

The Craft of Composing Workbook

Notes in Every Key

Key	1	<i>W</i>	2	<i>W</i>	3	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	<i>W</i>	5	<i>W</i>	6	<i>W</i>	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	8
C Major															
G Major															
D Major															
A Major															
E Major															
B Major															
F# Major															
Gb Major															
C# Major															
Db Major															
Ab Major															
Eb Major															
Bb Major															
F Major															

Instructions:

Each row represents a different key or scale. The numbers represent which note you are on in the scale. One represents the first note in the scale, two the second note, etc. The symbols “W” and “1/2” indicate Whole Step or Half Step so that you know between any two notes how far to go up. For example, in the key of G, between 6 and 7, it says “W”. That means you need to go up a whole step to F#.

Fill in every cell on the worksheet.

For keys with lots of sharps or flats, it may be necessary to have unusual notes such as Cb (which is equivalent to B) or E# (which is equivalent to F). These are ok in special situations.

Rules:

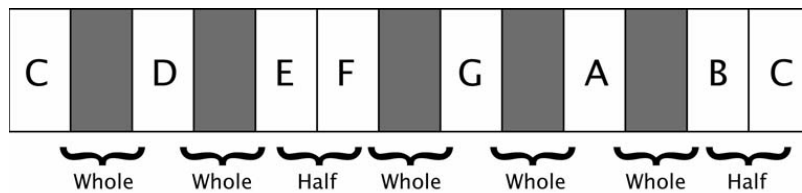
1) The notes MUST follow the order of the alphabet! For example, you cannot go from an C *something* to an E *something*. After C follows D. After D follows E, etc. For the keys with lots of sharps or flats, watch out!

2) A key can have sharps, OR it can have flats, but not both.

3) There can never be more than one of any letter name. For example, there cannot be D and D# in the same key.

Fill out the worksheet below to determine the triads in the key of C. For each triad write down whether it is major, minor, or diminished.

Chords in the Key of C



Scale Degree	Root	Third	Fifth	Major/Minor/Diminished
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

Voice Leading 1

Exercise: In each of the following examples, write out the missing chord in each measure using correct voice leading. Also, write in the root note in the bass moving in the opposite direction from the upper parts.

C Am C Em C F C G C Dm

Voice Leading 2

Exercise: Fill in the missing chord in each example. Write the root note in the bass moving in contrary motion with the upper voices.

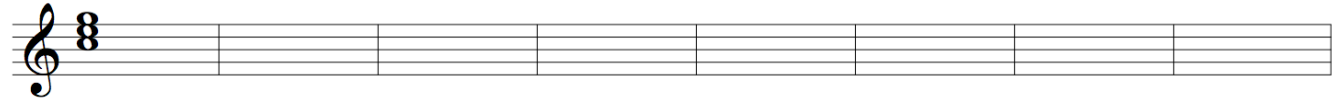
G D G Em G C G Am G Bm

Scoring Voice Leading


Exercise: Calculate the voice leading total for each pair of chords below:

Exercise: The Claw

C Dm Em F G Am B° C




C B° Am G F Em Dm C




Exercise: Voice Leading in 3rds

C Em G B° Dm F Am C




C Am F Dm B° G Em C




Exercise: Voice Leading in 5ths

C G Dm Am Em B° F C



C F B° Em Am Dm G C



Exercise: Rhythm and Form

Now we will compose another simple rhythmic piece, except you will choose the form and the rhythmic patterns.

1) Select a form:

2) Select several rhythmic patterns which we will call it a A, B and C.



A



B



C

3) Now, using percussion notation, write out your piece by combining the rhythmic patterns with the chosen form:



Exercise: Using Contours With a Chord Progression

Step 1: Using the pattern of whole steps and half steps, determine the notes in the key of ____ major.

Step 2: Determine the names of the chords in the key you have chosen.

Chord #	Roman Numeral	Notes	Chord Name
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

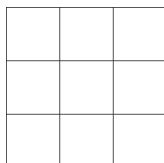
Step 3: Create a chord progression that contains four chords. Write it with Roman numerals.

Step 4: Write this same progression using actual chord names. Ex: C Major.

Step 5: Write the chords on the staff using proper voice leading. For now, write out treble parts only.



Step 6: Choose a contour with 3 events from the list of contours. Write that contour here:



Step 7: Apply that contour to the chord progression you have already written out in Step 5. Use 3/4 time with quarter notes for the melody.



Exercise: Using Contours and Rhythms Together

Step 1: Using the pattern of whole steps and half steps, determine the notes in the key of ____ major.

Step 2: Determine the names of the chords in the key you have chosen.

Chord #	Roman Numeral	Notes	Chord Name
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

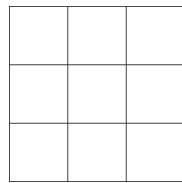
Step 3: Create a chord progression that contains four chords. Write it with Roman numerals.

