

neighbor tones (NT) and passing tones (PT)

Nonharmonic tones are pitches that are not part of the underlying chord

They can be accented on the beat or unaccented between the beat.

Neighbor tones - nonharmonic that *steps* away from a chord tone and then back.

UNT: upper neighbor tone

LNT: lower neighbor tone

make a UNT:

make a LNT:

simultaneous nonharmonics will work, but must be **consonant** with each other, and must be **legal motion**:

yup

nope

nope

Don't use NTs
in the bass:

Tricky, but...
try to avoid creating
an unresolved 7th:

fills in a 3rd

can be used in the bass

fill in PTs anywhere you can:

Musical notation showing a passing tone in the bass line between chords I and 6. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord I is G, B, D and the chord 6 is G, Bb, D.

Can have contrary motion PTs if have a voice exchange:

Musical notation showing passing tones with contrary motion between chords I and 6. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord I is G, B, D and the chord 6 is G, Bb, D.

PT and NT can work together (must be consonant and legal motion):

Musical notation showing a passing tone and nonharmonic tone working together between chords I and 6. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord I is G, B, D and the chord 6 is G, Bb, D.

They can't fix voice leading problems but they can cause them!

In fact, generally speaking, nonharmonic tones cannot fix voice leading mistakes...

// 5ths

Musical notation showing //5ths between chords vi and IV. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord vi is G, Bb, D and the chord IV is C, E, G.

tried to get away with murder; not getting away with murder

Musical notation showing a nonharmonic tone between chords vi and IV. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord vi is G, Bb, D and the chord IV is C, E, G.

At this point, many students ask a good question: weren't we permitted to do something like this when we had IV⁷ moving to V? Some moving tones got rid of those //5ths:

Musical notation showing a sequence of chords: I, IV⁷, ii⁶, V, I, IV⁷, V₄⁶=₃⁵, I. The bass line has notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The chord I is G, B, D. The chord IV⁷ is C, E, G, Bb. The chord ii⁶ is D, F, Ab. The chord V is G, B, D, F. The chord V₄⁶=₃⁵ is G, B, D, F, Ab, C.

However, in measure 2, this is not a nonharmonic tone at all. An actual functional chord is produced when the 7th of IV⁷ resolves early. Harmonic tones can solve problems!

Then you might say, but wait! Here the cadential ⁶/₄ is solving //5ths and we were specifically told the cadential ⁶/₄ involves two nonharmonic tones.

Well, that is an excellent point. And the answer is apparently that the cadential ⁶/₄ is the one exception. It is such a common device, and it is so strongly a chunk of functional dominant harmony (even with the nonharmonics), that it is permitted to solve problems.

And finally...unfortunately, they can cause mistakes...

good:

I V

but now try adding
a PT to the alto:

I V

Therefore....here's your method of using nonharmonics:

First go through and do all your voice leading as usual, i.e. just the harmonic chord tones.

Only then can you add decorated nonharmonic tones.

When you add one, make sure it doesn't cause a new problem.

...that means you must re-check parallel issues - only now with the newly added nonharmonic tone.

...love your nonharmonic tones and use them - they make real music happen;
but, yes, it means you have to recheck your voice leading against the newly added nonharmonic.

exercise: add PTs and NTs

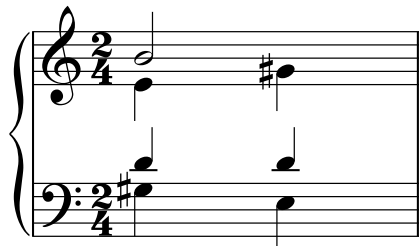
I vi IV ii V ⁷ I

This isn't all that perplexing, and in a way involves common sense - you probably just need to see these examples once.

It's not always that ascending PT = raised and descending PT = natural.

Instead, **use the thing that doesn't make an A2.**

Add a PT to the bass or the alto. How must you spell it?
Why should you not do both at the same time in this case?



V_5^6 7

Let's say you wrote an expansion of VI.
Add a PT to the bass or the alto. How are must you spell it?
Can both be simultaneous in this case?



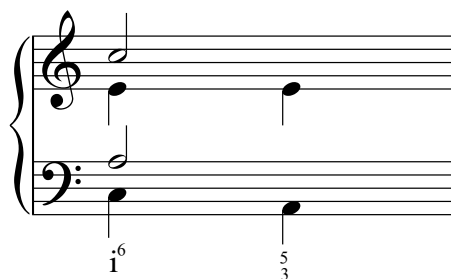
VI 6

Add a LNT to the tenor. How should you spell it? Why?



$\overset{6}{1}$ $\overset{5}{3}$

Add an UNT to the alto. How should you most likely spell it? Why?



$\overset{6}{1}$ $\overset{5}{3}$