

Tutorial 2F: Melodic Development



Welcome! In this tutorial you'll learn how to:

1. Expand intervals
2. Shrink intervals
3. Omit and add notes to motifs
4. Invert melodic contours

Enjoy the learning, and watch for iceplant ...

Other Level 2 Tutorials

- 2A: More Scales
- 2B: Melodic Shapes
- 2C: Swing Rhythms
- 2D: Three and Four
- 2E: Embellishments
- 2H: Tune Forms
- 2K: Preparing Concert Material

- ▶ Earlier you learned how development can trigger new ideas and keep them rolling. Now you'll learn some specific tools that help you develop solo melodies in ways that make sense. An exciting world of development awaits you!

Part 1 – Expanding Intervals

A) What are expanding intervals? MORE

*They are ones that widen as they repeat. The skips don't need to be filled in; they can stand as they are. The original interval should usually be a fourth or smaller so the interval will have enough room to expand. You can also vary rhythms of the intervals.

B) How do I use them?

- 1) Raise the top note.
- 2) Lower the bottom note.
- 3) Raise the top note *and* lower the bottom note.
- 4) For an upward skip, raise both notes: the bottom note goes up a step, the top note goes up more.
- 5) For a downward skip, lower both notes: the top note goes down a step, the bottom note goes down more.

C) What are some examples?

*Raising the top note:



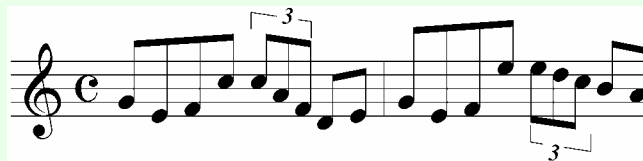
The expanding interval can be at the *end* of a motif:

===



or in the *middle* of a motif:

===



*Lowering the bottom note:



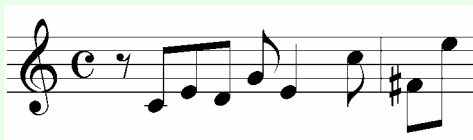
(Part 1 – Expanding Intervals)

*Raising the top and lowering the bottom note (this expands the interval quickly, so it's usually best to start with a smaller skip).

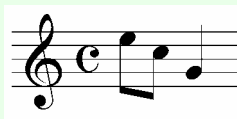


*Raising both notes or lowering both notes:

(The bottom note usually moves by a step, and the top note moves by a wider interval. This makes the *range* of the melody quickly accelerate upwards or downwards.)



- **TRY IT** – Develop the motifs below several times, using different expanding intervals.



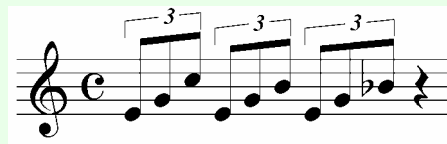
Part 2 – Shrinking Intervals

A) What are shrinking intervals?

*They are ones that narrow as they repeat. The original interval should be a 4th or larger so the interval has room to shrink. Most of the principles of expanding intervals apply in reverse to shrinking intervals. You can also vary the rhythms of the shrinking intervals.

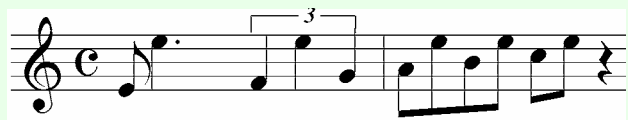
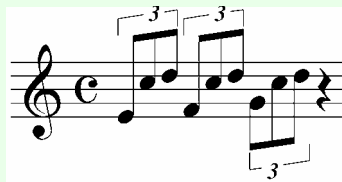
B) How do I use them?

- Lower the top note.



(Part 2 – Shrinking Intervals)

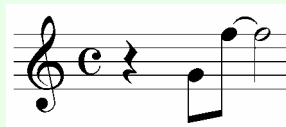
- Raise the bottom note.



- Lower the top note *and* raise the bottom note (this works best for wide skips).



- ▶ **TRY IT** – Develop the sample motif several times, using different shrinking intervals.



Part 3 – Omitting and Adding Notes

- A) When do I omit notes from motifs (on repetition)?

*Omit a motif's last note.



*Omit one or two ending notes each time you repeat the motif, until the motif becomes very short.



(Part 3 – Omitting and Adding Notes)

Although you can also omit notes from the start or the middle of a motif, it's usually easier to think of *repeating* the parts of the motif you *want* (not omitting the parts you don't want).

- **TRY IT** – Change each motif below in 3 different ways, omitting notes from the end of each.



B) When do I add notes to motifs?



*You can add notes to the end, beginning, or middle of a motif.

*It's usually best to add just a few notes, so the motif will still be recognized and “baggage” will be avoided.

*Adding notes in the middle is a little more difficult, as it requires that you distinctly remember the beginning, middle, and end of the motif you played.



Adding notes to the end



Adding notes to the beginning

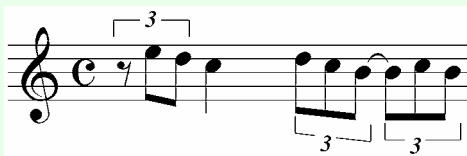


Adding notes to the middle

5

(Part 3 – Omitting and Adding Notes)

- ▶ **TRY IT** – Create three versions of each motif below by adding notes to the end, start, or middle.

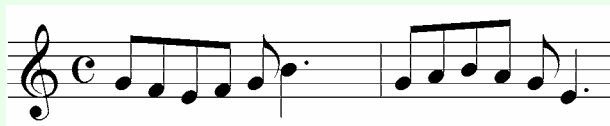


Part 4 – Inverting Contours

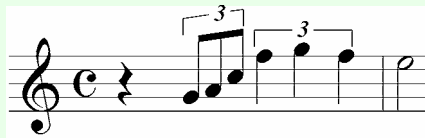
A) What is contour inversion?

*It occurs when you repeat a motif and reverse its contour. The inversion goes up where the original goes down, and down where the original goes up. This is a more subtle effect; it usually works best if you keep the motif's rhythm the same. You can use the same or other intervals in the inversion.

B) What are some examples?




- ▶ **TRY IT** – Develop these motifs by inverting their contours:



That's all for Tutorial 2F!

Next is the Quiz – to get started, go to the next page.

QUIZ - 2F: Melodic Development

Click on the letter for the best answer for each question. You'll hear a C Major arpeggio if you're right. If you miss 2 or less, you pass the Tutorial!
Or, click **Back**  to review the Tutorial before taking the Quiz.

1) Which is not a melodic development tool?

- A) contour inversion B) repeating notes C) omitting notes D) expanding intervals

2) Which is a way to expand intervals?

- A) raise the bottom note B) lower the top note C) lower the bottom note D) all of these

3) Which is a way to shrink intervals?

- A) lower the bottom note B) raise the top note C) raise the bottom note D) all of these

4) Contour inversion

- A) is dramatic B) is subtle C) uses only 8th-notes D) works better at fast tempos

5) In a motif, it's more difficult to add notes to the

- A) beginning B) middle C) end D) contour

6) In a motif, it's easiest to omit notes from the

- A) beginning B) middle C) end D) contour

7) Lowering the top note and raising the bottom note works best for

- A) shrinking narrow intervals B) expanding narrow intervals C) shrinking wide intervals D) expanding wide intervals

8) Raising the top note and lowering the bottom note works best for

- A) shrinking narrow intervals B) expanding narrow intervals C) shrinking wide intervals D) expanding wide intervals



Camel Beach, CA

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