



Compendium

*of Voice-Leading Patterns from
the 17th and 18th Centuries
to Play, Sing, and Transpose
at the Keyboard*

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Thoroughbass Abbreviations and the Figures to Add	2
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Cadences

Simple Cadences in Two Voices.	3
Simple Cadences in Three Voices	4
Simple Cadences in Four Voices	5
Compound Cadences in Two Voices	6
Compound Cadences in Three Voices	7
Compound Cadences with $5/4$ in Four Voices.	8
Compound Cadences with $6/5$ in Four Voices.	9
Compound Cadences with $6/4$ in Four Voices.	10
Double Cadences in Three Voices	11
Double Cadences in Four Voices	12
Evaded Cadences in Three Voices	13
Evaded Cadences in Four Voices	14
Tenor or Discant Clausulae in the Bass in Three Voices. . .	15
Tenor or Discant Clausulae in the Bass in Four Voices . . .	16
Cadences with an "Active" Tenor Clausula	17

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Rules of the Octave

(Non-Sequential Stepwise Bass Harmonizations)

Overview: Rules of the Octave	18
Basic Rule of the Octave in Three Voices	19
Basic Rule of the Octave as Clausulae	20
Basic Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Complete)	21
Advanced Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Complete). 22	
Advanced Rule of the Octave (Lower Half)	23
Advanced Rule of the Octave (Upper Half)	24

* * *

Sequences

Stepwise Bass: Parallel $6/3$ Chords.	25
Stepwise Bass: 5-6 & 7-6 Sequences.	26
Stepwise Bass: Syncopated Bass in Two Voices	27
Stepwise Bass: Syncopated Bass (with 6 Chords).	28
Stepwise Bass: Syncopated Bass (with $6/5$ Chords).	29
Stepwise Bass: Ascending "Leapfrog" Sequences.	30
Leaping Bass: Falling Thirds (with 6 Chords).	31
Leaping Bass: Falling Thirds (with $6/5$ Chords).	32
Leaping Bass: Falling Fourths Sequence.	33
Leaping Bass: Rising Fourths Sequence.	34
Leaping Bass: Falling Fifths Sequence.	38
Leaping Bass: Rising Fifths Sequence	37
Chromatic Bass: Omnibus Sequence	37

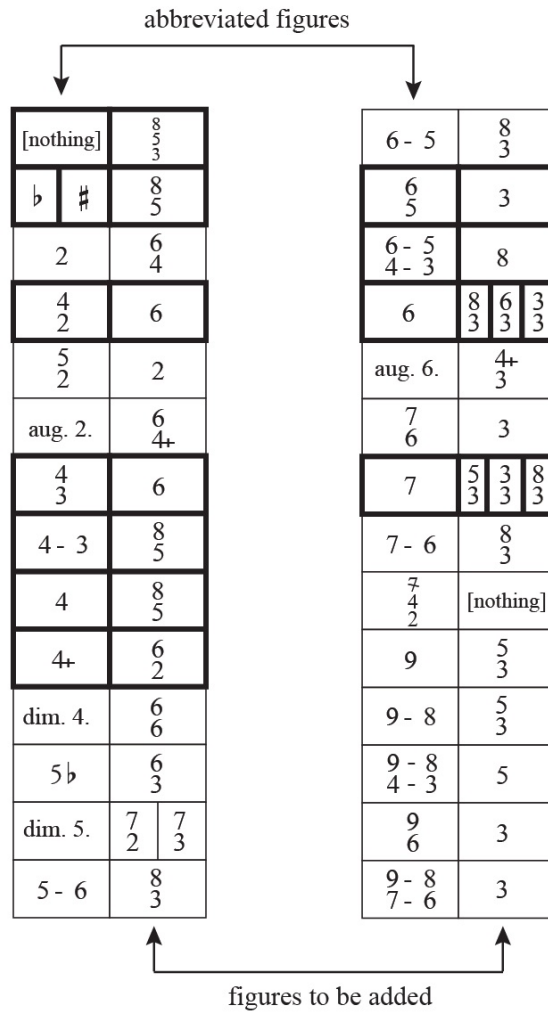
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Appendices

Common Modulation Strategies	38-39
Alphabetical List of Schemata	40-43
Select Bibliography	44-45

Thoroughbass Abbreviations and the Figures to Add

The most common figures are in bold boxes.



Graphic based on:
David Kellner, *Treulicher Unterricht im General-Bass* (1732, 28)

What figures to play in four-, three-, and two-voice textures

4-voice Figuring	3-voice Figuring	2-voice Figuring
8/5/3	5/3 or 8/3	3
8/6/3 or 6/6/3 or 6/3/3	6/3	6
8/6/4	6/4	none
7/5/3 or 8/7/3	7/3	7
6/5/3	6/5	none
6/4/3	none	none
6/4/2	4/2	2
8/5/4	5/4	none
9/5/4	9/4	none
9/7/3	9/7	none

Simple Cadences in Two Voices

Bass scale degrees are indicated with ①, ②, etc. Upper voices are indicated with $\hat{1}$, $\hat{2}$, etc. "Simple" means "only consonances." Consonant intervals are unison, 3, perfect 5, 6, and 8. The unison, perfect 5, and 8 are perfect consonances; 3 and 6 are imperfect consonances. A simple cadence in two voices requires the tenor and discant clausulae. Clausulae are stereotypical melodic segments used to make various kinds of cadences. The tenor clausula (TC) uses the degrees ③ ② ①, and is always colored green here. The discant clausula (DC) uses the degrees ① ⑦ ①, and is always colored red here. Clausulae maintain their names regardless of which voice they are placed in. For example, the discant clausula could be placed in the top, middle, or lowest voice. Traditionally the three pitches in clausulae are named Ultima (ULT), Penultima (PEN), and Antepenultima (ANT), meaning "last," "2nd-to-last," and "3rd-to-last," respectively.

with inverted voices:

major keys

discant clausula

tenor clausula

ANT PEN ULT

ANT PEN ULT

In minor-key cadences, the seventh degree must be chromatically raised to make a leading tone.

with inverted voices:

minor keys

discant clausula

tenor clausula

ANT PEN ULT

ANT PEN ULT

In practice, the tenor clausula may also begin on ① or end on ③, but always has ② at PEN. Below are all eight possible simple cadences in two voices. The discant clausula is always the same.

with inverted voices:

with inverted voices:

with inverted voices:

with inverted voices:

Simple Cadences in Three Voices

A simple cadence in three voices adds the bass clausula (① ⑤ ①) to the TC/DC pair. Unlike the other clausulae, the bass clausula may only appear in the bass voice. All four versions of the tenor clausulae are possible (see bottom of page three). Thoroughbass figures are included between the staves. Thoroughbass figures indicate the intervals of the upper parts as measured from the bass. The ordering of the figures does not always correspond to the ordering of the upper voices. A "spacing" or "position" indicates the starting interval between the outer voices.

with inverted upper voices:

octave spacing third spacing

C: ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ①

bass clausula bass clausula

ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT

In minor-key cadences, the seventh degree must be chromatically raised to make a leading tone. Accidentals in thoroughbass refer to a third above the bass (i.e. here G becomes G#).

with inverted upper voices:

octave spacing third spacing

a: ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ①

bass clausula bass clausula

ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT

Simple Cadences in Four Voices

A simple cadence in four voices adds the alto clausula (⑤ ⑤ ⑤), to the three-part cadence. As before, the upper voices can be inverted to create the different spacings based on the starting interval. The parts in a four-voice texture are named (from top down): soprano (or discant), alto, tenor, and bass. These names are used even when the composition is for one or more instruments (not singers). In practice, composers usually preferred not to end a piece with the fifth in the top voice.

major keys

octave spacing	third spacing	fifth spacing
C: ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ①		
ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT		

In minor-key cadences, the seventh degree must be chromatically raised to make a leading tone. Accidentals in thoroughbass refer to a third above the bass (i.e. here G becomes G#).

minor keys

octave spacing	third spacing	fifth spacing
a: ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ① ① ⑤ ①		
ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT		

In practice, baroque composers saved time in two ways:
 (1) rather than indicate the order of the upper voices via the figures (as above), composer would simply write the figures from highest to lowest and let the player "realize" the spacing as desired;
 (2) composers would abbreviate figures. Learn the abbreviations by using the tables on page two.
 For instance, if 8/5/3 were written, the player could realize this in octave, third, or fifth spacing.
 But the 5/3 chord was so common that if nothing was written, the player assumed a 5/3 chord and realized the figure in as many or as few voices as required by the situation at hand.

	<i>three voices</i>		<i>four voices</i>		
	octave spacing	third spacing	octave spacing	third spacing	fifth spacing
could be realized as:					

Compound Cadences in Two Voices

"Compound" means that there is a dissonance in the form of a syncopatio (i.e. suspension). Whereas the modern term "suspension" implies the delay of a *chord tone*, the historical term "syncopatio" implies the syncopated delay of an *interval*. In the baroque era, the two-voice cadence occurred most often with a syncopatio dissonance. The syncopatio dissonance arises by "delaying" the arrival of ⑦ in the discant clausula. This delay splits the PEN position into two parts, which is where the name "compound" comes from.

with inverted voices:

"syncopated" discant clausula

tenor clausula

major keys

C: ③ ② ①

① — ⑦ ①

tenor clausula

"syncopated" discant clausula

ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT

A syncopatio has 3 parts: (1) consonant preparation, (2) dissonant "clash," and (3) consonant resolution. After Giovanni Artusi (c.1540-1613), the tied ("delayed") voice is the *patient*, the moving voice the *agent*. In a cadence, the discant clausula is always the patient, while the tenor clausula is always the agent. Memory aid: the *patient* is *passive* (tied); the *agent* is *active* (it moves to make the dissonant "clash").

with inverted voices:

(1) consonant preparation

(2) dissonant "clash"

(3) consonant resolution

thoroughbass figures: 6 7—6 8

3 2—3 1

Here are the same eight two-voice cadences as on page three, but with syncopatio dissonances. Sometimes a dash between two thoroughbass figures indicates the resolution of a syncopatio.

6 7—6 8 3 2—3 1

8 7—6 6 1 2—3 3

6 7—6 6 3 2—3 3

8 7—6 8 1 2—3 1

Compound Cadences in Three Voices

Compound cadences in three voices come in three variants: 5/4, 6/5, and 6/4.
 As in the simple cadence in three voices, one adds the bass clausula (① ⑤ ①) to the DC/TC pair.
 All four versions of the tenor clausulae are possible. The small notes in the bass are optional.
 The discant clausula is shown here in its syncopated form.
 Memory aid: in a compound cadence, one voice always has the "delayed" DC: ① ⑦ ①.

