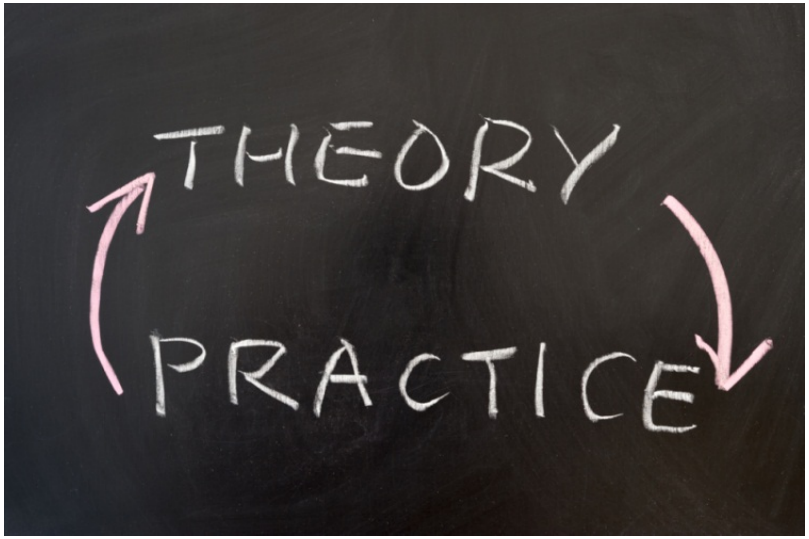
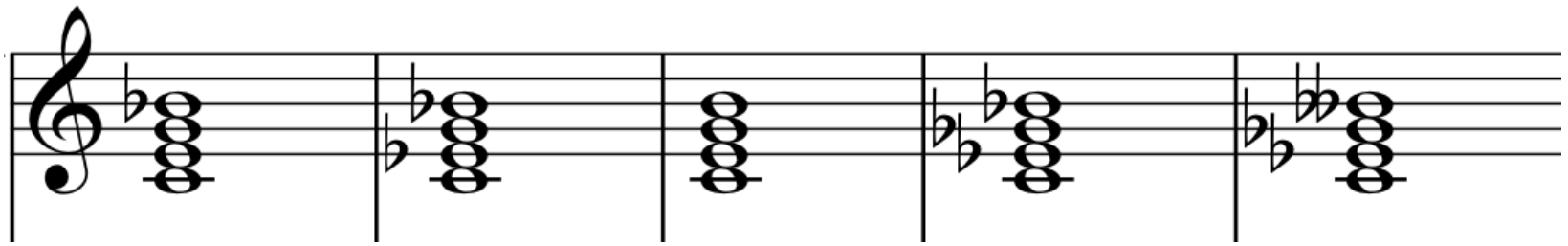


INVERSIONS + FIGURED BASS

15 Oct 2018

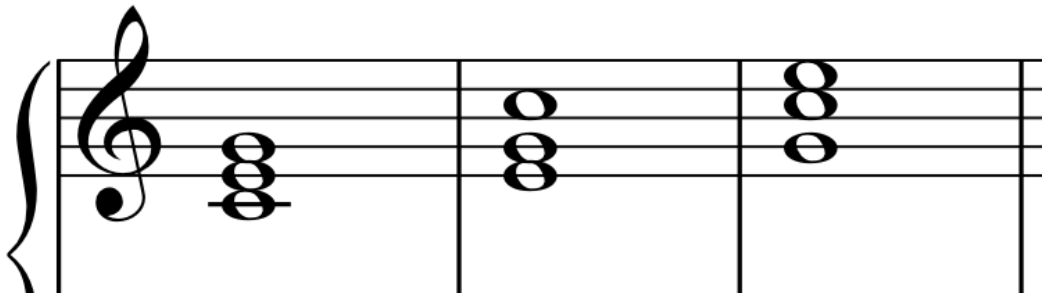
TYPES OF SEVENTH CHORDS



DOMINANT	MINOR	MAJOR	HALF–DIMINISHED	FULLY–DIMINISHED
MAJOR+m7	minor+m7	MAJOR+M7	dim+m7	dim+°7
C7	Cm7	Cmaj7	C$^{\varnothing}$7	C°7

