentle on My Mind	Glen Campbell	Eb major
1972	Guitar Man (release)	Bread	ver - G major release - A minor
1976	You Should Be Dancing	Bee Gees	G dorian, G minor
1977	I'll Write a Song For You (outro)	Earth, Wind, & Fire	A major
2007	Pain	Three Days Grace	E minor



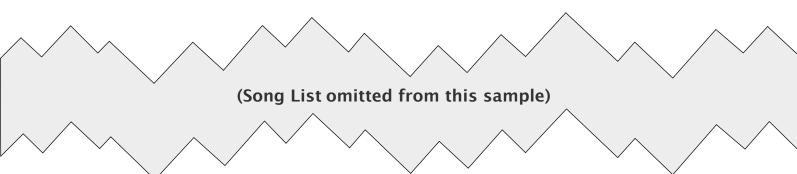
WRITTEN EXERCISES

Try Exercises 14.3, 14.4, and 14.5 (see "Textbook Contents"/ "Volume 2"/ "Written Exercises") to review some of the previous line cliches in this chapter.

EAR TRAINING EXERCISES

For more practice identifying line cliches by ear, go to **Exercises 14.10e** — **14.17e** (see "Textbook Contents"/ "Volume 2"/ "Ear Training Exercises").

Pick a song from the list below. The song's chord progression will be provided by the instructor, and you will write in the roman numeral analysis over each chord symbol.



Answer the following questions about your song:

— Listening for tension and resolution, describe where the focal point occurs in terms of form (beginning or end of verse, pre- chorus, chorus, etc.). At what point does the tension start to build and when exactly does the resolution occur? (Note the 0:00 time marks for both.)

— Describe the musical elements that help create the tension and then provide a satisfying resolution. Does this song contain any of the focal point devices discussed in previous chapters (listed below)? Hint: All of the songs use at least two of these devices:

V to I Tension - Resolution

The I Chord is Avoided

Drum Fill

Stop Time

Main Instrumental Groove Temporarily Suspended

Harmonic Rhythm (chord changes) Slowed or Suspended

Highest Melody Note Starts Chorus

Uplifting Modulation

Other Tension Chords

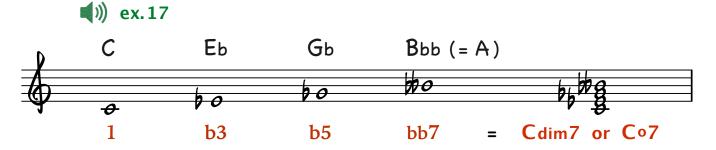
— Does the focal point highlight the place where the song's title is sung?

dim7 Chords

THE dim7 CHORD

We were introduced to the dim triad back in Chapter Two, as part of the seven diatonic triads in the major key. The dim triad was also mentioned in Chapter Three as part of the minor key diatonic triads. We noted that these dim triads are very rare in pop and rock music, and indeed we have not encountered them in succeeding chapters.

However, there is a four-note **diminished seventh chord** (written either "**dim7**" or "**o7**") that <u>is</u> found occasionally in pop, and it is even more prominent in jazz - especially older "standards" from the 1910's to 1940's. The formula for the dim7 chord is shown below:



You will notice that the bb7 degree (Bbb) could be written as an "A," but naming convention in music theory dictates that "Bbb" is the proper way to spell this note when describing a dim7 chord.

DIMINISHED CHORD PATTERNS

Dim7 chords usually move by <u>half step</u> either up or down to the next chord. If the dim7 chord is also preceded by a half step, the movement is called a "**prepared approach**" to the dim7, as shown below.

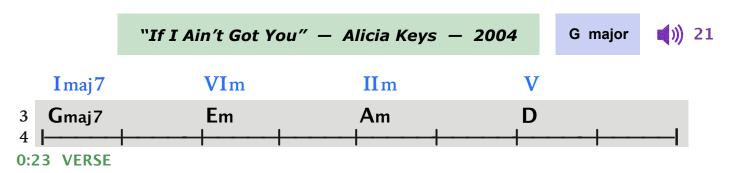
When the dim7 is both preceded and followed by a half step, it is said to be a "passing" dim7 chord, much like passing notes in a chromatic melody line.

