

Triad Inversions & Figured Bass

F Major

F is still the root, even if it is not on the bottom of the triad.

C Major

Root Position First Inversion Second Inversion

D Major

Root Position, Root in bass 1st Inversion, 3rd in bass 2nd Inversion, 5th in bass

A Minor

Root Position First Inversion Second Inversion

- An F Major triad (Do-Mi-So in the key of F) has F as the root, A is the 3rd, and C is the 5th of the chord.
- Root position means the root is in the bass.
- First inversion means the 3rd is in the bass part of the triad (the bottom note).

• "Figured Bass" refers to intervals above the bottom note, or bass note.

Figured Bass symbols are written with Roman Numerals to indicate how the chord functions in the key.

• We don't write "5" for root position chords, and instead of "6/3", we just write "6".

• Figured bass can accompany any chord: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°

Intervals above the bass note in different inversions:

Figured Bass Symbols

C: I₃ I₆ I₄

In G Major:

G: I₃ I₆ I₄ V₃ V₆ V₄

E♭:

E^b: I I₆ I₄ ii ii₆ ii₄

