

Neapolitan Chord

Dr. B Music Theory

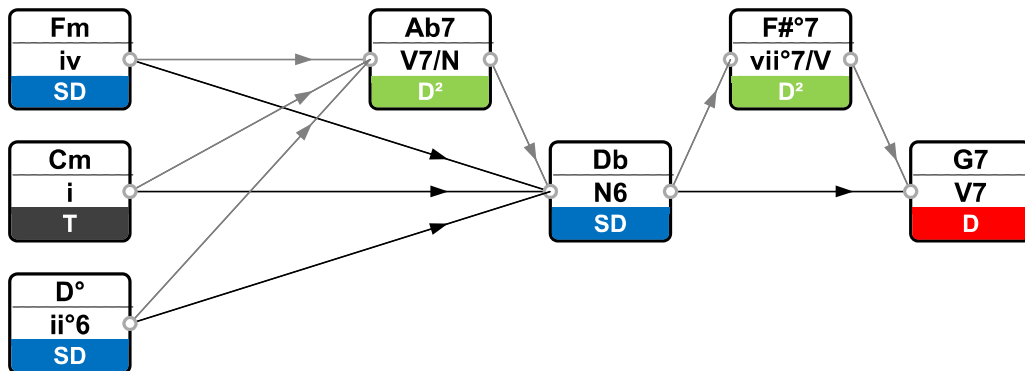
VIDEO LINK

Neapolitan chord notation is **bII** or **N**. It's more common in minor keys than in major keys.

Often find in first inversion. With **N⁶**, double the bass. With root position, also double the bass.

Select minor key:

Ab	Eb	Bb	F	C	G	D	A	E	B	F#	C#	G#	D#	A#
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Harmonic diagram to use N6.

From basic sequence:

Em	C	F#°/A	B ⁷	Em
i	VI	II ^{°6}	V ⁷	i
T	SD	SD	D	T

Em i C VI F#°/A ii°6 B⁷ V Em i

Let's insert **N⁶** chord, before **V**:

Em	C	F#°/A	F/A	B⁷	Em
i	VI	II^{°6}	N⁶	V⁷	i
T	SD	SD	SD	D	T

Em i C VI F#°/A ii°6 F/A N6 B7 V Em i

Usually **N⁶** chord resolves down.

Let's add the secondary dominant of **N** as **V⁷/N**:

Em	C	F#°/A	C⁷/Bb	F/A	B⁷	Em
i	VI	II^{°6}	V⁷/N	N⁶	V⁷	i
T	SD	SD	D²	SD	D	T

Em i C VI F#°/A ii°6 C/Bb V7/N F/A N6 B7 V Em i

Let's add the secondary seventh of **V** as **vii°7/V**:

Em	C	F#°/A	C⁷/Bb	F/A	A#°7	B⁷	Em
i	VI	II^{°6}	V⁷/N	N⁶	vii°7/V	V⁷	i
T	SD	SD	D²	SD	D²	D	T

Em i C VI F#°/A ii°6 C/Bb V7/N F/A N6 A#°7 vii°7/V B7 V Em i

Modulation using borrowed and neapolitan chords

Em	Am	B ⁷	Em	F/A
i	iv	V ⁷	i	N ⁶
T	SD	D	T	SD

Em i Am iv B⁷ V Em i F/A N⁶

F/A	B	Cm/Eb	B/F#	F	B
V ⁶	I	ii ⁶	i ₄ ⁶	V	I
D	T	SD	D	D	T

F/A N⁶ B^b I Cm/Eb ii⁶ B^b/F I⁶₄ F⁷ V B^b I

All together

Em	Am	B ⁷	Em	F/A	B	Cm/Eb	B/F#	F	B
i	iv	V ⁷	i	N ⁶	I	ii ⁶	i ₄ ⁶	V	I
T	SD	D	T	SD	T	SD	D	D	T

Em i Am iv B⁷ V Em i F/A N⁶ B^b I Cm/Eb ii⁶ B^b/F⁷ I⁶₄ V B^b I