

iii
(in major)
 (not minor)

iii Bass: $\overset{\wedge}{7}$
 $\overset{\wedge}{5}$
 $\overset{\wedge}{3}$

historically, the most infrequently used of triads, but use it if you want!
 2 common tones with I, and also 2 common tones with V

A musical staff in treble clef showing three triads: I (C-E-G), iii (E-G-B), and V (G-B-D). The notes are written in a simple, blocky style.

So what does it do?

Summary of function:

iii can substitute for I⁶

iii⁶ allows you to finally have a descending bassline from $\hat{1}$ moving stepwise down to $\hat{5}$

The "Chopin 6th" - we'll see how iii⁶ is similar to the cad⁶₄

Doubling and voice leading:

In iii, $\hat{7}$ is the 5th of the chord. For the first time, $\hat{7}$ is consonant and stable - it is not a leading tone!

Thus, you can double it.

For the first time, $\hat{7}$ doesn't have to resolve to $\hat{1}$ in outer voices.

...and that's why you can have the line $\hat{1} - \hat{7} - \hat{6} - \hat{5}$ in your outers.

iii substituting for I⁶

Both iii and I⁶ are interchangeable (each has $\hat{3}$ in the bass, and two notes in common).

You may use iii in place of I⁶ for a different color, or when you want $\hat{7}$ in your soprano to move down.

I iii IV V I

iii⁶ : for when you want the bassline $\hat{1} - \hat{7} - \hat{6} - \hat{5}$ (in major)

Again, $\hat{7}$ is not a LT here.

iii⁶ is the only way *in major* to make the bass descend from $\hat{7}$ to $\hat{6}$.

iii⁶ is just a passing chord (usual for $\frac{6}{4}$ chords). It passes between I and any predominant with $\hat{6}$ in the bass.

ex: you already know this:

I vi V₄⁶ = ₃⁵ I

...now make a passing iii⁶ to connect I stepwise to your predominant:

I iii⁶ vi V₄⁶ = ₃⁵ I

The "Chopin 6th"

Here is yet another situation where a foreigner visits the land of the dominant.
Thus, "iii⁶" is actually root position V with one foreign visitor.
It is precisely the same as V⁶₄ — ⁵₃ but with only the ⁶ — ⁵.
The analysis is V⁶ — ⁵.

This was a common technique employed by Chopin, so it is referred to as the Chopin 6th.

I 6 ii⁶ IV⁶ V⁶ — ⁵ I