INVERSIONS of TRIADS

– Rearrange position of notes



POSITION: ROOT 1st Inversion 2nd Inversion

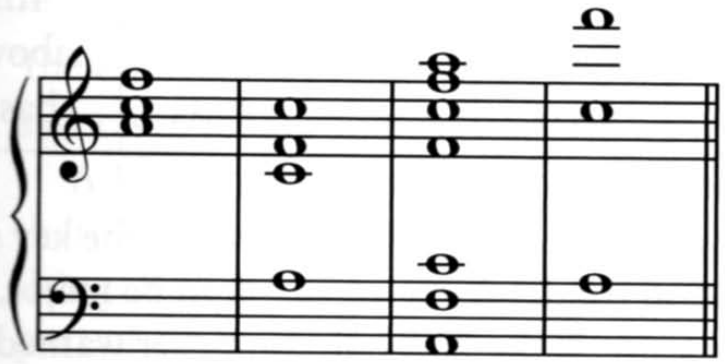
BASS: Root 3rd 5th

`

VOICING

All the chords in Example 3-6 are F major triads in first inversion. Notice that the upper notes of the chord can be spaced in any way without altering the bass position. Also, any of the notes can be duplicated (or **doubled**) in different octaves.

Example 3-6



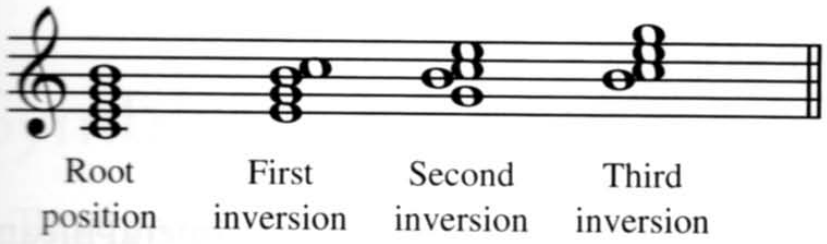
(All are in first inversion)

KP pg. 43

Seventh Chord Inversions

The inversion of seventh chords works just like the inversion of triads, except that three inversions (four bass positions) are possible (Ex. 3-7).

