

Basic Idea Creation Worksheet

Jon Brantingham

Goal: Write a 2-Bar Basic Idea in C Major

- 1. Have at least two distinctive motives within your basic idea**
- 2. The basic idea must conform with the harmony**

Step 1: Write half-note chord tones, you can put them in any order you like. For now just start with C as the first note. Try splitting up the chord in interesting ways.

Example

These are the notes you can use

Step 2: Connect the notes in the melody. If two notes are repeated, connect them with a neighbor tone (NT). If they are two different notes, connect them with passing tones (PT). For now, don't worry too much about the rhythm, just figure out how many notes have to be there. You don't have to do this between every two notes, just pick two pairs.

Did not add any notes

Added 1 NT

Added 2 PT

Step 3: Figure out the best way to write in the rhythm.

For my first bar, there are two notes before the 2nd half-note, so I divide the first one equally into two quarter notes.

For my second bar, there are three notes, so I decided to have 1 quarter note, and two 8th notes. You can split yours up however you like.

Basic Idea Development Worksheet

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Goal: Develop several variations of your basic idea using specific variation techniques

Step 1: Write down your basic idea

Musical notation for Step 1, left staff. Treble clef, two measures. Measure 1: quarter notes G4, A4, B4. Measure 2: quarter notes C5, B4, A4. Bass clef, two measures. Measure 1: whole note G3. Measure 2: whole note G3.

Blank musical notation for Step 1, right staff. Treble clef, two measures. Bass clef, two measures.

Step 2: Use **inversion** by turning your melody upside down. Count the number of steps in the original, and then use the same number of steps in the opposite direction

Musical notation for Step 2, left staff. Treble clef, two measures. Measure 1: quarter notes G4, A4, B4. Measure 2: quarter notes C5, B4, A4. Bass clef, two measures. Measure 1: whole note G3. Measure 2: whole note G3. Red text annotations: "Originally 1 step down, now it is 1 step up." and "A 4th down becomes a 4th up, with passing tones going down".

Blank musical notation for Step 2, right staff. Treble clef, two measures. Bass clef, two measures.

Step 3: Use **retrograde** by writing the basic idea from back to front

Musical notation for Step 3, left staff. Treble clef, two measures. Measure 1: quarter notes C5, B4, A4. Measure 2: quarter notes G4, F4, E4. Bass clef, two measures. Measure 1: whole note G3. Measure 2: whole note G3.

Blank musical notation for Step 3, right staff. Treble clef, two measures. Bass clef, two measures.

Step 4: Use **retrograde inversion** by taking your melody from step 2, and writing it back to front

Musical notation for Step 4, left staff. Treble clef, two measures. Measure 1: quarter notes G4, F4, E4. Measure 2: quarter notes D4, C4, B3. Bass clef, two measures. Measure 1: whole note G3. Measure 2: whole note G3.

Blank musical notation for Step 4, right staff. Treble clef, two measures. Bass clef, two measures.