The II Major Chord in the Major Key

For my new course, “Color Function = Color by Color”
Ted Greene - 1991-08-30

The most common use of II is as “V of V”.... Even though it is functioning as a “dominant” in the original sense of the musical term, it is happy even as a simple major triad.

Try the following and compare the ii and II flavors:

Key of E

Try a few more comparisons:

Does that A# note in the II chord jump out and bite you (love bite?)? Are you really hearing it? Please try.
Much more drastic ‘cause the A# is on top.

Repeat quite a few times (the whole example) until your ear is used to it.

Now with the "little" triads:

Finally (for now), a phrase starting on a beat other than “one”: