

Proper use of 6/4 chords/Cadential 6/4 - Cheat Sheet

6 chords are unstable. Use them only in these four specific circumstances.
4

Generally, you should double the bass when you write a 6/4 chord.

Most of the time, a 6/4 chord is only acting to extend a sonority. It doesn't function as it would if it were in another inversion.

Passing

Bass moves by step to the 6/4 chord and leaves by a step in the same direction.

Neighbor

Bass stays the same, upper voices move by step and come back.

Arpeggiated

Bass arpeggiates the chord that is being prolonged.

Cadential

One voice doubles the bass note, the others step down to the V, then resolve. This 6/4 chord acts like part of the V chord.

this bracket and V is very important because it shows the function