

Harmonizing scale-degree 4 in major and minor

The first musical example shows a 4-measure phrase in 4/4 time. The first two measures are in B-flat major (two flats), and the last two measures are in G minor (two flats and a sharp). The notes are: B-flat (treble), B-flat (bass) in measure 1; D-flat (treble), D-flat (bass) in measure 2; E-flat (treble), E-flat (bass) in measure 3; and F (treble), F (bass) in measure 4. The F in measure 4 is the 4th scale degree, which is correctly harmonized with a D-flat in the bass in both major and minor.

B-flat major: I IV V I
 ^ ^ ^ ^
 1 4 5 1

G minor: i iv V i
 ^ ^ ^ ^
 1 4 5 1

The second musical example is identical to the first but is crossed out with a large 'X'. It shows an incorrect harmonic treatment where the 4th scale degree (F) is harmonized with a D natural in the bass in the minor section, which is not the correct minor triad.

B-flat I ii⁶ V I
 major: ^ ^ ^ ^
 1 4 5 1

G minor: i ii^{°6} V i
 ^ ^ ^ ^
 1 4 5 1

This is tricky! We'll tease this apart in class!