

Music 212:
The Neapolitan Chord (bII)

Text: Schubert's "*Der Müller und der Bach*"

Where a true heart
Wastes away in love,
There wilt the lilies
In every bed;

Then into the clouds must
The full moon go,
So that her tears
Men do not see;

Then angels
shut their eyes
And sob and sing
to rest the soul.

Guidelines for using / voice-leading bII6 ("Neapolitan" or "Phrygian" sixth)

1. It's a PD. Leads to V, either directly or via a stronger PD.
2. It usually occurs in minor keys, since less chromaticism is necessary to make it.
3. Scale degree b2 can only discharge its energy on Scale degree 7

corollary: Avoid b2— $\flat$ 2 !

4. Usually occurs in 6/3 position, and easiest to write with the bass doubled
5. Neapolitan **may** occasionally occur in root position (bII), especially in sequence



Common Progressions incorporation bII6. Be able to sketch all these quickly with common basslines and melodies.

1. bII6 – V – i

2. bII6 – V⁴/₂ – i⁶

3. bII6 – V⁶/₄ V⁵/₃ – i

4. bII6 – vii[°]7/V – V – i

5. iv6 – III6 – bII6 – i6 (inside a series of sixth chords)

