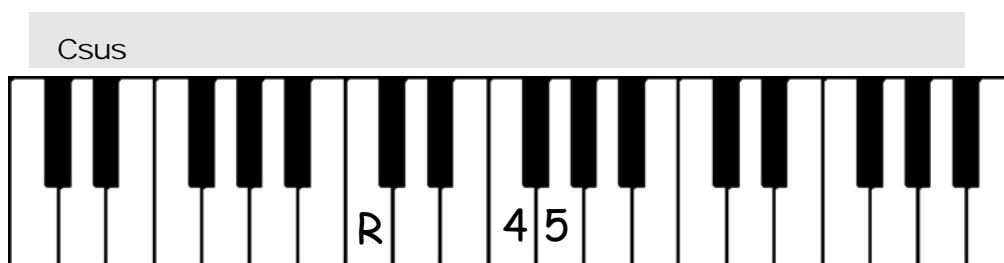
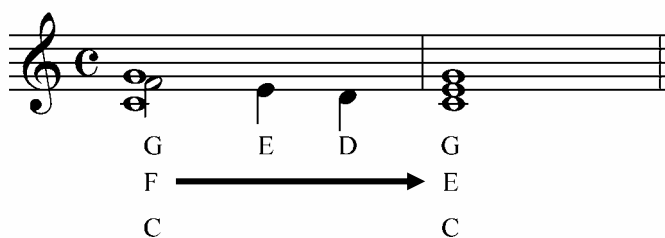


Chapter 5: Suspensions

Suspensions are when a chord uses the fourth instead the third of a chord.



The term comes from liturgical music all the way back before Johann Sebastian Bach. The sound is quite familiar. Instead of the Root, 3rd and 5th of the final chord of a song, you get the Root, 4th and 5th. Then the 4th “resolves” down to the expected 3rd.



Suspensions are very easy to find because they are basically the right hand starting position we learned in the first chapter of this book. If you remember, we find the 3rd of each chord by finding the root and then going up a fourth. When you go to a fourth from the Root, what do you get? The fourth! So, you can simply play the starting position anytime you see the “sus” abbreviation in a chord symbol.

For example, Csus can look like this: