

Chords Part 7 - The Suspended 4th Triad

A **suspension** is created when a note from a previous chord is held over into the following chord, creating a discord (usually a 2nd), which causes tension.

This tension is usually resolved when the suspended note falls to the note that actually belongs to the second chord.

In the following example we have a triad with a suspended 4th (the middle note, F, in the first triad). This suspended note then resolves by falling to the E (the middle note in the second triad) creating a C Major triad. The first triad is therefore known as a C Major triad with a suspended 4th or C sus4.



A **suspended 4th triad** is made up of a root note, a note a Perfect 4th above the root note and a note a Perfect 5th above the root note.

It is the interval between the middle and top notes (a Major 2nd) that creates the tension referred to above. In the first chord in the example above, C is the root note, F is a Perfect 4th above C and G is a Perfect 5th above C.

The following exercise (based on C) includes all the intervals found in a suspended 4th triad (with the top octave, do', added).

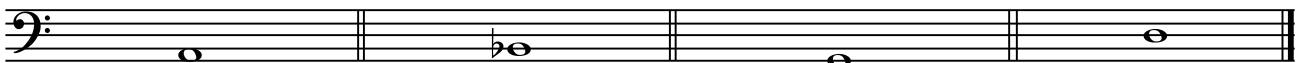
Suspended 4th Triad



Chords - Worksheet 7

Chords Question 14

Using your knowledge of intervals in a suspended 4th triad, write a suspended 4th triad on each given note.



Chords Question 15

Five triads will be played three times: harmonically, as an arpeggio and harmonically again. They will be either **Major**, **minor**, **diminished**, **Augmented** or **suspended 4th** triads. Write the name of each triad in the spaces provided.

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1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____