


Sub-dominant Harmonies

Ted Greene - 1973, October 24

There are many colorful chords that can be classified as subdominants (a subdominant harmony could be said to be a harmony that can smoothly lead to the dominant harmony or the tonic).

Here is a list of triads and 7th chords that are sub-dominant in their *function* (of course, extensions can be used):

Major Key:

- 1) ii, II, ii°, ii7, II7, ii°7
 - 2) IV, iv, IVΔ7, IV7 ("blues"), iv7
 - 3) ♭VI, ♭VIΔ7, ♭VI7
 - 4) #iv°, #iv°7
 - 5) ♭II, ♭IIΔ7, ♭II7
 - 6) i°, i°7
 - 7) ♭III, ♭IIIΔ7, ♭III7
 - 8) ♭VII (♭vii), ♭VIIΔ7, ♭VII7, (♭vii7)
 - 9) vi°, vi°7
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Less important

In **Minor Keys** all chords are the same except:

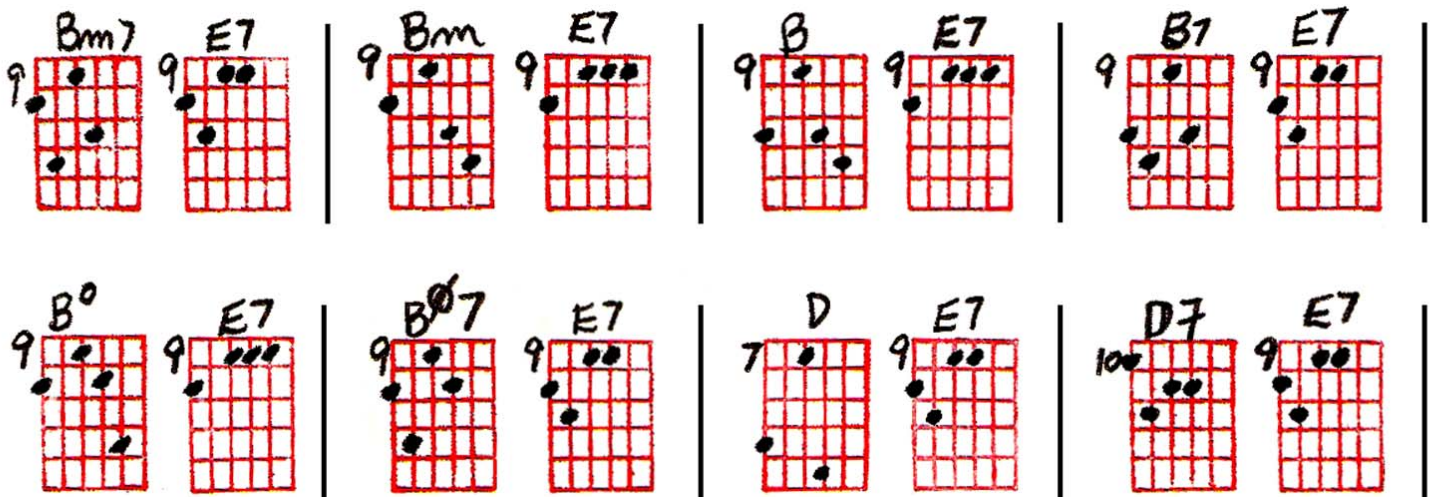
- 1) omit IVΔ7, #iv°, #iv°7, ♭vii, ♭vii7
- 2) vi°, vi°7 are ♯vi°, ♯vi°7

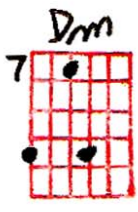


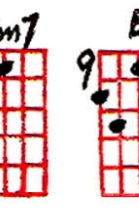

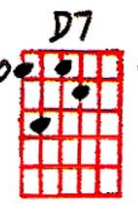
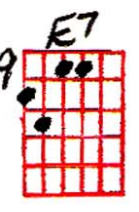
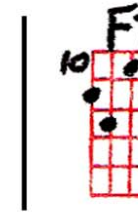
Diminished 7th chords are not listed, as they can be interpreted as 7♭9 chords.


