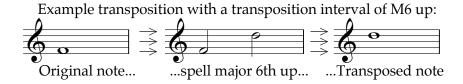
Section 3.4 T R A N S P O S I T I O N

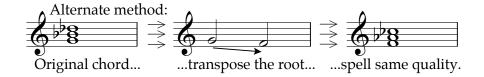
Transposition
of notesTransposition is the process of rewriting a note, chord, key signature, or
melody higher or lower. The distance the music is moved up or down is
called the interval of transposition. To transpose a single note, write the
note that is the requested interval above or below the original note.



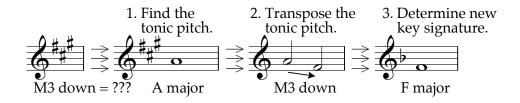
TranspositionTo transpose a chord, transpose each note in the chord, or transpose the
root and spell the same chord quality.

Example transposition with a transposition interval of M2 down: 2

Original chord... ...transpose each note M2 down... ...Transposed chord



Transposition of key signatures To **transpose a key signature**, transpose the tonic pitch. Then write the key signature that matches the transposed tonic pitch.



Transposing a melody

To **transpose a melody**, transpose the key signature (if there is one). Then transpose the notes. Notice that:

1. Any note that has an accidental in the original melody will also have an accidental in the transposed melody, though the particular accidentals may change, and

2. The scale steps from the original melody map onto the transposed melody; sometimes this can save time.



TransposingWhen performers of transposing instruments play, the notes that come out
are actually higher or lower than the written notes. To compensate for this,
parts for transposing instruments are always written higher or lower than
the desired notes. Each instrument has a specific interval of transposition.
Instruments with no transposition are "in C," meaning that a written C
produces the same sounding pitch: C. Similarly, horn "in F" reads C but an
F comes out. The notes and key signature are transposed to compensate:



Common Transpositions

The summary below lists common transpositions for transposing instruments. For clefs and specific ranges of these instruments, see **Essential Dictionary of Orchestration** by Dave Black and Tom Gerou.

1. **In C** (no transposition): piano, guitar, flute, oboe, bassoon, trombone, tuba, violin, viola, cello. Piccolo is in C, but sounds an octave higher than written. Double bass sounds an octave lower than written.

2. **In B flat** (sounds a M2 lower than written): clarinet, soprano sax, and trumpet. Bass clarinet and tenor sax sound a M2 plus an octave lower than written.

3. In F (sounds P5 lower than written): horn (French horn), English horn.

4. **In Eb** (sounds a M6 lower than written): alto sax. Baritone sax sounds a M6 plus an octave lower than written.