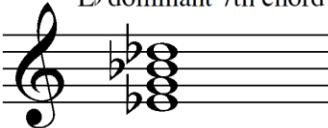
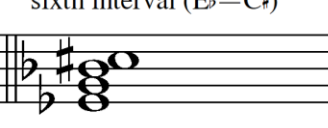
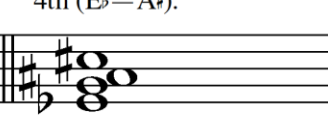


**Enharmonic Spellings of the Barbershop Seventh Chord
(aka, dominant seventh or major-minor seventh)**

REVIEW: dominant 7th chords are traditionally spelled as a major triad plus a minor seventh interval above the chord root.

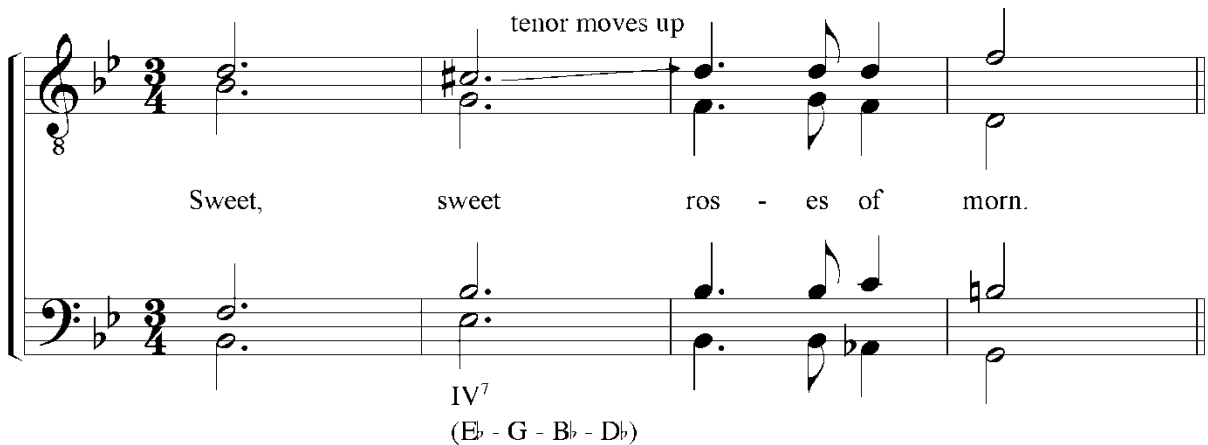
<p style="text-align: center;">E\flat dominant 7th chord</p> 	<p>The same chord but the minor 7th interval (E\flat—D\flat) is spelled as an augmented-sixth interval (E\flat—C\sharp)</p> 	<p>The same chord again but the perfect 5th (E\flat—B\flat) is respelled as a doubly augmented-4th (E\flat—A\sharp).</p> 
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So why do arrangers use those alternate spellings? Two reasons:

- To show the direction the chromatic note will move
- To make the music easier for the performer to read

As shown above, there are two common enharmonic spellings of the barbershop seventh chord (BS⁷):

1. As an AUGMENTED-SIXTH (+6) CHORD: in m. 2 of *Sweet Roses of Morn* the minor 7th interval between the bass and tenor (E \flat —D \flat) is respelled as an +6 (E \flat —C \sharp). Use of this spelling makes it clear to the tenor that he will move upward to “roses.”



Sweet, sweet ros - es of morn.

IV⁷
(E \flat - G - B \flat - D \flat)

2. As a DOUBLY AUGMENTED-FOURTH CHORD. In *Shine on Me*, on the word “will” the basses sing a G \flat and the leads sing a C \sharp , forming the interval of a doubly augmented 4th ($^{++}4$). This interval sounds the same as G \flat –D \flat , a perfect 5th (P5). So, not only is a P5 respelled as a $^{++}4$, but the chordal 7th is also respelled as an $^{+}6$ (as in *Sweet Roses of Morn* above). Notice that both the tenor and lead move *upward* to their next note (on “shine”); the enharmonic respellings help to show this.

The image shows a musical score for the song "Shine on Me" in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are "Light - house will shine on me." The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers the words "Light - house will shine" and the second system covers "on me." Chords are indicated by arrows pointing to the bass line. A box above the "will shine" section is labeled "Barbershop 7th chord spelled normally!". Below the "will shine" section, a box is labeled "Barbershop 7th chord spelled as $^{++}4$ chord" with arrows pointing to G \flat 7 and F \flat 7. Another box below "on me" is labeled "Barbershop 7th chord spelled as an $^{+}6$ chord" with arrows pointing to G \flat 7, F \flat 7, and E \flat 7.

But too much enharmonic spelling can make the chord very difficult to figure out! What is the chord on the syllable “Do” of Dominion?

The Old Dominion Line

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Old Dominion Line" in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are "sail - in' on the old Do - min - ion Line." The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers "sail - in' on the old" and the second system covers "Do - min - ion Line." A box below the "Do" syllable is labeled "Barbershop 7th chord spelled as $^{++}4$ chord." with an arrow pointing to the chord. A question mark "??" is placed below the bass line for the "Do" syllable.