Compound cadence with 5/4

This compound cadence has a 5/4-chord at PEN. The dissonant 4 in a 5/4 chord must always be prepared.

major keys		minor keys	
octave spacing	third spacing	octave spacing	third spacing

C: ① ③ ⑤ ① a: ① ③ ⑤ ①

Compound cadence with 6/5

This compound cadence has a 6/5 chord at PEN. Only the bass is different from the 5/4 version. This bassline is considered a variant on the bass clausula, since it still ends with ⑤ ①. The 5 in a 6/5 chord acts like a dissonance, even when it is a consonant perfect 5. Thus, if the 5 can be prepared (tied by common tone), it should be. Ironically the dissonant diminished 5 may enter unprepared in a 6/5 chord, though.

major keys		minor keys	
octave spacing	third spacing	octave spacing	third spacing

C: ① ③ ④ ⑤ ① a: ① ③ ④ ⑤ ①

Compound cadence with 6/4

The compound cadence with 6/4 "syncopates" the TC, resulting in a double syncopatio with the DC.
 Though the 4 is a dissonance, it may enter unprepared in a 6/4 chord (see page ten).

major keys		minor keys	
octave spacing	third spacing	octave spacing	third spacing

C: ① ③ ⑤ ① a: ① ③ ⑤ ①

Compound Cadences with 5/4 in Four Voices

This compound cadence adds the alto clausula to the three-part compound cadence with 5/4. You may also syncopate the entry of the red discant clausula. Small bass notes are optional. As noted already, the 4 must be prepared in a 5/4 chord, but not in a 6/4 chord.

major keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

C: ① ③ ⑤ ①

minor keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

a: ① ③ ⑤ ①

Compound Cadences with 6/5 in Four Voices

This compound cadence adds the blue voice to the three-part compound cadence with 6/5. This is considered a variant on the alto clausula because it still ends with ⑤ ⑤. In reality, the alto and bass clausulae are flexible filler voices to the DC/TC pair. You may also syncopate the entry of the red discant clausula. Small bass notes are optional. As noted already, the 5 in a 6/5 chord should be prepared, if possible. (The perfect 5 must be prepared, but the diminished 5 may enter unprepared in a 6/5 chord.)

major keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

alternate bassline

C: ① ③ ④ ⑤ ①

6 6/5

C: ③ ④ ⑤ ①

minor keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

alternate bassline

a: ① ③ ④ ⑤ ①

6 6/5 #

a: ③ ④ ⑤ ①

Compound Cadences with 6/4 in Four Voices

This compound cadence adds the alto clausula to the three-part compound cadence with 6/4. You may also syncopate the entry of the DC and TC, as on page seven. Small bass notes are optional.

major keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

C: ① ③ ⑤ ①

Though the 4 is a dissonance, it may enter unprepared in a 6/4 chord, but not in a 5/4 chord.

parallel fifths can be avoided thus:

parallel fourths invert to parallel fifths!

C: ① ④ ⑤ ①

minor keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

a: ① ③ ⑤ ①

Perfect 5ths may move to dim. 5ths. But dim. 5ths are a dissonance and need to resolve to a third. Thus, dim. 5ths do not usually progress to perfect 5ths, but this is nevertheless allowable if (1) it is not in the outer voices and (2) there are three or more voices.

a: ① ④ ⑤ ①

Double Cadences in Three Voices

A double cadence combines the simple and compound cadences, as shown in the first example. There are two main types of double cadences: with 5/4 and with 6/5 (depending on the bassline). Memory aid: one voice always has the "syncopated" DC preceded by an extra ⑦: ⑦ ① ⑦ ①.

major keys minor keys

third spacing fifth spacing third spacing fifth spacing

simple + compound

alternate basslines

C: ⑤ ① ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ① ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤ ①

Here the first pitch of the TC is changed, making a 7 chord. The final bassline below is also slightly different.

alternate basslines

C: ⑤ ① ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ① ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ①

C: ⑤ ⑥ ④ ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ⑥ ④ ⑤ ①

Double Cadences in Four Voices

This version merely adds the flexible alto clausula to the three-voice double cadence. To save space, only major-key versions are shown here. Don't forget to use $\textcircled{7}$ in minor.

major keys

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

alternate bassline

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

simple + compound

$\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

The same as above, but starting with a 7 instead of 5/3.

alternate bassline

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

7 $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$ 7 $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$ 7 $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4-3}$

$\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

Variant with a 6/5-chord.

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{6}$ $\textcircled{4}$ $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

Mores variants with 6/5-chords.

alternate bassline

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{4}$ $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 6 $\frac{6}{5}$

C: $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{3}$ $\textcircled{4}$ $\textcircled{5}$ $\textcircled{1}$

Evaded Cadences in Three Voices

A cadence is "evaded" if the impression is given of ending with ⑤ ① in the bass, but then something else happens. Here are three common evasive strategies (with a fourth shown on the next page).

Form 1: any cadence ending with ⑥ in the bass (i.e. a "deceptive" cadence)

major keys minor keys

C: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑤ ⑥ a: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑤ ⑥

Form 2: any cadence ending with ③ in the bass

major keys minor keys

C: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ③ a: ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ③

alternate bassline

C: ⑤ ④ ③ a: ⑤ ④ ③

Form 3: DC resolves to $\natural 7$ (actually $\hat{4}$ in new key), modulating down a fifth (see arrow).

