

(Book 5) Lesson 20d.

The Dominant 7th sus4 Chord

The Dominant 7th sus4 chord is created by raising the 3rd by a scale step (1/2 tone).
The Dom7sus4 chord resolves to a Dom7 of the same Root and then to the tonic.

sus4 to 3rd

Bass note on "D"

D7sus4 D7 G6 D7sus4 D7 G6 D7sus4 D7 G6 D7sus4 D7 G6

Detailed description: This block shows four measures of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The first measure is labeled 'sus4 to 3rd'. The first two measures are for D7sus4 and G6, with the bass note on D. The last two measures are for D7 and G6, with the bass note on D. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the strings.

Bass note on "A"

B7sus4 B7 E6 B7sus4 B7 E6 B7sus4 B7 E6 B7sus4 B7 E7

Detailed description: This block shows four measures of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The first two measures are for B7sus4 and E6, with the bass note on A. The last two measures are for B7 and E7, with the bass note on A. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the strings.

Bass note on "E"

F7sus4 F7 Bb6 F7sus4 F7 Bb6 F7sus4 F7 Bb6 F7sus4 F7 Bb6

Detailed description: This block shows four measures of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The bottom staff is in bass clef. The first two measures are for F7sus4 and Bb6, with the bass note on E. The last two measures are for F7 and Bb6, with the bass note on E. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the strings.

Notice that the Dominant 7th sus4 chords carry their own roots. These fingerings of the sus4 chord can be used when it seems to be imperative for the chord to contain a root. The other option for perhaps a more comfortable and playable fingering is to use a Major 6 chord built on the b7th of the indicated Dom7sus4 chord. (ie: D7sus4=C6.) This can also be tabulated as a Min7th chord built on the 5th of the indicated Dom7sus4 chord. (ie: D7sus4=Am7) See lesson 11c for a quick review. (The chords in lesson 11c are referred to as Dom 11th chords. 11chords and sus4 chords have much the same function.) The interchangeable chord fingerings however do not carry their own roots and also contain the 9th degree of the Dom7th chord.

Observation: Probably the least successful of these chords is the First Inversion chord where the "sus 4" (suspended 4th) is the low note of the chord. This is even more likely when the chord is in a deeper pitch range. When played on the first four strings any accompanying bass instrument would most likely be low enough in pitch to readily afford clarity to the sus4 chord.