

T251 - Thoroughbass Figures

Simple Triads

- Root position 5, 5/3 (or blank)
- First inversion 6, 6/3
- “Second inversion” 6/4 (or just 4)

Seventh chords

- Root position 7
- First inversion 6/5
- Second inversion 4/3
- Third inversion 4/2 (or just 2)

Accidentals

- Altered third \sharp, \flat
- Other alterations $\sharp 6, \sharp 5, \flat 7$, etc.

Simple Suspensions

- 7-6
- 4-3
- 9-8
- 2-3 (bass suspension)

Double Suspensions

- 9/7-8/6
- 9/4-8/3
- 6/4-5/3

Pedal Points

- V7 over tonic pedal 7/4/2, $\sharp 7$
- V7 over 3 9/7/ $\sharp 5$, $\sharp 5$

Figures	Realization	Figures	Realization
No figures	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	5 ⁺	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ \sharp 5 \text{ Raise } 5 \frac{1}{2}\text{-step} \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
Tasto Solo	0 (bass alone, upper voices silent)	♯	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$ indicates dim. 5th
—	Upper voices stay stationary as bass moves	$\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
\sharp	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$ Raise 3 by a $\frac{1}{2}$ -step (not necessarily a sharp)	$\begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$ (Usu. 4 3)
\flat	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ \flat 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ Lower 3 by a $\frac{1}{2}$ -step (not necessarily a flat)	6	$\begin{smallmatrix} (8) \\ 6 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
\natural	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ \natural 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ Make 3 natural regardless of key signature	$\text{♯} \text{ or } \text{♮}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} (8) \\ \sharp 6 \text{ (Raise } 6 \frac{1}{2}\text{-step)} \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
2	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} (8) \\ 6 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
$\sharp 2$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{smallmatrix}$ Raise 2 by a $\frac{1}{2}$ -step (not necessarily a sharp)	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 6 \\ 4 \end{smallmatrix}$
$\flat 2$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ \flat 2 \end{smallmatrix}$ Lower 2 by a $\frac{1}{2}$ -step (not necessarily a flat)	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$
$\natural 2$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ \natural 2 \end{smallmatrix}$ Make 2 natural regardless of key signature	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
2 ₊	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ \sharp 2 \end{smallmatrix}$ (Usu. dim. 7th chord) Raise 2 by $\frac{1}{2}$ -step	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$
2 3	$\begin{smallmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ (bass moves, upper voices hold)	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
3	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	6 6 6	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ (parallel 3rds and 6ths)
4	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix}$ (Usu. 4 3)	7	$\begin{smallmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
4 3	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 & 8 \\ 5 & 5 \\ 4 & 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	7 6	$\begin{smallmatrix} (8) & (8) \\ 7 & 6 \\ 3 & 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ (no 5)
$\begin{smallmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 7 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 7 & 8 \\ 4 & 3 \\ 2 & (1) \end{smallmatrix}$
4 ₊	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ \sharp 4 \end{smallmatrix}$ Raise 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -step	8 8 8	Play the bass line alone in octaves
$\begin{smallmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{smallmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	9	$\begin{smallmatrix} 9 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$ (Usu. 9 8)
5	$\begin{smallmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$	9 8	$\begin{smallmatrix} 9 & 8 \\ 5 & 5 \\ 3 & 3 \end{smallmatrix}$
		10 10 10	parallel 10ths