

Suspended (sus) Chords

Major chords are constructed using the 1st, 3rd and 5th note of a major scale. Minor chords flatten the third degree by one semitone. In both cases it is the 3rd which gives the chord its major or minor characteristic.

A suspended or 'sus' chord temporarily suspends the 3rd degree by replacing it with either a major 2nd or perfect 4th interval. This gives the chord an unfinished, floating quality.

These chords are commonly used to create tension in a chord progression before the chord is typically resolved back to either a major or minor chord. Below are some common examples in open positions.

