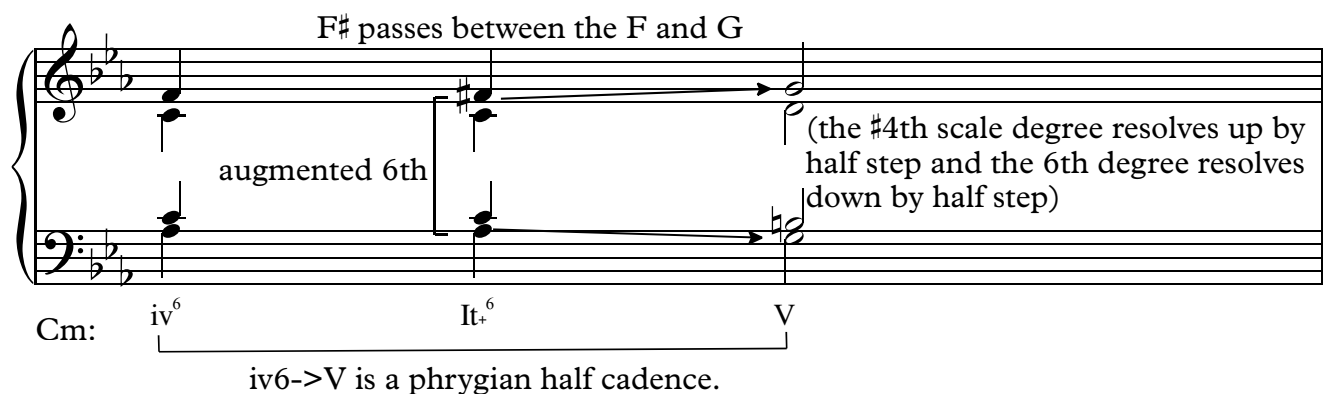


# Augmented 6th Chords Cheat Sheet

Augmented 6th Chords are so-called because of the augmented 6th interval that resolves out. There are 3 types - Italian, French, and German.

The chord itself comes from a chromatic passing tone inserted in the middle of a phrygian half-cadence (iv6-V)

F# passes between the F and G



augmented 6th

(the #4th scale degree resolves up by half step and the 6th degree resolves down by half step)

Cm:  $iv^6$   $It^6$  V

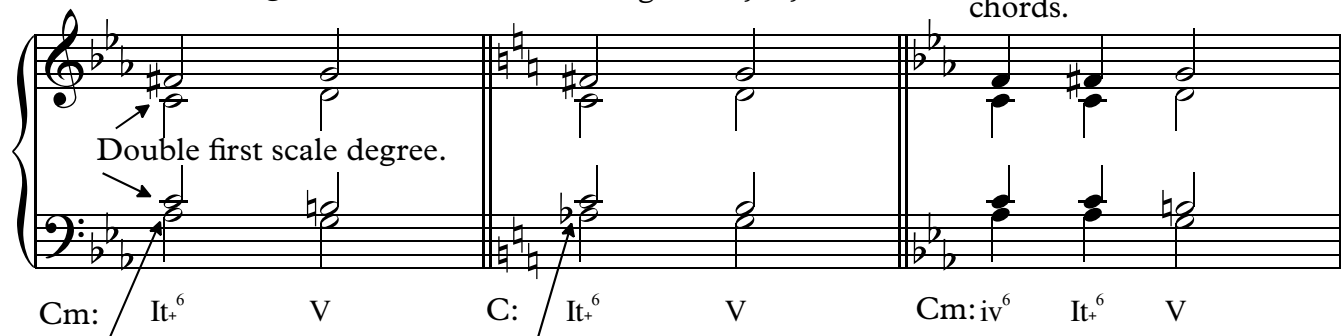
iv6->V is a phrygian half cadence.

## Italian Augmented 6th

Scale Degrees: 1, #4, 6

Scale Degrees: 1, #4, b6

The easiest voice-leading approach is from the first-inversion iv chord, but the augmented 6th chords can come from many different chords.



Double first scale degree.

Cm:  $It^6$  V      C:  $It^6$  V      Cm:  $iv^6$   $It^6$  V

The 6th scale degree is almost always found in the bass voice. The other chord members can be found in any order.

Note that these chords are the same in both minor and major. That means that you have to flat the 6th scale degree in major.

**German Augmented 6th**(be sure to flat the third  
and sixth in major)

Scale Degrees: 1, 3, #4, 6    Scale Degrees: 1, b3, #4, b6

Cm: Ger<sup>6</sup>     $\overset{6}{i_4}$  V    C: Ger<sup>6</sup>     $\overset{6}{I_4}$  V    Cm: iv<sup>6</sup>    Ger<sup>6</sup>     $\overset{6}{i_4}$  V

Note that Ger+6 almost always  
resolves to I6/4 to avoid parallel  
5ths

**French Augmented 6th**(flat the 6th scale  
degree in major)

Scale Degrees: 1, 2, #4, 6    Scale Degrees: 1, 2, #4, b6

Cm: Fr<sup>6</sup>    V    C: Fr<sup>6</sup>    V    Cm: iv<sup>6</sup>    Fr<sup>6</sup>    V

**German Augmented 6th as Pivot**

The Dominant 7th and German Augmented 6th  
chords sound the same but are spelled differently.  
You can therefore use them as pivot chords.

This chorale has examples of augmented 6th chords resolving normally and a German  
augmented 6th used as a pivot.

Cm: i V<sup>4</sup> i<sup>6</sup> iv vii<sup>7</sup>/V V Fr<sup>6</sup> V i V<sup>6</sup> i Ger<sup>6</sup> I Fr<sup>6</sup>  $\overset{6}{I_4}$  V<sup>7</sup> I