G: ⑤ C: ⑤ ①

In the first evaded double cadence given below, all three voices can be inverted, making 6 combinations total. This is called triple invertible counterpoint. green = TC (agent); red = DC (patient); blue = alto clausula (auxiliary)

C: ⑤ ④ ③ ⑦ ① ⑦ ① ④ ③ ② ①

Evaded Cadences in Four Voices

The flexible alto clausula is added, plus a new variant with tonization. Minor-key versions are not shown.

Form 1: any cadence ending with ⑥ in the bass (i.e. a "deceptive" cadence)

C: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥
with tonicization of ⑥:
C: ⑤ ③
a: ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ①

The tonicized version is often sequenced, making the modulating "carousel" pattern: etc.

G: ⑤ ③
e: ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ① ③
C: ⑥ ⑦ ① ③
a: ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ① ③
F: ⑥ ⑦ ①

Form 2: any cadence ending with ③ in the bass

C: ⑤ ⑥ ④ ⑤ ③

Form 3: DC resolves to ♮7̂ (actually 4̂ in new key), modulating down a fifth (see arrow).

G: ⑤
C: ⑤ ①

Form 4: DC moves to #1̂, which becomes #7̂ (leading tone) in the key a step higher (see arrow)

C: ⑤ ③ ④ ⑤
d: ④ ③ ④ ⑤

Tenor or Discant Clausulae in the Bass in Three Voices

The DC and TC can also appear in the bass. They are less conclusive than cadences that end with ⑤ ①. The blue voice, which resembles an alto clausula, is merely an auxiliary to the DC/TC pair.

Discant clausula in the bass:

major keys minor keys

octave spacing third spacing octave spacing third spacing

alternate upper voices

C: ① ⑦ ① a: ① ⑦ ①

With a tenor clausula in the bass: ③ ② ①

C: ③ ② ① a: ③ ② ①

With another tenor clausula in the bass: ① ② ③. Notice that the third spacing ends with a dim. 5 moving to perfect 5, which is allowable if it involves a middle voice.

C: ③ ② ① a: ③ ② ①

In this commonplace book, clausulae have been identified via scale degrees. This works most of the time. But there is another TC/DC pair—the "mi-cadence"—that ends on ⑤ in the bass (solfège syllable "mi" in hexachordal solmization). Here the TC ends with a half step (F-E) and the DC with a whole step (D-E). When conceived in terms of the major/minor system, a mi-cadence is equivalent to a half cadence.

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤

Tenor or Discant Clausulae in the Bass in Four Voices

Compare the four-voice versions here with the three-voice versions on the previous page. The black and blue voices are auxiliaries to the DC/TC pair. To save space, minor-key versions are not shown.

Discant clausula in the bass. To avoid parallel 5ths, the upper voices are not always invertible.

major keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

alternate upper voices

C: ① ⑦ ①

With a tenor clausula in the bass: ③ ② ①. Notice that in a 7-6 suspension, one usually avoids adding 5 to the 7 (i.e. double 3 or 8 instead). This progression is much easier in three voices than four.

C: ③ ② ①

With another tenor clausula in the bass: ① ② ③. Dim.5-perf.5 is allowable if involving a middle voice.

C: ① ② ③

mi-cadence

(almost the same as the third spacing)

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤

Cadences with an "Active" Tenor Clausula

Up until now, we only examined situations where the TC remains held during the resolution of the dissonance in the DC (a "static" TC), as shown below.

"static" tenor clausula

ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT

But the TC (indeed, any agent voice in a syncopatio) may also move to a different consonance after the dissonant "clash" at the PEN position, but before the ULT position, like when the TC leaps to 5 on beat four, as shown below. But this creates ambiguity regarding the clausulae. Is the green voice a tenor or a bass clausula? It has 2 at the PEN position, like a tenor clausula, but it also ends with 5 1, like a bass clausula. Ultimately, it doesn't matter what we call it if we recognize the underlying contrapuntal processes: clausulae.

"active" tenor clausula or bass clausula?

ANT PEN ULT ANT PEN ULT

However, theories that track root motion (e.g. Roman numerals and function theory) draw a largely arbitrary distinction between the "active" and "static" tenor clausulae shown above. For example, why should the two chords at the arrows below be analyzed differently, when the overall voice-leading patterns are so similar? The reason is that, if you are working within a theory that assumes that (1) all chords have roots (even dissonant ones), and that (2) root motion between chords is syntactically meaningful, then you must analyze these two chords differently. But if you emphasize the underlying contrapuntal similarities in the clausulae, then you can view these two progressions as quite similar. Throughout the seventeenth century and up until around 1750, very few musicians thought in terms of chordal roots as we understand them today. Rather, these ideas emerged in the early 18th century and first gained widespread adoption in the second half of the 18th century.

