

# Secondary Leading-Tone Chords - Cheat Sheet

A Secondary Leading-Tone chord functions like a Secondary Dominant. To find it, you simply write the  $\text{vii}^\circ 7$  in the key you want to tonicize.

C: I                       $V_4^6$                        $I^6$                        $\text{vii}^\circ 7/V$                       V                      I

$F\#^\circ 7$  is  $\text{vii}^\circ 7$  in G Major. G is V in C Major. This chord is therefore  $\text{vii}^\circ 7$  of V ( $\text{vii}^\circ 7/V$ )

## Writing Secondary Leading-Tone Chords

Be careful with accidentals!

A:  $\text{vii}^\circ 7/IV$                       IV                      Cm:  $\text{vii}^\circ 5/VI$                       VI

First, work out what IV is (D). Then work out what the  $\text{vii}^\circ 7$  chord is in that key ( $C\#$ ) (just think a half-step down). Then simply write and resolve that chord as if it were in D Major (root is LT, 7th and 5th step down, 3rd usually steps up, but can go down if need be)

Work out what VI is in C Minor ( $A_b$ ), then figure out what the  $\text{vii}^\circ$  chord is ( $G^\circ$ ). Write (using the correct inversion), and resolve!

Rules about when you can use half-diminished:

If the triad you're tonicizing is major, you can choose fully or half-diminished.

If it's minor, you must use fully diminished.

If it's major V in a minor key, you must also use fully diminished.

So, the secondary leading-tone of IV could be either fully or half-diminished, but the secondary leading-tone of ii could only be fully diminished.