Common-Tone (CT) Chords

Common-tone diminished seventh chords

An embellishing chord (often applied to I). Basically a bunch of N’s or IN’s that “happen” to add up to a dim7 chord. It usually has the CT in the bass, in that case spelled as a 4/2 or 4/3 chord.

Frequent options: harmonizes neighbor motion, harmonizes passing motion. See the aural idiom drill on the Aural Skills website (under advanced chromatic harmony) for idiomatic options.

It can also be applied to chords other than I, and it can precede the appearance of the chord it embellishes.

A functional vii7 has no common tones with the chord it resolves to; the thing that differentiates the CT dim7 is the common tone with the chord of resolution. BUT: watch out for vii7/V->V6/4 – this seems to have a CT of scale-degree 1, but really scale-degree 1 is a NHT with respect to the V chord, not a true CT.

See A/S 533-556

CT +6

A +6 chord that resolves with the normal voice leading, but in which the tone to which the double leading tones are applied is not the root of the chord of resolution but some other tone instead.

The most common option is a “second inversion” Ger+6/5 moving to a root position I (paralleling Ger+6/5 to V6/4).

Again, see the aural idiom drill on the Aural Skills website (under advanced chromatic harmony) for idiomatic options.

See A/S 557