Step 4: Write this same progression using actual chord names. Ex: C Major.

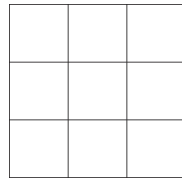
Step 5: Write the chords on the staff using proper voice leading. For now, write out treble parts only.



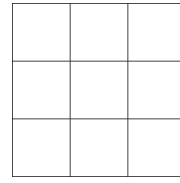
Step 6: Choose three contours. Note that each contour can vary in terms of how many events and pitches it contains. Note: IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO USE EVERY SQUARE.



A



B



C

Step 7: choose three rhythms that correspond to the contours you have chosen.



A

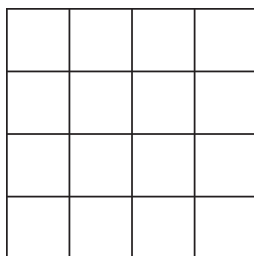


B

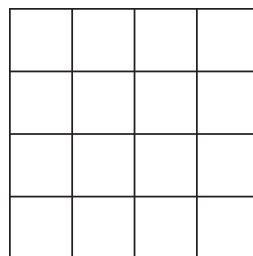


C

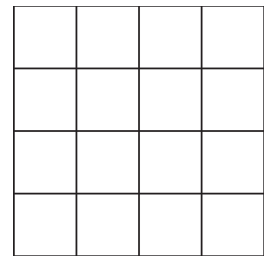
Step 8: Write out a motive that combines each contour with its corresponding rhythm.



A



B



C

Step 9: Apply each motive to the chord progression you have already written out above.

Exercise: Passing Tones

Step 1: Using the pattern of whole steps and half steps, determine the notes in the key of ____ major.

Step 2: Determine the names of the chords in the key you have chosen.

Chord #	Roman Numeral	Notes	Chord Name
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Step 3: Create a chord progression that contains four chords. Write it with Roman numerals.

Step 4: Write this same progression using actual chord names. Ex: C Major.

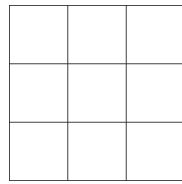
Step 5: Write the chords on the staff using proper voice leading. For now, write out treble parts only.



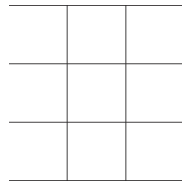
Step 6: Choose a form _____

Step 7: Choose three contours. Note that each contour can vary in terms of how many events and

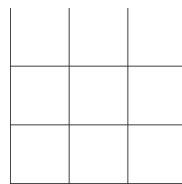
pitches it contains. Note: IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO USE EVERY SQUARE.



A



B



C

Step 8: choose three rhythms that correspond to the contours you have chosen.



A

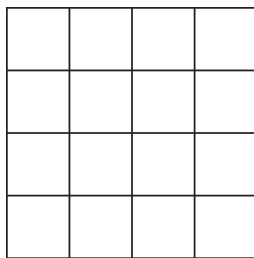


B

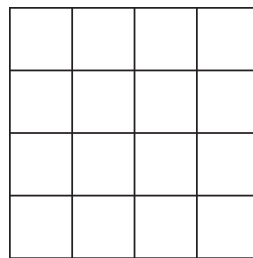


C

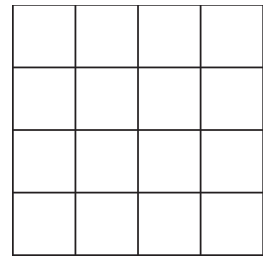
Step 9: Write out a motive that combines each contour with its corresponding rhythm.