DOMINANT FUNCTION

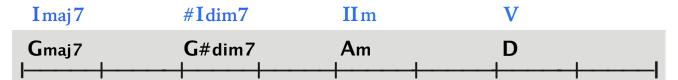
Many diminished chords have a **dominant function**, meaning they are substituting for a V chord or a secondary dominant. These dim7 chords resolve up a half step to a diatonic target. The two most common patterns in pop & rock for dominant function diminished chords are # I dim7 to II m7, and # V dim7 to VI m7.

#I dim7 to IIm7

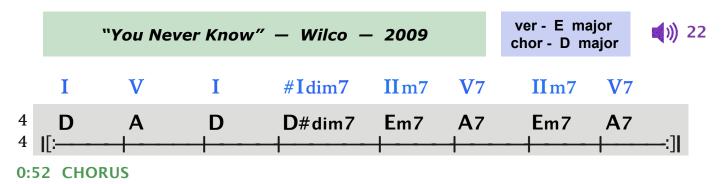
Our first example of the # I dim7 chord comes from Alicia Keys and her 2004 hit "If I Ain't Got You." Notice that the first line is a basic I-VIm-IIm-V doowop progression (Gmaj7 - Em - Am - D in the key of G major). On the second line, the Em is replaced by a G#dim7 chord, which functions like a secondary dominant E7 (V/IIm) going to the target Am. Try playing an E7 before the Am on your guitar or keyboard and you will hear the similarity to the G#dim7 (we will explore this idea a bit further in the next chapter). This G#dim7 is said to be a passing diminished chord, chromatically linking the Gmaj7 and Am chords. START LISTENING AT 0:23



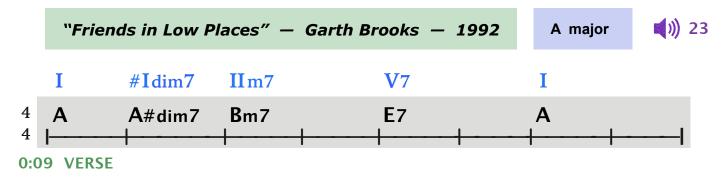




The 2009 song "You Never Know" by Wilco also features a passing # I dim7 with a dominant function. START LISTENING AT **0:52**

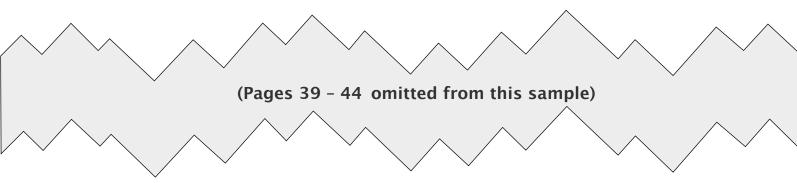


Here's an example of the passing #I dim7 chord from country-pop star Garth Brooks, hitting the charts in 1992:



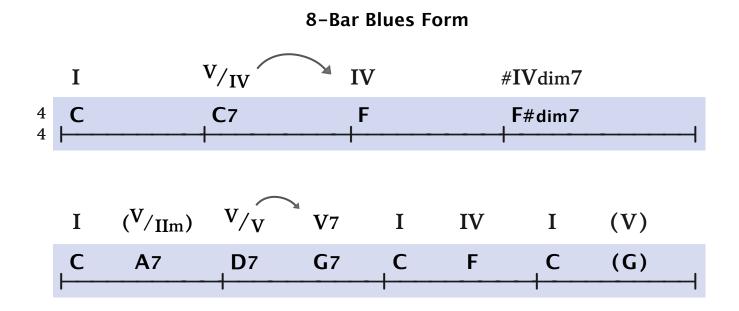
Additional songs with #Idim7 CHORD

1957	My Special Angel	Bobby Helms	Db major
1960	I'm Sorry	Brenda Lee	Bb major
2012	Be Honest	Jason Mraz feat. Inara George	D major