Roman numerals: I⁶ vii⁷—⁶ I I⁶ ii⁷ V⁷ I

Function theory: T₃⁶ D₅⁴—³ T T₃⁶ Sp⁷ D⁷ T

Overview: Rules of the Octave (Non-Sequential Stepwise Bass Harmonizations)

Rule of the Octave (Basic Form)

The Rule of the Octave (RO) determines the normative harmonies for each bass degree. "Basic" means that this RO only has 5/3 and 6/3 chords (exception: ④ descending). A line through a figure means that this interval is raised chromatically. "5" serves merely as a reminder that the given bass degree takes a 5/3 chord. Notice that, in major, the descending RO tonicizes the dominant key (key of V).

major keys

ascending *either/or* *descending*

5 6 6 5 6 5 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 6 $\frac{6}{2}$ 6 6 5

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
G(V): ② ①

minor keys

ascending *either/or* *descending*

5 6̣ 6 5̣ 6 6 5 5 6 6 5 6 $\frac{6}{2}$ 6 6 5

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥̣ ⑦̣ ① ① ⑦̣ ⑥̣ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Rule of the Octave (Advanced Form)

"Advanced" means that this RO contains dissonant harmonies (i.e. chords other than 5/3 and 6/3). See arrows.

major keys

ascending *descending*

5 $\frac{6}{3}$ 6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 5 6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 5 5 6 $\frac{6}{3}$ 5 $\frac{6}{2}$ 6 $\frac{6}{3}$ 5

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
G(V): ② ①

minor keys

ascending *descending*

5 $\frac{6}{3}$ 6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 5̣ 6 $\frac{6}{5}$ 5 5 6 $\frac{6}{3}$ 5̣ $\frac{6}{2}$ 6 $\frac{6}{3}$ 5

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥̣ ⑦̣ ① ① ⑦̣ ⑥̣ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Basic Rule of the Octave in Three Voices

To avoid parallel perfect fifths in the octave spacing, ⑦ ascending only has a 5/3 chord instead of the normative 6/3 chord (see arrow).

major keys
ascending

third spacing

descending

octave spacing

5 6 6 5 5 6 5/6 5 5 6 6 5 4 3 2 1

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

G(V): ② ①

To avoid parallel perfect fifths in the octave spacing, ⑥ descending can take an augmented sixth (a dissonance). See the asterisk.

minor keys
ascending

third spacing

descending

octave spacing

5 6 6 5 5 6 5/6 5 5 6 6 5 4 3 2 1

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Basic Rule of the Octave as Clausulae

Here we see how even a stepwise bassline can be conceived as a series of cadences. Notice how each tetrachord (i.e. four-note bass segment) has invertible upper voices. A 4/2-chord appears on ① descending, which makes the bass into an incomplete DC (① ⑦ ⑥ instead of ① ⑦ ①). The TC is in the bass in green notes.

major keys
ascending

third spacing

descending

octave spacing

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
($\frac{4}{2}$)
G(V): ① ② ③ (④ ③) ② ①

Notice the parallel perfect 5ths in the ascending version. At least they are not between the outer voices!

minor keys
ascending

third spacing

descending

octave spacing

par. perf. 5ths

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥⌵ ⑦⌵ ① ① ⑦⌵ ⑥⌵ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Basic Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Complete)

Some variation in the voice-leading is possible.
 Notice how similar the fifth spacing is to the third spacing.
 A few three-note chords are necessary to avoid voice-leading errors.
 Both C. P. E. Bach and J. D. Heinichen allow for the player to occasionally add or subtract a voice from the prevailing four-voice texture.

major keys

ascending *descending*

other spacings

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
 G(V): ② ①

minor keys

ascending *descending*

other spacings

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ① ① ⑦↓ ⑥↓ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Advanced Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Complete)

The advanced RO is not possible in only three parts.
 Some variation in the voice-leading is possible.
 Notice how similar the fifth spacing is to the third spacing.
 A few three-note chords are necessary to avoid voice-leading errors.
 Both C. P. E. Bach and J. D. Heinichen allow for the player to
 occasionally add or subtract a voice from the prevailing four-voice texture.

major keys
ascending *descending*

other spacings

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
 G(V): ② ①

Detailed description: This section shows the advanced Rule of the Octave for major keys. It consists of two systems: 'ascending' and 'descending'. Each system has three staves: two for 'other spacings' (treble clef) and one for figured bass (bass clef). The ascending system shows chords moving from C to G, with figured bass notes 6, 6, 6, 6. The descending system shows chords moving from G to C, with figured bass notes 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 2, 6, 6. Chord numbers are circled and placed below the bass line.

minor keys
ascending *descending*

other spacings

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ① ① ⑦↓ ⑥↓ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Detailed description: This section shows the advanced Rule of the Octave for minor keys. It consists of two systems: 'ascending' and 'descending'. Each system has three staves: two for 'other spacings' (treble clef) and one for figured bass (bass clef). The ascending system shows chords moving from A to E, with figured bass notes 6, 4, 3, 6, 5, #, 6, 5. The descending system shows chords moving from E to A, with figured bass notes 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 2, 6, 6. Chord numbers are circled and placed below the bass line.

Advanced Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Lower Half)

lower half lower half

c: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ①

The RO is often more useful when conceived in two halves (with neighbor tones on each side)
All three upper voices are invertible, as shown by the colors. The colors do not relate to clausulae.

major keys

ascending descending

other spacings

C: ① ⑦ ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑤ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

G(V): ① ② ①

minor keys

ascending descending

other spacings

a: ① ⑦↑ ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑤ ⑥↓ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Advanced Rule of the Octave in Four Voices (Upper Half)

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧

The RO is often more useful when conceived in two halves (with neighbor tones on each side)
All three upper voices are invertible, as shown by the colors. The colors do not relate to clausulae.

major keys

ascending descending

other spacings

C: ① ② ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ①

G(V): ③ ② ① G(V): ①

same as the lower half of the RO in G major!

