

# Non-diatonic chord functions:

## - secondary dominants

Another name for the I chord in a key is the tonic. Any chord can become tonic through **tonicization**. A **secondary dominant chord** is a harmonic device used to tonicize a diatonic chord by adding its dominant chord (V) before itself. When analyzing with roman numerals a secondary dominant chord is written as a V followed by a slash and whichever chord is being tonicized. A V/ii is read "five of two," it comes before the ii chord, and can come from any chord that would go to a ii. Here are the steps for writing a secondary dominant chord.

1. Identify the chord that needs to be tonicized
2. Write out the major scale of the chord you want to tonicize
3. Find the V chord in that key
4. Spell the V chord in that key
5. Use that spelling for the secondary dominant chord  
*IT MIGHT HAVE AN ACCIDENTAL (# or b) IN IT!!!*

I IV V  
I IV      V  
I IV V/V V

Here is a simple I IV V progression in the key of Bb. To make this progression richer we are going to tonicize the V chord.

1. The V chord in the key of Bb is F major.
2. F major scale: F G A Bb C D E F
3. V chord in the F major scale: C major
4. C major: C, E, G
5. E is the non diatonic note in the chord

Bb Eb F  
Bb Eb      F  
Bb Eb C F

Here are three examples of secondary dominant functions in chord progressions using closed voiced triads in treble clef.

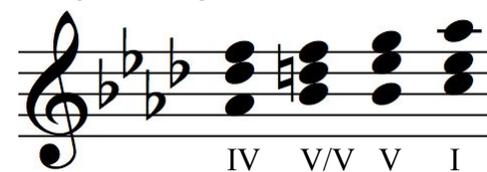
Key: G major



Key: E major



Key: Ab major



## Common secondary dominant chords

V/ii "five of two" also called VI "major six"

V/iii "five of three" also called VII "major seven"

V<sup>7</sup>/IV "five of four" also called I<sup>7</sup> "dominant one"

V/V "five of five" also called II "major two"

V/vi "five of six" also called III "major three"