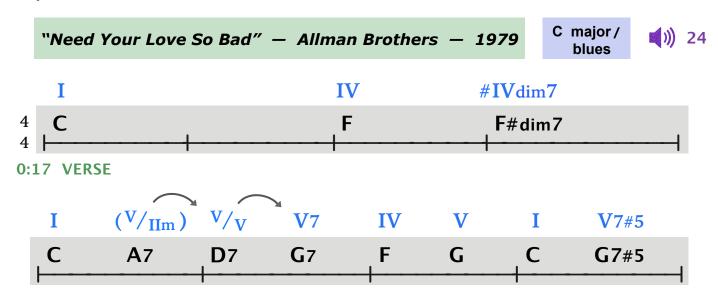


#IVdim7 in 8-BAR BLUES FORM

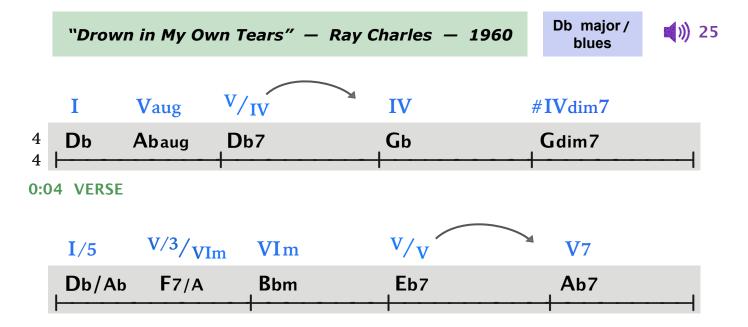
In previous chapters we have heard dozens of songs based on the standard 12-bar blues form. In this section, we will look at a variation of this form known as the **8-bar blues**. The basic outline of this new form is shown below using key of C as an example.



You will notice the use of the #IVdim7 chord, and the presence of the <u>IV - #IVdim7 - I</u> sequence in bars 3, 4, and 5. This 8-bar blues form can be heard on the Allman Brothers' 1979 recording "Need Your Love So Bad," shown below. START LISTENING AT **0:17**

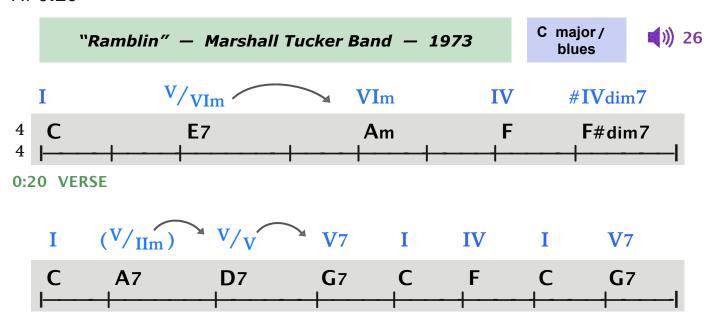


Another example of the 8-bar form comes from Ray Charles on his recording of Sonny Thompson's "Drown in My Own Tears." The song features a **passing #IVdim7** chord linking the IV and the I/5 (Gb - Gdim7 - Db/Ab in the key of Db).



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On Marshall Tucker's "Ramblin," the form is doubled to <u>16 bars</u> and a secondary dominant <u>V/VIm</u> (E7 in the key of C) is added after the opening I chord. START LISTENING AT **0:20**



Additional songs with #IVdim7 to I or I/5 CHORD

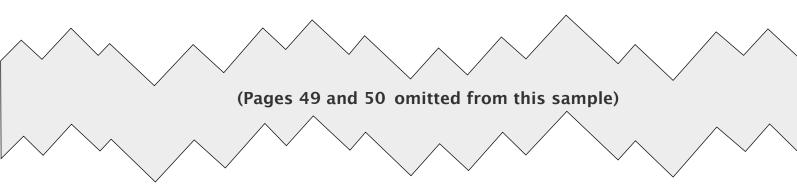
1959	Smoke Gets in Your Eyes	Platters	Eb major
1960	Georgia on My Mind	Ray Charles	G major / blues
1971	Hallelujah (I Love Her So)	Humble Pie (orig R. Charles '56)	D major/ blues
1992	Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out	Eric Clapton (orig. B. Smith '29))	C major/ blues
1994	Someday After Awhile	Eric Clapton (orig. F. King '64))	D major / blues

WRITTEN EXERCISES

For practice spelling dim7 chords and identifying diminished chord patterns, try **Exercises 14.6, and 14.7** (see "Textbook Contents"/ "Volume 2"/ "Written Exercises")

EAR TRAINING EXERCISES

To practice identifying dim7 chords by ear, go to **Exercises 14.18e – 14.22e** (see "Textbook Contents"/ "Volume 2"/ "Ear Training Exercises").



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