

Recycling melody particles in the spirit of fugue

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Green Melodies – create your own music!



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Inversion ("mirroring")

- Turn the intervals of the original melody into a mirror image.
- **Interval symbols:**
- P = Perfect
- M = Major
- m = minor

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Original:

Flute

P4↓ m3↓ m3↑ P4↑ M3↑ M2↓

Inversion:

F1.

P4↑ m3↑ m3↓ P4↓ M3↓ M2↑

Retro (crab)

- Play/sing/write the melody backwards
- You don't necessarily need to change the note values as in the example

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Inversion from original:

Flute



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4. The melody is written backwards from right to left.

Same backwards (suggestion):

Fl.



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The notes are: quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The melody is written backwards from right to left. A triplet of three eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) is indicated above the first three notes.

Augmentation

- Double the note values
- With this technique you might create a wonderful bass line or counter melody to your main melody.

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Inversion from original:

Flute



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time, showing the original melody inverted. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The first two notes are beamed together. The final note is a whole note.

Augmentation:

Fl.



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time, showing the original melody augmented. The notes are: G4 (half), A4 (half), Bb4 (half), G4 (half), F4 (half), E4 (half), D4 (half), C4 (half). The first two notes are beamed together. The final note is a whole note.

Diminution

- Half the note values

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Inversion from original:

Flute



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time, showing the inversion of the original melody. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (half).

Diminution:

Fl.



Musical notation for Flute in 4/4 time, showing the original melody with a triplet of eighth notes at the beginning. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (half).

Retro inversion ("mirroring the crab")

- Check again page 2, if you need to recall the idea of inversion
- Try mirroring your retro version: you might notice that the very original melody now emerges in a new key and also possibly in a transformed rhythm texture, depending on how you had proceeded your melody before.

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Retro:



Retro inversion:



Getting started

- ▶ If you write your song by hand on sheet music, have at least two staves on top of each other: treble and bass clef.
- ▶ You can write two stems on one line, as long as you write their note stems in different directions.
- ▶ From now on you are free to use these musical particles to your liking: you may develop melodies forward, transpose them or reprocess the material using fugue tricks.

Jysk Jingle in action

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is presented in four measures, each illustrating a different transformation of the original material:

- Measure 1:** Labeled "inversion". The melody is written in the treble clef with stems pointing downwards.
- Measure 2:** Labeled "retro inversion (a bit moderated)". The melody is written in the bass clef with stems pointing upwards.
- Measure 3:** Labeled "inversion, transposed". The melody is written in the treble clef with stems pointing downwards.
- Measure 4:** Labeled "retro inversion (transposed)". The melody is written in the bass clef with stems pointing upwards.

A "freestyle counter melody" is written in the bass clef staff, starting in the second measure and continuing through the fourth measure.



Find your treasures

- ▶ Analyze your piece: does it have recognizable triple or four-chords on some beats or measures?
- ▶ If this happens, pick up the chords (one is enough) and start using it as a new element in developing the harmony. In the example “Jysk Jingle in action” the freestyle melody is mainly to make the harmony stronger.
- ▶ You can recycle the material you've already written and add a strong harmony to it, either by writing chords as notes or just using chord symbols.
- ▶ With these elements, your piece can become ready! In the ending, you can of course use free style. If you manage to use recycled material in that as well, so be it.



Playing and recording

- ▶ If there is any way you can record your music, that would be helpful. In this way, you could also hear how your composition works and, if necessary, modify it to your liking.
- ▶ The free recording and editing program Audacity can be downloaded here: <https://www.ilmaisohjelmat.fi/audacity> or <https://www.audacityteam.org/>