

Chapter 9

Part-Writing Rules

Root Position and Inverted Chords General Rule:

- When a triad or 7th chord is in root position the 5th of the chord can be left out
- If the triad or 7th chord is inverted all notes must be present

First-Inversion Triads

One general stylistic practice suffices for voice leading in first-inversion major and minor triads as they occur in chorales or hymns:

- Double any triad factor that facilitates smooth voice leading
 - Favored notes are the soprano (often) and bass (less common)
 - Never double the leading tone

The vii6

Nearly always found in first inversion and progresses most often to the tonic. Has a dominant function because they have two pitches in common

- Voice leading:
 - Double the third (bass note) or fifth
 - Bass is preferred doubling
 - Two pitches in common with tonic
 - Related to dominant function and usually progresses to the tonic
 - Never double the leading tone

The ii6 triad

- Pre-dominant function and precedes the dominant
- Double the 3rd (bass) or root (upper voice)
- When approaching or leaving make voice leading stepwise whenever possible
- Avoid melodic tritones

Second Inversion Triads

- Use with extreme caution
- Contains interval of a fourth and can't be used like root position and first-inversion triads
- I6/4 is common but others found only occasionally
- Double the bass (5th)

- Approach and depart with as few skips as possible
- Only in arpeggiated 6/4 is bass approached or left by skip
- Use only as cadential, passing, arpeggiated, or pedal bass

Only use as:

- Cadential:
 - I6/4 resolves to the V at the cadence
 - Used as decoration of the V
 - Bass note is doubled
- Passing Bass:
 - Bass note (5th) acts as a passing tone
 - Can be found as a I6/4 between the IV and IV6 chords or as a V6/4 between the I and I6/4 chords
 - Bass note is doubled
- Arpeggiated Bass:
 - Bass note (5th) participates in an arpeggiation of the same chord
 - Occurs occasionally with triads other than tonic
 - Bass note is doubled
- Pedal Bass:
 - Known as *stationary bass* or *neighboring tone chords*
 - Bass note (5th) is preceded and followed by the same tone and is placed between two root positions of the same triad
 - Occurs occasionally with the IV6/4 as well as the tonic
 - Bass note is doubled