

Bach Chorale Chord Progressions

ROOT MOVEMENT (MAJOR / MINOR)

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FOURTH CLASS	THIRD CLASS	SECOND CLASS	FIRST CLASS	TONIC
III→	VI→	IV ↓→ II	V ↑→ VII	I→

Also normal progression: IV → II VII → V

Common retrogressions: VI → III V → II V → IV V → VI (deceptive cadence)

Less common retrogressions: V → III IV → VI II → VI

Common elisions (skipping a class): III → IV VI → V IV → I

Repetition: I V IV II (remaining functions rarely repeated)

Normal progression:	76%
Repetition:	14%
Retrogression:	6%
Elision:	4%

APPEARANCE OF CHORD BY CLASS		
Tonic:	38%	
First Class:	34%	(V = 28%, VII = 6%)
Second Class:	19%	(IV = 11%, II = 8%)
Third Class:	7%	(VI = 6.4%, I dis. = .6%)
Fourth Class:	2%	(III = 1.8%, V alt. = .2%)

Diatonic triads:	83.7%
Diatonic 7th chords:	14.8%
Altered chords:	1.5%

SEVENTH CHORDS:	
Root position:	26%
First inversion:	58.5%
Second inversion:	3%
Third inversion:	12.5%