Example 3-7

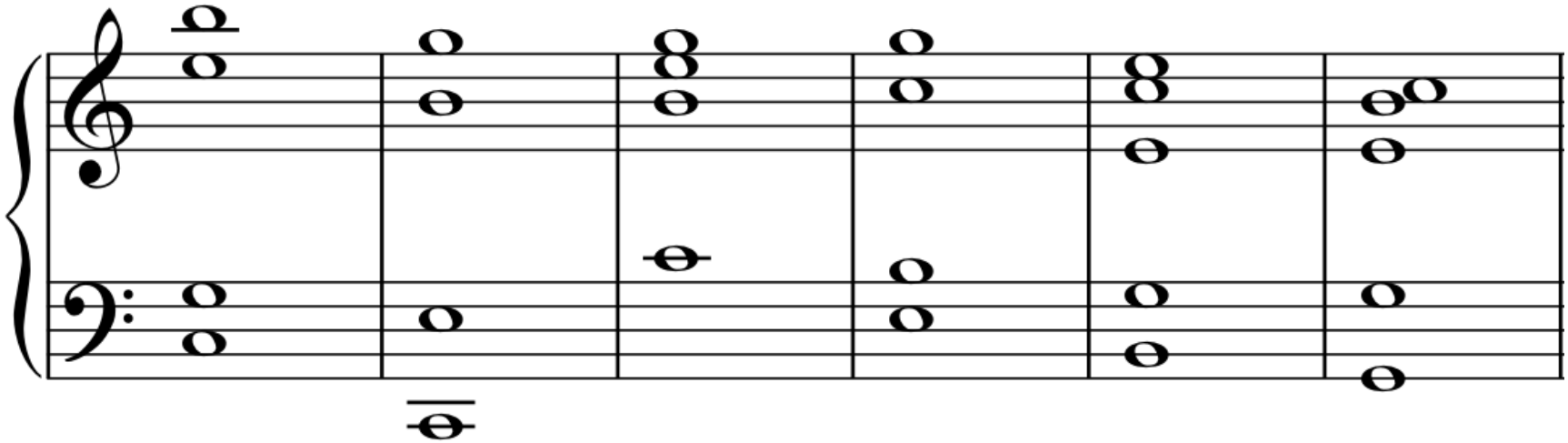


bass: root 3rd 5th 7th

KP pg. 43

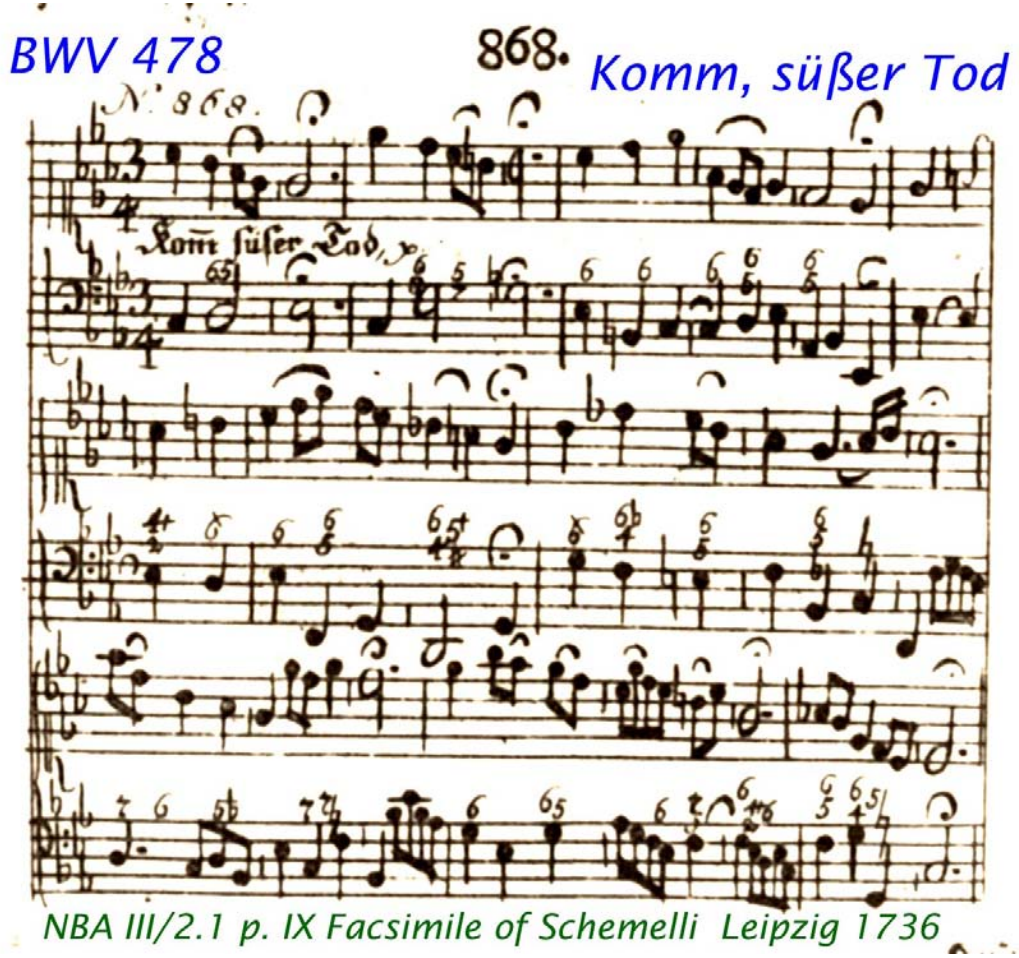
VOICING inverted 7th chords

It is important to understand that the inversion of a triad or seventh chord is determined only by what member of the chord is in the *bass;* any chord members may appear in the soprano or in the other voices without changing the inversion.

