

6th Suspended Chords

The same way you can take a 7th chord and make it suspended, you can also do with 6th chords. Just take a 6th chord, identify the 3rd (or b3rd), and lower that note to the next note in key to find the correct 6sus2 chord in whatever key you're working in. To find the correct 6sus4, find the 3rd (or b3rd) in your 6th chord and raise that note up to the next note in key.

Now, some of these chords may seem oddly named. There are always different ways to name any chord you play. The names shown here are what I feel make the most sense given the intervals being used.

The following chord formulas come from changing 6th chords (found in the Major Scale) into 6sus2 and 6sus4 chords. The roman numerals indicate where these chords occur in the Major Scale.

1, 2, 5, 6 = 6sus2
I – ii – IV – V

1, 4, 5, 6 = 6sus4
I – ii – V

1, b2, 5, b6 = sus b2 b6
iii

1, 4, 5, b6 = sus4 b6
iii – vi

1, 2, 5, b6 = sus2 b6
vi

1, #4, 5, 6 = 6sus#4
IV

1, b2, b5, b6 = sus b2 b6 b5
vii

1, 4, b5, b6 = sus4 b6 b5
vii

This is how those chords appear in order as they are found in the Major Scale.

6sus2 – 6sus2 – sus b2 b6 – 6sus2 – 6sus2 – sus2 b6 – sus b2 b6 b5
I ii iii IV V vi vii

6sus4 – 6sus4 – sus4 b6 – 6sus#4 – 6sus4 – sus4 b6 – sus4 b6 b5
I ii iii IV V vi vii