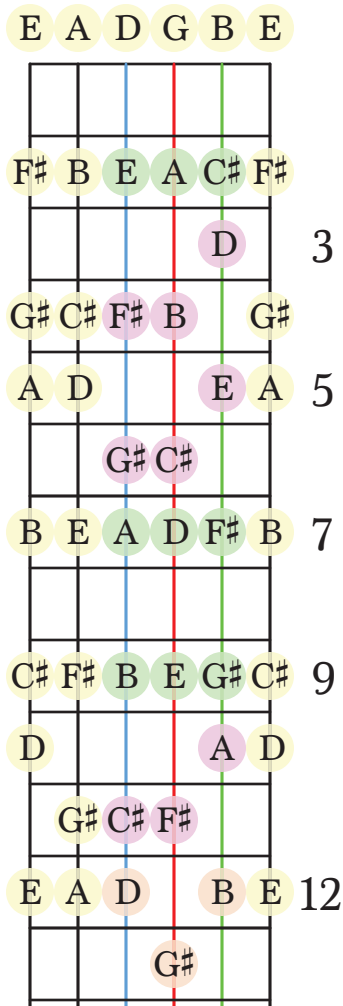


Sus Chords in a Key

This sheet shows how sus2 and sus4 chords work (or don't work) for every chord in a key. The results here apply to every major key, but we'll use the Key of A Major as an example. Only notes from the A Major Scale are shown.



I Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (C#) we can move down a whole step to the 2nd note of the scale (B) and up a half step to the 4th note of the scale (D)

Therefore, sus2 and sus4 fit on the I chord.

IV Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (F#) we can move down a whole step to the 5th note of the scale (E) but we can't move up a half step because (G) is not in the Major Scale.

Therefore, the IV chord can be made into a sus2 but cannot accommodate a sus4 using only notes from the Major Scale.

V Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (G#) we can move down a whole step to the 6th note of the scale (F#) and up a half step to the 8th/1st note of the scale (A)

Therefore, sus2 and sus4 fit on the V chord. In any Major key, substituting sus2 or sus4 on the V chord will fit in the key.

Cheat sheet

I	sus2	sus4
ii	sus2	sus4
iii		sus4
IV	sus2	
V	sus2	sus4
vi	sus2	sus4
vii ^o		

vi Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (A) we can move down a half step to the 7th note of the scale (G#) and up a whole step to the 2nd note of the scale (B)

Therefore, using either sus2 or sus4 on the vi chord can be done without using any notes outside the major scale.

ii Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (D) we can move down a half step to the 3rd note of the scale (C#) and up to the 5th note of the scale (E)

Therefore, the ii chord can accommodate a sus2 and sus4 substitution.

iii Chord

From the 3rd of the chord (E) we cannot move down a half step, but we can move and up a whole step to the 6th note of the scale (F#)

Therefore, the iii chord can diatonically accommodate a sus4 chord, but not a sus2 chord.