



Suspended Chords

Chords that replace the 3rd

A suspended chord removes the 3rd (the note that makes a chord major or minor) and replaces it with either the 2nd or the 4th. Because there is no 3rd, sus chords feel open, unresolved and slightly tense.

The two common suspensions

Type	Formula	Example	Compared to major
Sus2	1 2 5	C D G	2 replaces the 3
Sus4	1 4 5	C F G	4 replaces the 3

How they are used

- Sus4 is very common — it often resolves to the major chord (Csus4 → C).
- Sus2 has a more open, modern sound and is frequent in pop and folk.
- Both can be used as colourful substitutes for major or minor chords.
- They appear in thousands of songs as a way to delay resolution.

Quick examples in C

Csus4 = C F G often moves to C (C E G)
Csus2 = C D G can move to C or stand alone
Gsus4 = G C D classic resolution to G

On the Chord Interval Chart you will find Sus2 and Sus4 listed under Sus Chords.