

SUS STRUCTURES

Sus (short for suspended) is traditionally a major or minor triad with the 3rd replacing the 4th.

TRIAD

Δ = Major 1 3 5

— = Minor 1 \flat 3 5

SUS COUNTERPART

Sus = 1 4 5 Sus #4 = 1 #4 5 (lydian)

Sus = 1 4 5

Interestingly the diminished and augmented triads can convert to sus structures as well.

\circ = Diminished 1 \flat 3 \flat 5

\circ Sus = 1 4 \flat 5

\circ Sus \flat 4 = 1 \flat 4 \flat 5

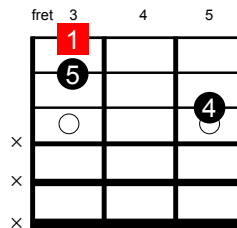
$+$ = Augmented 1 3 #5

$+$ Sus = 1 4 #5

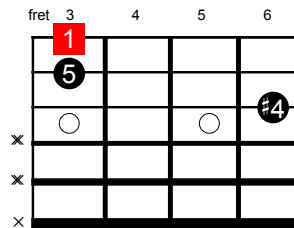
$+$ Sus#4 = 1 #4 #5

We get 6 potential sus structures - all of which are found in the major, melodic minor, harmonic minor and harmonic major modes. Some of the nomenclature is a bit out there, but you'll see how it works.

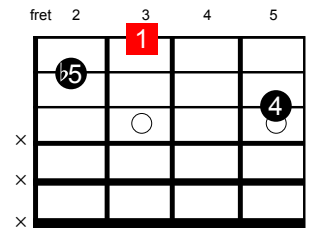
These are all 1st inversions (4th in bass), yes, that's right, like all 3 note structures we have inversions !



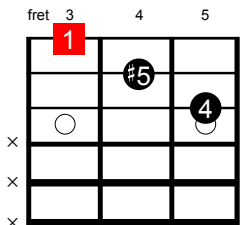
Gsus



Gsus#4 (Gsus+4)

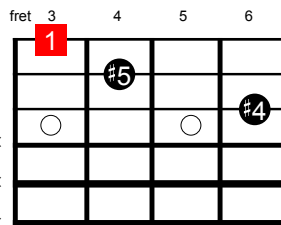


G $^{\circ}$ sus



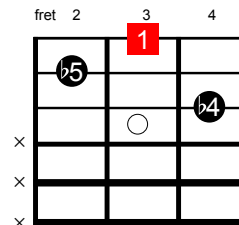
G $^{+}$ sus

Yep, it is the same shape as a C $^{\text{min}}$ triad.



G $^{+}$ sus#4

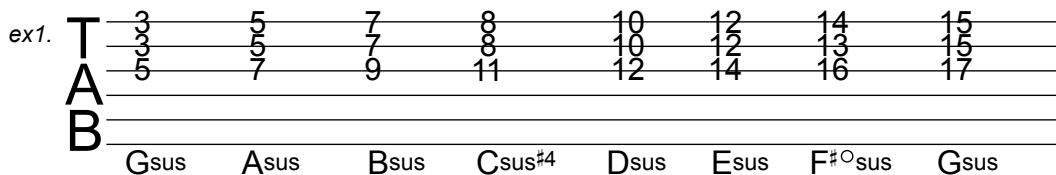
Same as an E \flat 7no5 $^{\text{th}}$.



G $^{\circ}$ sus \flat 4

Crazy right? This one pops up in both the Harmonic and Melodic minor modes and it can be seen as a min6 no root or half diminished no 3rd

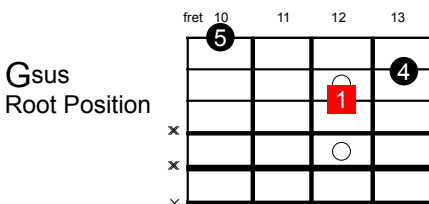
Ex1. shows the harmonised G major. Below that is a list of sus structures in the other 4 main parent modes.



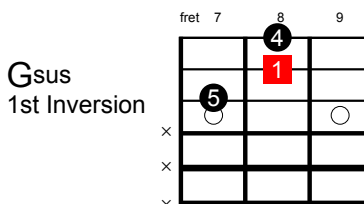
G Melodic Minor = Gsus Asus B \flat +sus#4 Csus#4 Dsus E $^{\circ}$ sus F# $^{\circ}$ sus \flat 4 Gsus

G Harmonic Minor = Gsus A $^{\circ}$ sus B \flat +sus Csus#4 Dsus E \flat sus#4 F# $^{\circ}$ sus \flat 4 Gsus

G Harmonic Major = Gsus A $^{\circ}$ sus Bsus Csus#4 Dsus E \flat +sus#4 F# $^{\circ}$ sus Gsus



Gsus Root Position



Gsus 1st Inversion

Check out the root position and 2nd inversions as well. Use the shapes to the left as a template for the other structures.