

# Diminished Chords - Cheat Sheet

In major, vii is naturally a diminished triad.

In minor, ii is naturally a diminished triad. Often, though, we will use the harmonic minor scale and make vii diminished as well (so, in A Minor instead of GBD, we'd use G#BD)

Important rules:

\*ALWAYS DOUBLE THE THIRD! It is the only safe note to double.

\*The root wants to resolve up (to the tonic) and the 5th wants to resolve down (to the 3rd scale degree)

Piano

The image shows a piano accompaniment exercise with two measures. The first measure shows a C major triad in first inversion (viio) resolving to a C major triad (I). The second measure shows a C minor triad in first inversion (vii°6) resolving to a C major triad (I). Arrows indicate the resolution of the root (up) and the fifth (down) of the diminished chord to the tonic and third of the major chord, respectively. The third of the diminished chord is doubled.

C: vii°                      I                      vii°<sup>6</sup>                      I

We often find this chord in the first inversion. It is also generally used as a substitute for the V chord, because they both resolve to I.