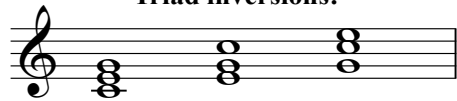
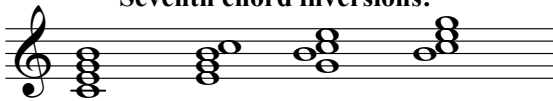


2.1 Chord Inversions and Figured Bass

This chapter discusses *diatonic harmony*. *Diatonic harmony* uses only *diatonic* notes (=notes in the key).

Chord Inversion

Chord inversion means a note *other than the root* of the chord is on the *bottom*.



Triad inversions:			Seventh chord inversions:			
						
Root position (root on bottom)	First inversion (third on bottom)	Second inversion (fifth on bottom)	Root position (root on bottom)	First inversion (third on bottom)	Second inversion (fifth on bottom)	Third inversion (seventh on bottom)

Figured Bass

Figured bass is a melody in bass clef with arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.).

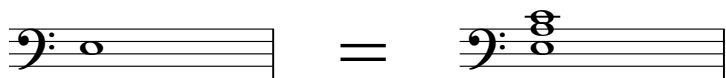
1. The numbers show what intervals *above* the *bass note* are needed for the chord.
2. An **accidental** to the left of a number applies to *that note above the bass*, ex: *b6* means *lower* the note that is the interval of a 6th above the bass note, whatever it is.
3. If no accidentals are indicated, **follow the key signature**. Otherwise, follow the accidentals.
4. A **slash** through a number means *raise* that note above the bass *one half step* using an accidental.
5. An accidental *without a number* always applies to the note that is *the interval of a 3rd above the bass*.

Important: The *order* of the notes above the bass is *not* indicated by figured bass or inversion symbols; the notes may appear in *any* octave and in any order above the bass (but see 2.5 *Voicing Triads*).

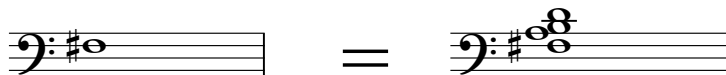
Figured bass for triads:			Figured bass for seventh chords:				
Root position	First inversion	Second inversion	Root position	First inversion	Second inversion	Third inversion	
							
Full figured bass symbols	5 3	6 3	6 4	7 5 3	6 5 3	6 4 3	6 4 2
Memorize and use the abbreviated versions below this line.				7	6 5	4 3	4 or 2 2
(root position =no numbers)	6	6 4					

Tip: For 7th chords, count down from 7: 7, 65, 43, 2
 OR some students think of a U.S.A. phone number (664)765-4342, where 6-64 is the triads and 765-4342 is the 7th chords.

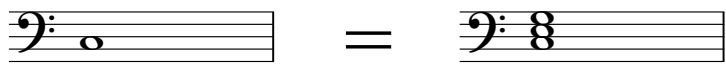
Figured Bass Examples



$\frac{6}{4}$ = the bass has the *fifth* of a triad; if E is the fifth, the root is A



$\frac{4}{3}$ = the bass has the *fifth* of a seventh chord; if F# is the fifth, the root is B



(blank) = the bass has the *root* of a triad