minor keys

ascending descending

other spacings

a: ① ② ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ①

Stepwise Bass: Parallel 6/3 Chords Sequence

Fauxbourdon refers to a series of 6/3 chords whose bass moves in stepwise motion.
 In order to avoid parallel fifths between the upper voices, the 6 has to be in the top voice.
 Parallel 6/3 chords are usually realized in three voices, since the voice-leading is simpler than in four.

major keys
ascending Three voices *descending*

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

minor keys
ascending Three voices *descending*

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥↑ ⑦↑ ① ① ⑦↓ ⑥↓ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

In four voices, a filler-voice (green) is added that must move in a zig-zag to avoid parallels.
 The filler voice alternates between doubling the bass and the sixth of each chord.

major keys
ascending Four voices *descending*

F₄ (see arrow) avoids a tritone leap in the tenor (c1-f#1),
 but also creates an augmented second in the bass (f₄-g#).

minor keys
ascending Four voices *descending*

augmented 2

Stepwise Bass: Ascending 5-6 & Descending 7-6 Sequences

An ascending stepwise bass can also be harmonized by a 5-6 sequence.
 The 7-6 is the analogue for descending stepwise basslines.
 As in *fauxbourdon*, the voice leading is simpler in three voices than in four.
 The two upper voices can also be inverted (blue voice on top, red voice in the middle).

Three voices

major keys
ascending

descending

C: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

minor keys
ascending

descending

a: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

In four voices, a filler-voice (green) is added that must move in a zig-zag in order to avoid parallels.
 The green filler-voice may instead double the 8 or the 6 instead of the 3.

Four voices

major keys
ascending

descending

minor keys
ascending

descending

Stepwise Bass: Syncopated-Bass Sequence in Two Voices

with "static" agent voice (blue)

major keys

C: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ① C: ① ② ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③

with "active" agent voice (blue)

compare this version with the falling fifth sequence

7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6

with "static" agent voice (blue)

minor keys

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ① a: ① ② ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③

with "active" agent voice (blue)

compare this version with the falling fifth sequence

7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3 7 3

Stepwise Bass: Syncopated-Bass Sequence (with 6/3 Chords)

The 4/2 sequence is one of the most common sequences of the baroque period.
It is important to know that the bass voice is the patient in the syncopatio.

Three voices

major keys

third spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

minor keys

third spacing octave spacing

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
C(VI): ④ ③ ②

Four voices

major keys

third spacing fifth spacing

C: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

octave spacing minor key third spacing [The third and fifth spacings are not shown.]

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
C(VI): ④ ③ ②

Stepwise Bass: Syncopated-Bass Sequence (with 6/5 Chords)

The 4/2 sequence is one of the most common sequences of the baroque period. Both the bass and the red voice are syncopated in alternation with one another.

Four voices

major keys

third spacing

fifth spacing

C: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

octave spacing

minor keys

third spacing

fifth spacing

a: ① ⑦ ⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①
C(VI): ④ ③ ②

octave spacing

Stepwise Bass: Ascending "Leapfrog" Sequences

This sequence gives the impression of a continuous ascending syncopatio chain by having each patient leap up a fourth after its resolution, becoming the agent of the next syncopatio.

with 9-8 Syncopatio Chain

major keys

Musical notation for major keys with a 9-8 syncopatio chain. The notation is presented in a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The sequence consists of six measures, each containing a 9-8 syncopatio chain. The notes are connected by a slur, and the sequence ends with a final note marked with a red and blue dot.

minor keys

Musical notation for minor keys with a 9-8 syncopatio chain. The notation is presented in a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The sequence consists of six measures, each containing a 9-8 syncopatio chain. The notes are connected by a slur, and the sequence ends with a final note marked with a red and blue dot.

with 7-6 Syncopatio Chain

major keys

Musical notation for major keys with a 7-6 syncopatio chain. The notation is presented in a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The sequence consists of six measures, each containing a 7-6 syncopatio chain. The notes are connected by a slur, and the sequence ends with a final note marked with a red and blue dot.

minor keys

Musical notation for minor keys with a 7-6 syncopatio chain. The notation is presented in a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The treble staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The bass staff contains a sequence of notes, with some notes marked with red and blue dots. The sequence consists of six measures, each containing a 7-6 syncopatio chain. The notes are connected by a slur, and the sequence ends with a final note marked with a red and blue dot.

Leaping Bass: Falling Thirds Sequence with 6/3 Chords

The falling thirds sequence is one of the most common sequences of the baroque period.
 To save space, only the beginning and end of each sequence is shown here.
 You should fill in the missing measures by continuing the sequential pattern.

Three voices

major keys

third spacing fifth spacing

C: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

minor keys

third spacing fifth spacing

a: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

Yet another three-voice version would arise by omitting the tenor voice, leaving only red and green voices below.

Four voices

major keys

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

minor keys

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

a: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

Leaping Bass: Falling Thirds Sequence with 6/5 Chords

The falling thirds sequence is one of the most common sequences of the baroque period. Since the 5 in a 6/5 chord is treated like a dissonance, it must therefore be prepared and resolved down by step. To save space, only the beginning and end of each sequence are shown here. You should fill in the missing measures by continuing the sequential pattern.

