

SUSPENSIONS

A suspension occurs when the harmony shifts from one chord to another, but one or more notes of the first chord are either temporarily held over or are played again against the second chord before resolving downwards by step.

The most common suspensions are:

4-3 Suspension

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a G4 note on the treble staff and a C4 note on the bass staff. The second measure contains a G4 note on the treble staff (suspension) and a B3 note on the treble staff, with a C4 note on the bass staff. The bass line has a G2 note in both measures.

Interval from G to C = 4th

Interval from G to B = 3rd

7-6 Suspension

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a D4 note on the treble staff and a C4 note on the bass staff. The second measure contains a D4 note on the treble staff (suspension) and a B3 note on the treble staff, with a C4 note on the bass staff. The bass line has a D2 note in both measures.

Interval from D to C = 7th

Interval from D to B = 6th

9-8 Suspension

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a B4 note on the treble staff and a C4 note on the bass staff. The second measure contains a B4 note on the treble staff (suspension) and a B3 note on the treble staff, with a C4 note on the bass staff. The bass line has a B2 note in both measures.

Interval from B to C = 9th

Interval from B to B = 8th

The numbers indicate the interval between the suspended note and the bass note, and the interval between the resolution and the bass note.