

"Rhythmic Invention"

No 2: Any note can be repeated in another octave or entirely moved to another octave.

There is the danger of making the melody line too "jagged" when using this technique.

It would be difficult to argue a good defense the second staff of the example below.

If your creation sounds awkward, it probably is not very good.

Three staves of musical notation in treble clef, 4/4 time, illustrating rhythmic invention with octave jumps. The first staff shows a melody with notes C4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff shows a similar melody with notes C4, G4, C4, G4, C4, G4, C4, G4. The third staff shows a melody with notes C4, C5, F4, C4, G4, C4, G4, C4. Chord symbols C, C7, F, G7 are placed above the notes.

The over-use of any one technique may cripple the tune rather than improve it. If used sparingly like in the first two measures, the jumping octave can be pleasing. Once again, you may find musical situations in more sophisticated tunes where the change of octaves can actually smooth out the melody rather than making it a bit angular.

If the original tune has a large interval leap, shifting the octave of one of the notes might actually bring the notes closer together. Here is an example of that.

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef, 4/4 time, comparing an original tune with a modified version. The original tune has notes C4, F4, G4, C4. The modified tune has notes C4, F3, G3, C4. Slurs connect the notes in both, showing the change in melodic shape.

The tune:

Slightly modified tune:

Notice that you will still hear the gist of the original melody although the second and third notes of the tune have been shifted down an octave. It seems that we have at least partially inverted the melodic shape of the song. (the long slur lines reflect the shape of the tune)

Notice that with just a few modifications, a seemingly new tune may emerge but because you are retaining the original notes in their original order, the modified tune will still have a strong resemblance to its twin.