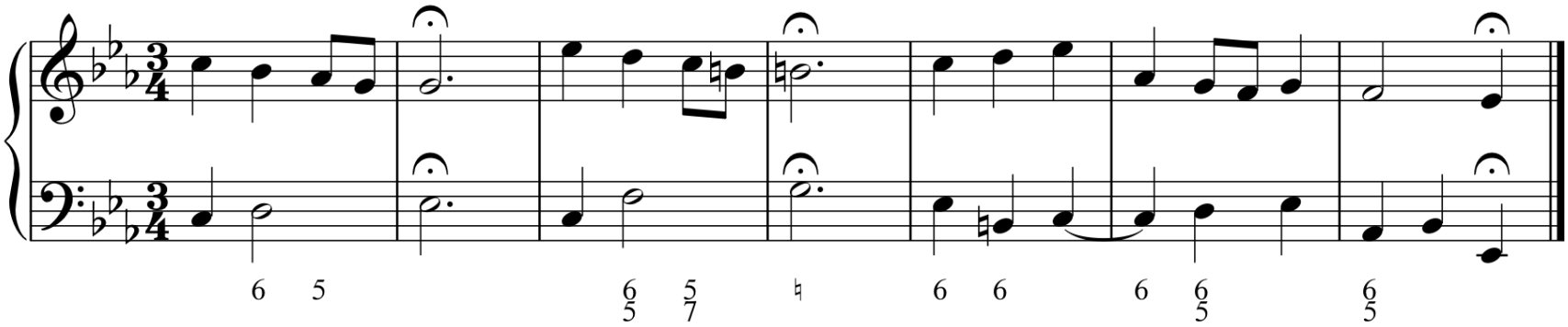


Root Root Root 1st inv 3rd inv 2nd inv

FIGURED BASS



Komm, sußer Tod!



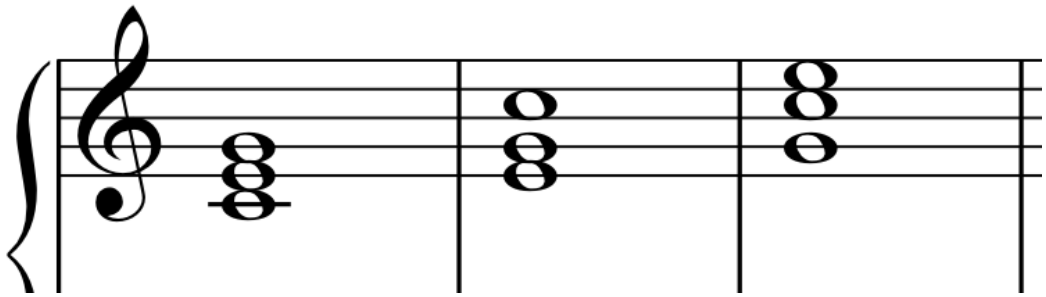
WHY not just write it out?!

