Doubling

Doubling the soprano with an inner voice is strongest, but any note can be doubled except the LT. Order of preference for doubling: double soprano note, double bass note, outer voices double, inner voices double. Don’t double the leading tone!

First inversion tips

The following 4-step process will work well for progressions involving root position and/or 1st inversion triads:

STEP ONE: Write in the bass notes. If the progression is given, the inversion symbols determine the bass.
STEP TWO: Voice the first chord, following the chord voicing guidelines.
STEP THREE: Resolve leading tones, then doubled notes, then 5ths between any voices.
STEP FOUR: Resolve any remaining voices, holding common tones when possible.

Example 1:

STEP ONE: bass line
STEP TWO: voice chord
STEP THREE: No leading tone here. F is the doubled note.
STEP FOUR: One voice left!

Example 2:

STEP ONE: bass line
STEP TWO: voice chord
STEP THREE: No leading tone here. C is the doubled note.
STEP FOUR: Resolve remaining voices.

First inversion triads: special cases

1. Diminished triads almost always occur in first inversion.

2. Avoid VI6 / vi6; it sounds like tonic with a wrong note.

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