

5.5 Compound Part Forms/Compound Ternary

A compound part form combines two or more simple part forms.

➤ Compound Ternary

- Most familiar type: minuet and scherzo movements of Classical and early Romantic works
- 3rd movement in traditional symphonic form
- Also used in marches, polonaises, various 19th-century piano works
- Baroque Da Capo arias

A - often “minuet”

- i. binary, ternary, or rounded binary; sometimes one-part or five-part
- ii. begins and ends in same key – complete in itself; but little “b” may end incomplete, modulate, or end with V pedal point.

B - often “trio” or “musette” or “minuet II” or “alternativo”

- i. may also be binary, ternary or rounded binary; sometimes 1 or 5 part
- ii. usually same meter as A, often quieter, more subdued
- iii. different key than A! (though related)
- iv. usually also complete in itself, but may dissolve into a retransition leading back to A

A -

- i. sometimes written out, sometimes not (D.C. “from the head” or D.S. “from the sign”)
- ii. repeats are not played on the D.C.

➤ Song & trio (or minuet and trio or scherzo and trio) is a special subtype of compound ternary:

Song and trio	“Plain” compound ternary
Internal repeats	May have retransitions added (or codas, etc.)
Double bars	Repeats may be written out
Trio has new key or mode signature	Trio may be repeated (ABABA)
Trio has new character	
Utilizes D.C. at end of the big B section	