

Neapolitan Chord Cheat Sheet

The Neapolitan chord is a major triad built on the flatted 2nd scale degree. In C Major, it would be a D \flat Major triad. In F \sharp Major, it would be a G Major triad.

This chord is usually found in first inversion. You should always double the third, as the other two notes have strong tendencies. $\flat 2$ wants to go to the leading tone, and $\flat 6$ wants to resolve down.

This is a predominant chord that goes to V. It can go through I \flat /4 or viio \flat 7/V to smooth out the voice-leading.

$\flat 2$ goes to the LT

double

$\flat 6$ goes down

Cm: N6

While you can approach this chord from many places, the smoothest voice leading occurs if you approach from IV or ii \flat 6.

$\flat 2$ goes to the LT

$\flat 6$ goes down

F: I V \flat I IV N6 V \flat I

This chord really emphasizes tonic because both $\flat 2$ and the leading tone are a half-step away, giving the impression that we are voice-leading into the tonic from both sides chromatically (i.e. hugging the tonic)

This example shows how adding a viio7/V or I6/4 can smooth the voice leading from $b2$ to the leading tone.

$b2$ goes to the LT (through the viio7/V)

You could also use I6/4 to smooth between the Neapolitan and V

The Neapolitan chord can also be used as a pivot. It can be used to get to distant keys. You could use it in the top or bottom of the pivot bracket (just make sure it's going to the right place)

N6
I⁶

Ab:IV⁶
V