

# (Book 2) Lesson 32a.

## "To Harmonize a Melody"

1. The guitar is a transposing instrument. Music that is written for the guitar, sounds one octave lower than it looks on paper. (Already introduced earlier in this book.)

Written for the guitar:      sounds like this!      To make this sound:      You must play this!

To make the music on the vocal line of piano sheet music sound where it is written, you must play it one octave higher. This is generally termed "8va." "V"= "volta" and "A"= "Alto." Volta=jump. Alto=higher. So 8va=jump one octave higher. Likewise, 8va basso means to play eight notes lower.

2. In the interest of simplicity, for the present, melody notes will be called:(a) chordal - belonging to the chord spelling. (b) non-chordal: does not belong to the chord spelling.

"C" chord      "F" chord      "C" chord      "F" chord

Both are chordal tones.      Both are chordal tones.      Non-Chordal      Chordal      Both are Non-Chordal tones.

At a later point, the non-chordal tones will be further refined.

3. Chordal tones are harmonized according to the following plan:- remember that the ear perceives the top note of any group of sounds as being the melody note.

The Root Position triad will harmonize the fifth of the chord.      The First Inversion Triad will harmonize the Root of the chord.      The Second Inversion Triad will harmonize the Third of the chord.

4. Non-chordal tones will be treated as upper auxiliary tones of the chordal tones, on top of each inversion. The upper auxiliary tone replaces the chordal tone to which it is an auxiliary. Observe the examples!

The note "C" can not be added to the Root Position as it demands another Inversion.      The note "E" can not be added to the First Inversion as it demands another Inversion.      The note "G" can not be added to the Second Inversion as it demands another Inversion.

These are scientific possibilities, not guess work.