

# Check List for Harmonisation

1. Work out the key
2. Start at cadences and work backwards and upwards from the bass
3. The leading-note (LN) should normally rise
4. The 7<sup>th</sup> of chords should fall
5. Spacing between each of the top three voices (Soprano, Alto and Tenor) is less than an octave
6. Avoid consecutive parallel 5<sup>ths</sup> and 8<sup>ves</sup>
7. Keep the inner voices (alto and tenor) as smooth as possible
8. Watch out for accidentals in the figured bass (especially in minor keys)
9. Avoid wide leaps, leaps that span an augmented interval, consecutive leaps – use conjunct motion
10. Don't overlap or cross parts
11. Keep voice parts within their normal ranges
12. The 3<sup>rd</sup> can only be doubled in special circumstances (e.g. deceptive cadence, passing 6-3 etc).
13. The only 7<sup>th</sup> chords you need to be familiar with occur on the dominant, the supertonic and the leading-note. For 7<sup>th</sup> chords that occur on the supertonic and leading-note, make sure the 7<sup>th</sup> is prepared in the same voice part of the previous chord.

## An example of bad voice leading!

- There are several things wrong with this progression. What are they?

1. **Consecutive octaves** between the bass and alto parts.

2. **Leading note** in chord V doesn't rise to tonic note.

3. **Overlapping parts** in the final chord between alto and tenor

4. The **third is doubled** in the final chord (inadvisable, if not actually wrong!).

5. **Disjunct motion** in alto and tenor parts.

6. **Spacing** between tenor and alto is more than an octave

The image shows a musical score for a progression of three chords: I, V, and I. The bass line is in the bass clef, and the treble line is in the treble clef. The chords are labeled I, V, and I below the notes. The notes are: I (C4, E4, G4), V (F4, A4, C5), and I (C4, E4, G4). The bass line notes are C4, F4, and C4. The treble line notes are E4, A4, and G4. The progression is: I (C4, E4, G4) - V (F4, A4, C5) - I (C4, E4, G4). The notes are connected by arrows: C4 to F4 (blue), E4 to A4 (purple), G4 to C5 (purple), C4 to C4 (red), F4 to A4 (purple), A4 to G4 (purple). The leading note C5 in the V chord does not rise to the tonic note C4 in the final I chord. The third E4 is doubled in the final I chord. The spacing between the alto and tenor parts in the final I chord is more than an octave.