A

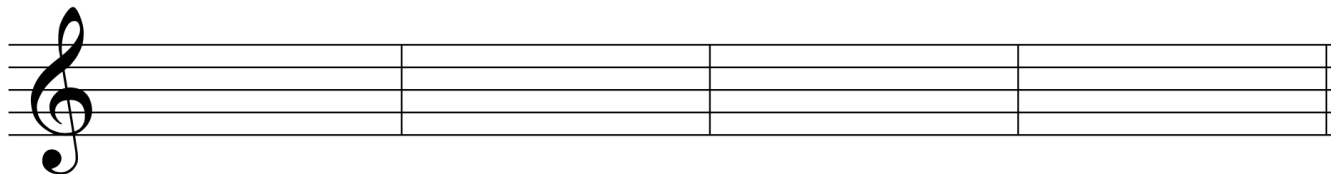


B

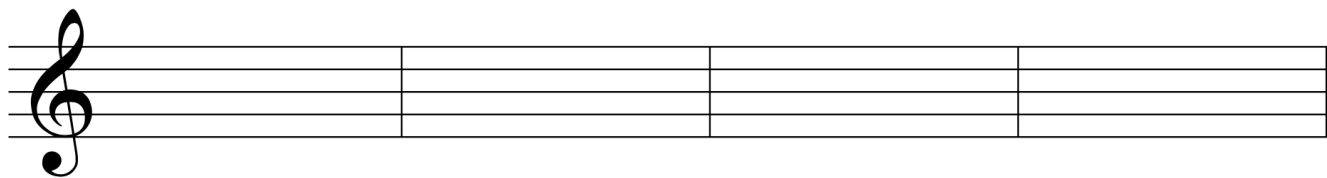


C

Step 10: Apply each motive to the chord progression you have already written out above.



Step 11: Add passing tones to at least one of the motives. Be sure to reuse the passing tones if the motive occurs twice. Also, use the correct rhythmic values to ensure your measure contains 4 beats.



Harmonic Rhythm

In the next few examples, take the given rhythmic pattern along with the chords C, F, G and write out a chord progression using a three different beat lengths:



Quarter Notes



Half Notes



Whole Notes



Exercise: Chaining Melodic Patterns

Exercise 1

Choose two types of patterns from the following list:

Melody

Line (Scale or Arpeggio)

Sequence (Scale, Arpeggio, or Mixed)

Line + Pivot

Sequence + Pivot

Label the patterns A and B respectively.

In the key of C, compose a two bar pattern in the form A B:



Exercise 2

Choose 2 patterns from the list above. Label them A and B respectively.

Using the form A A B A, compose a four bar pattern in the key of C.



Exercise 3

Choose three patterns from the list above. Label them A B C respectively.

Using the form A A B C compose a four bar pattern in the key of C.



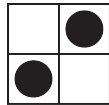
Exercise: Rhythmic Sequences

In the next few exercises, you will compose rhythmic sequences based on the parameters given.

Rhythmic Sequence 1

Type: Scale

Sequence Motive:

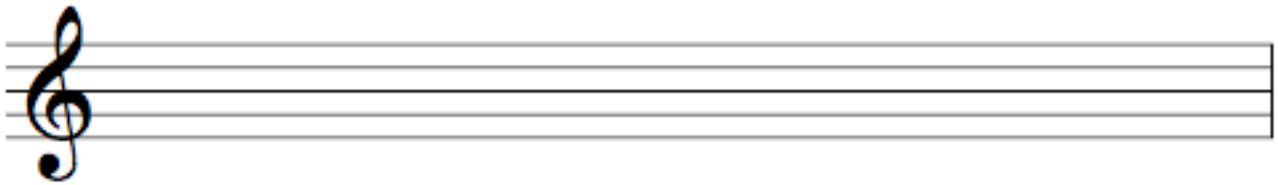


Rhythm:



Rhythm Beat Length: 16th note

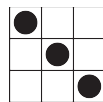
Direction: Up



Rhythmic Sequence 2

Type: Scale

Sequence Motive:

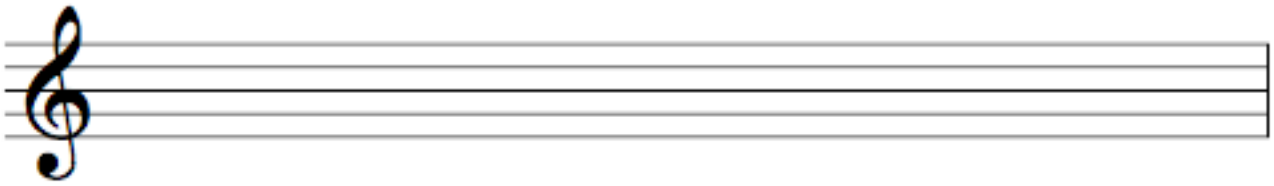


Rhythm:



Rhythm Beat Length: 16th note

Direction: Down



Rhythmic Sequence 3

Type: Arpeggio

Chord: C

Sequence Motive:

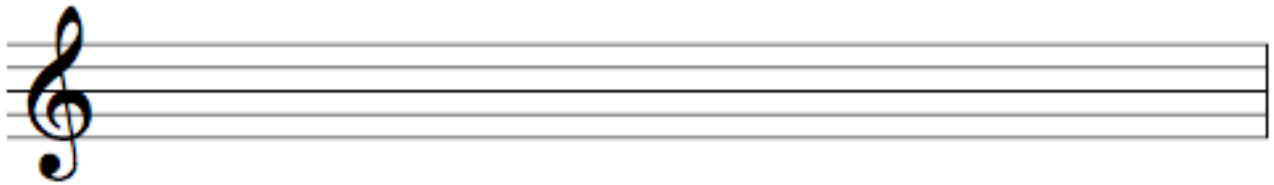
		●
	●	
●		

Rhythm:

