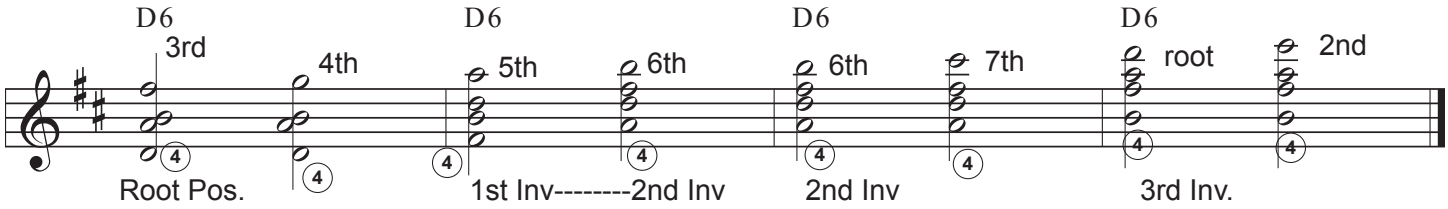
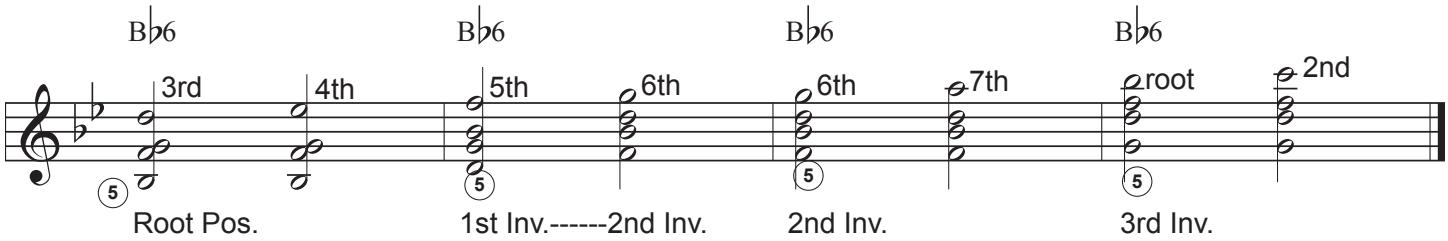
(Book 5.) Lesson 6c.

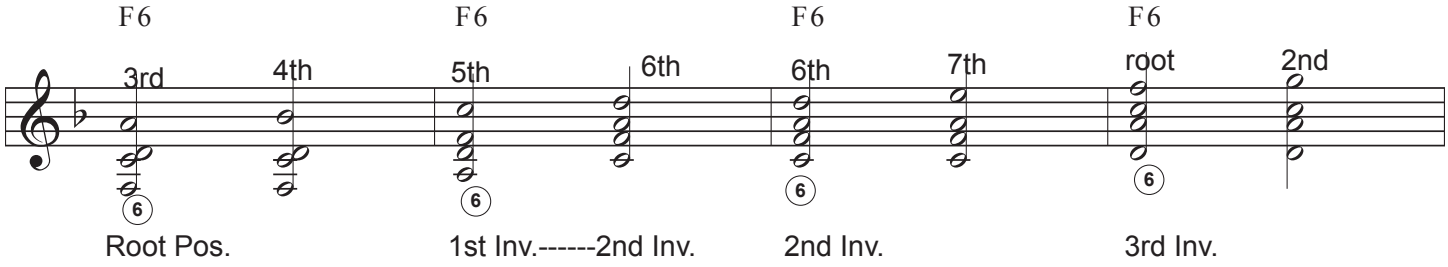
Harmonizing non-chordal tones with the Major 6th chords works in exactly the same manner as with triads.

The non-chordal tone replaces the closest chordal tone which is lower in pitch than the non-chordal tone. Observe the examples below.



Notice that the 1st Inversion chord will only be used to harmonize the 5th (and perhaps the Aug 5th)





Some chords with the non-chordal tone imposed to replace the highest chordal tone will be challenging but not absolutely impossible. Similarly, some harmonic possibilities are rather rare in standard music.

As an example: The "fourth" as a non-chordal tone on a Major 6th chord would be rather uncommon.

Many of these chords will reappear in later lessons in this book. They will perhaps be justified in other ways rather than thinking of them on the "non-chordal" tone concept.

For example: A 2nd Inversion Major 6th will lose the 6th degree when the 7th scale tone of the key is added to replace the 6th. The resulting chord is no longer a Major 6th chord but rather, a Major 7th chord.

The truth in music is that melodic and harmonic notes often have several legitimate justifications.

The final judge will always be your ear. Good sounds are correct. Bad sounds are sometimes incorrect or possibly so sophisticated that your ear will not readily accept them.