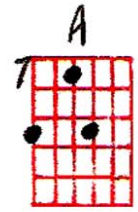
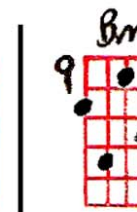
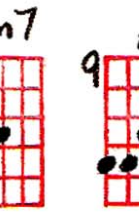
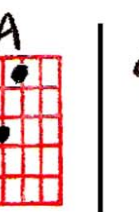

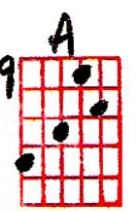
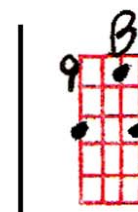
Practice connecting all the sub-dominant harmonies to dominant 7ths *and* tonics. Try all basic inversion of each chord – plan on this taking a few months, at least, to learn in all major and minor keys.

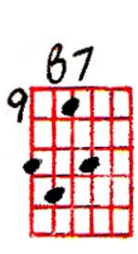
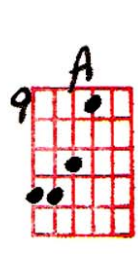
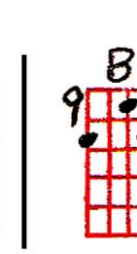



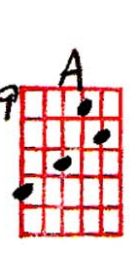
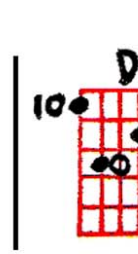
Examples:

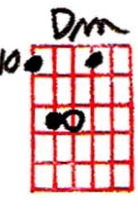
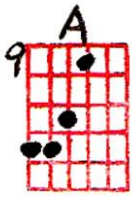
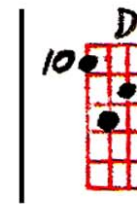
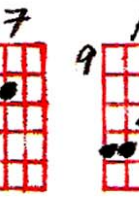
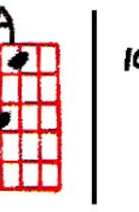
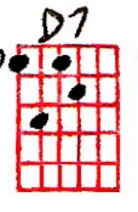
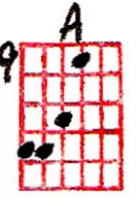
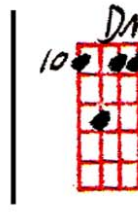
Key of A (Am where applicable)

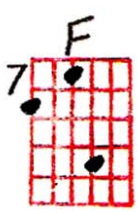
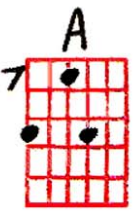
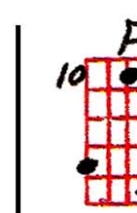
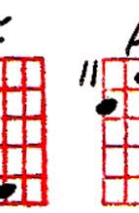
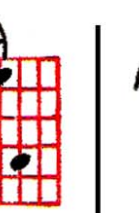
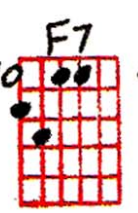
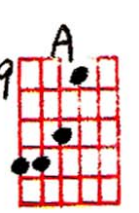



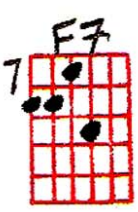
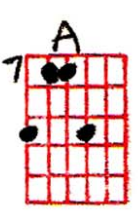
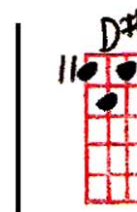
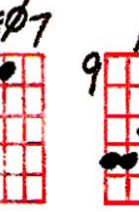
 <p>Dm7</p>	 <p>E7</p>	 <p>Dm7</p>	 <p>E7</p>	 <p>D7</p>	 <p>E7</p>	 <p>F7</p>	 <p>E7</p>
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 <p>Bm7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>Bm7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>Bm</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>B</p>	 <p>A</p>
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 <p>B7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>B0</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>(A07) B7b9</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>D</p>	 <p>A</p>
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 <p>Dm</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>D7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>D7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>Dm7</p>	 <p>A</p>
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 <p>F</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>F</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>F7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>F7</p>	 <p>A</p>
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 <p>F7</p>	 <p>A</p>	 <p>D#7</p>	 <p>A</p>
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