1. Shorthand / code
— Bach wrote so much music it would have taken forever.

2. Like jazz, it allows for improvisation and embellishment, which was entirely the point in the Baroque era!

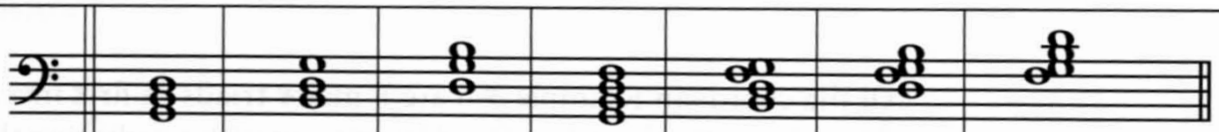
INVERSIONS of TRIADS

Figured bass shows each note's interval above the bass



POSITION:	ROOT	1st Inversion	2nd Inversion
FB:	5	6	6
	3	3	4

FIGURED BASS
Triads and Seventh Chords

Sonority desired							
Complete figured bass symbol	5 3	6 3	6 4	7 5 3	6 5 3	6 4 3	6 4 2
Symbol most often used		6	6 4	7	6 5	4 3	4 2
How to find the root	Bass note	6th above bass	4th above bass	Bass note	6th above bass	4th above bass	2nd above bass

If you have trouble finding root, rearrange to see it in root position (all 3rds)

BPS?

- Bass position symbol = figured bass notation

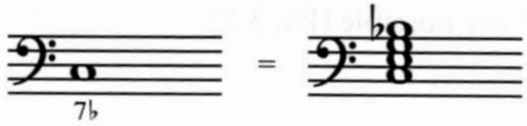
What happens when there's an accidental?

- If the 3rd is altered, write the accidental instead of "3"
- If any other number is raised, write a sharp/ natural after it or a slash through the number
- If any other number is lowered, write a flat or natural after it

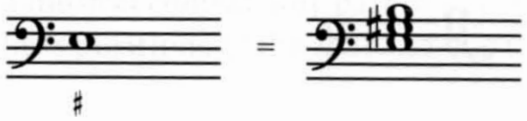
What happens when there's an accidental?

player to raise or lower a note.

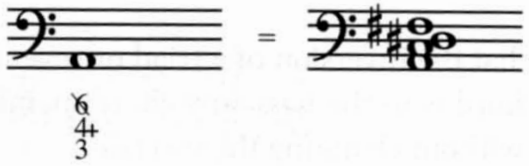
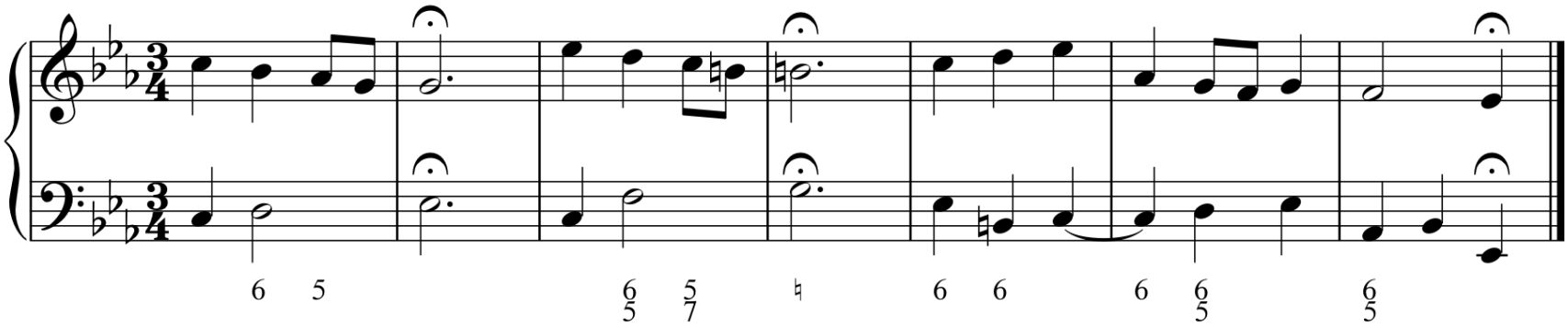
1. An accidental next to an arabic numeral in the figured bass could be used to raise or lower a note.



2. An accidental by itself always referred to the 3rd above the bass and could be used to alter that note.



3. A slash or plus sign in connection with an arabic numeral meant to raise that note.



Komm, sußer Tod!