Three voices

major keys

third spacing
fifth spacing

C: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

minor keys

third spacing
fifth spacing

a: ① ⑥ ⑦ ⑤ ② ⑦ ①

Four voices

major keys

third spacing
fifth spacing
octave spacing

minor keys

third spacing
fifth spacing
octave spacing

Leaping Bass: Falling Fourths Sequence

This sequence is famous from Pachelbel's "Canon in D." It is also called a "Romanesca" after the baroque dance.

Three voices

major keys minor key

octave spacing third spacing octave spacing third spacing

C: ① ⑤ ⑥ ③ ④ ①

Detailed description: This musical example shows the 'Falling Fourths Sequence' in three voices. It is divided into four measures. The first measure is in a major key with 'octave spacing'. The second measure is in a major key with 'third spacing'. The third measure is in a minor key with 'octave spacing'. The fourth measure is in a minor key with 'third spacing'. The bass line consists of a descending sequence of fourths: C4, G3, C3, G2, C2, G1. The treble clef part has three voices (blue, red, green) that move in parallel motion with the bass line, either an octave above or a third above. Below the staff, the fingering for the bass line is indicated as C: ① ⑤ ⑥ ③ ④ ①.

Four voices

major keys minor keys

octave spacing third spacing fifth spacing

c: ① ⑤ ⑥ ③ ④ ①

Detailed description: This musical example shows the 'Falling Fourths Sequence' in four voices. It is divided into three measures. The first measure is in a major key with 'octave spacing'. The second measure is in a major key with 'third spacing'. The third measure is in a minor key with 'fifth spacing'. The bass line is the same descending sequence of fourths as in the previous example. The treble clef part has four voices (blue, red, green, black) that move in parallel motion with the bass line, either an octave, a third, or a fifth above. Below the staff, the fingering for the bass line is indicated as c: ① ⑤ ⑥ ③ ④ ①.

Syncopatio dissonances can be added by holding over (1) the blue voice, or (2) the blue and red voices.

blue voice held (4-3 suspension): blue and red voices held (6/4-5/3 suspension):

Detailed description: This musical example shows the 'Falling Fourths Sequence' with syncopatio dissonances. It is divided into two measures. The first measure is labeled 'blue voice held (4-3 suspension)'. The second measure is labeled 'blue and red voices held (6/4-5/3 suspension)'. The bass line is the same descending sequence of fourths. The treble clef part has three voices (blue, red, green). In the first measure, the blue voice is held over from the previous measure, creating a 4-3 suspension. In the second measure, both the blue and red voices are held over, creating a 6/4-5/3 suspension. Below the staff, the fingering for the bass line is indicated as 4 3 9 8 4 3 9 8 4 3 and 6 4 5 3 9 8 6 4 5 3 9 8 6 4 5 3.

Leaping Bass: Rising Fourths Sequence

This sequence is repeated either up by step or up by third. It may be played with or without tonicization (the sharps). To save space, only major-key versions are shown.

sequenced up by step

Four voices

major keys

fifth spacing

octave spacing

- C: ① ④ ④ ⑦ ⑤ ①
 F: ⑤ ①
 G: ⑤ ①
 a: ⑤ ①

third spacing

sequenced up by third

major keys

fifth spacing

octave spacing

third spacing

- C: ① ④ ③ ⑥ ⑤ ①

sequenced up by third (modulating), with leaps of an augmented 2 in the red voice

- F: ⑤ ① a: ⑤ ① C: ⑤ ① e: ⑤ ① G: ⑤ ① b: ⑤ ①

Leaping Bass: Falling Fifths Sequence

The falling fifths ("circle of fifths") sequence is one of the most common in the baroque period. It occurs in three forms: (1) only 5/3 chords, (2) alternating 5/3 and 7 chords, (3) vice versa, or (4) only 7 chords. Notice how the dissonant 7 is always prepared (tied over) by common tone in the same voice before it occurs. To save space, only the beginning and end of each sequence is shown in major and in four voices.

Four voices

(1) only 5/3 chords

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑤ ⑦ ③ ② ⑤ ①

(2) 5/3 chord + 7 chord

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑤ ⑦ ③ ② ⑤ ①

(3) 7 chord + 5/3 chord

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑤ ⑦ ③ ② ⑤ ①

(4) only 7 chords

third spacing fifth spacing octave spacing

C: ① ⑤ ⑦ ③ ② ⑤ ①

Leaping Bass: Rising Fifths Sequence

This sequence is best used on those bass degrees that have a perfect fifth above them. Arrows indicate dim.5ths. One can lower the bass note chromatically to solve this, but this creates a dissonant bass leap and cross relation. A cross relation is an augmented or diminished interval occurring in different voices in consecutive harmonies, in this case the augmented unison between B \sharp and B \flat . To save space, only major-key versions are shown.

Three voices

The notation shows two systems. The first system is labeled 'third spacing' and the second 'octave spacing'. Both systems show a rising fifth sequence in the bass line: C: ①, ⑤, ②, ⑥, ③, ⑦, ④, ①. The treble clef part shows chords. In the 'third spacing' system, a bracket under the ③ and ⑦ degrees is labeled 'dim. 5 leap'. In the 'octave spacing' system, a bracket under the ③ and ⑦ degrees is also labeled 'dim. 5 leap'. Arrows point to the ③ and ⑦ degrees in both systems.

This sequence has a typical three-voice solution with 4-3 syncopatio dissonances.