●	●	●	
---	---	---	--

Rhythm Beat Length: 8th note

Direction: Down



Rhythmic Sequence 4

Now compose your own rhythmic sequence by choosing the following parameters:

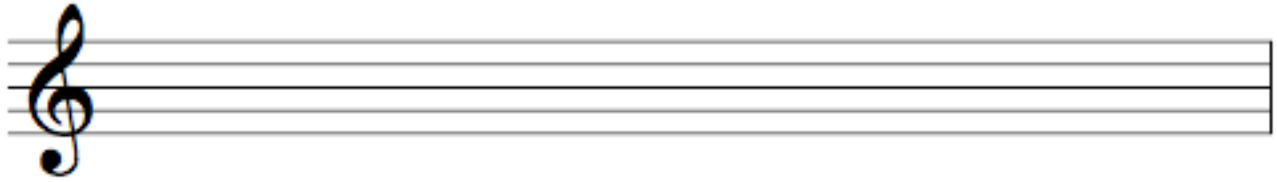
Type: Chord/Scale

Sequence Motive:

Rhythm:

Rhythm Beat Length:

Direction: Up/Down



Answers

Voice Leading 1 Answers

C Am C Em C F C G C Dm

Musical notation for Voice Leading 1 Answers. The piece is in C major. The treble clef contains chords for C, Am, C, Em, C, F, C, G, C, and Dm. The bass clef contains a single note for each measure: C, A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G. The notes in the bass clef are half notes, and the chords in the treble clef are triads.

Voice Leading 2 Answers

G D G Em G C G Am G Bm

Musical notation for Voice Leading 2 Answers. The piece is in G major. The treble clef contains chords for G, D, G, Em, G, C, G, Am, G, and Bm. The bass clef contains a single note for each measure: G, F#, E, D, C, B, A, G, F#, E. The notes in the bass clef are half notes, and the chords in the treble clef are triads.

Scoring Voice Leading Answers

C Dm Em F G Am B° C

A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), Dm (D4, F4, A4), Em (E4, G4, B4), F (F4, A4, C5), G (G4, B4, D5), Am (A4, C5, E5), B° (B4, D5, F5), and C (C4, E4, G4).

Bar 2: 1

Bar 3: 10

Bar 4: 3

Voice Leading 3 Answers

Answers: The Claw

C B° Am G F Em Dm C

A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), B° (B4, D5, F5), Am (A4, C5, E5), G (G4, B4, D5), F (F4, A4, C5), Em (E4, G4, B4), Dm (D4, F4, A4), and C (C4, E4, G4).

Answers: Voice Leading in 3rds

C Em G B° Dm F Am C

A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), Em (E4, G4, B4), G (G4, B4, D5), B° (B4, D5, F5), Dm (D4, F4, A4), F (F4, A4, C5), Am (A4, C5, E5), and C (C4, E4, G4).

C Am F Dm B° G Em C

A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), Am (A4, C5, E5), F (F4, A4, C5), Dm (D4, F4, A4), B° (B4, D5, F5), G (G4, B4, D5), Em (E4, G4, B4), and C (C4, E4, G4).

Answers: Voice Leading in 5ths

C G Dm Am Em B° F C

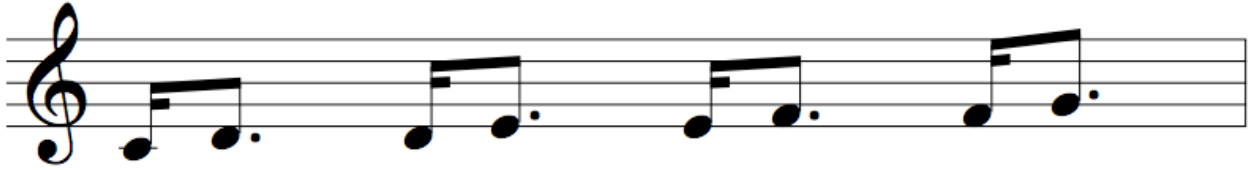
A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), G (G4, B4, D5), Dm (D4, F4, A4), Am (A4, C5, E5), Em (E4, G4, B4), B° (B4, D5, F5), F (F4, A4, C5), and C (C4, E4, G4).

C F B° Em Am Dm G C

A musical staff in treble clef showing eight measures of chord voicings. The chords are: C (C4, E4, G4), F (F4, A4, C5), B° (B4, D5, F5), Em (E4, G4, B4), Am (A4, C5, E5), Dm (D4, F4, A4), G (G4, B4, D5), and C (C4, E4, G4).

Rhythmic Sequences Answers

Rhythmic Sequence 1



Rhythmic Sequence 2



Rhythmic Sequence 3