The notation shows two systems: 'third spacing' and 'octave spacing'. The bass line is C: ①, ⑤, ②, ⑥, ③. The treble clef part shows chords. In the 'third spacing' system, four '4-3' syncopatio dissonances are indicated between the upper and middle voices. In the 'octave spacing' system, four '4-3' syncopatio dissonances are also indicated.

Four voices

The notation shows two systems: 'octave spacing' and 'third spacing'. Both systems show a rising fifth sequence in the bass line: C: ①, ⑤, ②, ⑥, ③, ⑦, ④, ①. The treble clef part shows chords. Arrows point to the ③ and ⑦ degrees in both systems.

fifth spacing

The notation shows a single system labeled 'fifth spacing'. The bass line is C: ①, ⑤, ②, ⑥, ③, ⑦, ④, ①. The treble clef part shows chords. An arrow points to the ③ degree.

Chromatic Bass: Omnibus Sequence

The omnibus sequence or progression is usually more associated with the 19th century, but it first emerged in the late 18th century. Composers only use a segment of the entire sequence. Notice how two voices hold while the other two move chromatically in contrary motion. The harmonies also repeat after each group of four chords. The entire progression is reversible. The omnibus is thus a special case of "wedge" voice leading, or when two parts move contrary by step. It is difficult to decipher the key of the omnibus sequence, since it is so chromatic. Therefore, no bass scale degrees have been added. In practice, any chord can be taken as the start of a key. Thus, one function of the omnibus sequence is to modulate quickly to distantly related keys.

7 6 4 7 7 6 4# 7 7b 6b 6b 7b 7b 6 4 7

4 2 # 4# 5# 5b 4 4 2b

enharmonic respelling

7 4 6 7b 7b 6b 6b 7b 7 4# 6 7 7 4 6 7

4 2b 4 2b 4 5b 2# 4# # 2

enharmonic respelling

Appendix 1: Common Modulation Strategies

modulation up a fifth

bass syncopation *double cadence*

C(I): ① G(V): ④ ③ ② ⑤ ①

modulation down a fifth

bass syncopation *double cadence*

C(I): ① F(IV): ④ ③ ② ⑤ ①

modulation down a fifth (see pages 13-14)

evaded double cadence *double cadence*

C(I): ⑤ F(IV): ⑤ ① ④ ⑤ ①

modulation up a second (see page 14)

evaded double cadence *double cadence*

C(I): ⑤ d(ii): ④ ③ ② ⑤ ①

modulation down a third each time (see "carousel" on page 14)

C(I): ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ① ③
a(vi): ⑥ ⑦ ① ③
F(IV): ⑥ ⑦ ①

Appendix 2: Alphabetical List of Schemata

The vocabulary of schema (plural: schemata) analysis is mostly a product of recent music theory scholarship—that is, it is for the most part not historical in origin. Schemata are best identified in terms of outer-voice scale degrees in a given rhythmic pattern of strong and weak beats. That is, the key and time signatures given here are somewhat arbitrary. In context, schemata are varied and ornamented in countless ways. Roman numerals indicate the relationship of tonicized keys to the main key of C major. Not all schemata can be transferred to the minor mode. Because middle voices are subordinate, they are only indicated as thoroughbass figures. Parenthesis show possible variations. Schemata can most clearly be seen in galant and classical works (i.e. after c.1720 into the early 19th century). The schemata are labelled according to where they most often occur—beginning, middle, or end of a phrase—but some variation is possible.

Comma (middle of phrase)

C: ⑦ ① ⑦ ①

"Complete" Cadence (end of phrase)

C: ③ ④ ⑤ ⑤ ①

Converging Cadence (middle or end of phrase)

C: ④ ④↑ ⑤ C: ④ ④↑ ⑤
G(V): ⑦↑ ① G(V): ⑦↑ ①

Cudworth Cadence (end of phrase)

C: ③ ④ ⑤ ⑤ ①

Do-Re-Mi (beginning of phrase)

C: ① ⑤ ⑤ ①

Fenaroli (middle of phrase)

C: ⑦ ① ② ③

Fonte ("fountain"; beginning or middle of phrase)

d (ii): ⑦ ① C: ⑦ ①

Indugio (middle of phrase)

C: ④ ④ ④ ⑤ ①
G(V): ⑦ ①

Meyer (beginning of phrase)

C: ① ② ⑦ ①

Monte ("mountain"; middle of phrase)

F (IV): $\hat{5}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$ G: $\hat{5}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$

F (IV): $\hat{7}$ G: $\hat{7}$

F (IV): $\hat{5}$ G: $\hat{5}$

Passo Indietro (middle of phrase)

$\hat{7}$ $\hat{1}$ $\hat{6}$ $\hat{7}$ $\hat{1}$

C: $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$

Ponte ("bridge"; beginning or middle of phrase) - any prolongation of $\hat{5}$ in the bass

C: $\hat{5}$

Prinner (middle of phrase)

$\hat{6}$ $\hat{5}$ $\hat{4}$ ($\hat{2}$) $\hat{3}$

C: $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$ $\hat{2}$ ($\hat{5}$) $\hat{1}$

Quiescenza (beginning or end of phrase)

F (IV): $\hat{4}$ $\hat{3}$ C: $\hat{7}$ $\hat{1}$

C: $\hat{1}$

"New" Romanesca (beginning of phrase)

C: ① ⑦ ⑥ ③

"Old" Romanesca (beginning of phrase)

① ⑤ ⑥ ③

Sol-Fa-Mi (beginning of phrase)

① ② ⑦ ①

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