

Fifth Species Notes

General

Mix of second, third and fourth species.

Main goal is smooth rhythmic flow; avoid motives or rhythmic patterns that imply segmentation.

Unmixed Note Values

2 measures max; should freely go between species.

Mixed Note Values

Put longer note values on stronger beats. Ex. 5-6 gives all possibilities (each can also be tied from previous measure).

Note that half note in second half of measure following shorter notes is ok if it's tied over as a suspension or syncopation.

Eighth notes can be used in the second or fourth quarter-note beats of a measure (but not both). They always move by step.

Dissonance Treatment

Follow the rules of the species you're in.

Eighth notes may be either consonant or dissonant, the only restriction is that each eighth is both approached and left by step.

In fourth species, you can have decorated resolution. Proper tone of resolution comes on beat 3, but beat 2 can be a quarter or a pair of 8ths (see ex. 5-9 for options). Important note: embellishing quarter must be consonant.

Most resolutions should be decorated. When using multiple successive suspensions (whether of the same type or of different type) only the first may be undecorated, and the remaining ones should use progressively more complex decorations, in terms of pitch content and rhythm. Do not use the same decoration twice in a row.

Dissonant syncopations resolve on beat 3, but beat 3 may be a quarter (ex. 5-10).

Consonant syncopations may be tied over into quarters that are left freely (ex. 5-11).

Parallels Etc.

Follow rules of the species you're in.

For mix of 2nd and 3rd, 5ths or 8ves on consecutive downbeats ok unless emphasized in some way (e.g. by large leap). Otherwise ok, as in 5-13.

Consonant suspension, whose preparation was a fifth, followed on second quarter beat by another fifth (same for octaves): ok so long as not by leap (ex. 5-14 good, 5-15 bad).

Correlating Melodic and Rhythmic Motion

If longish scale, avoid half notes.

Motions around a stationary tone should be quarters and eighths.

Usually the note before a large leap should be a half, not a quarter.

Start the exercise slowly, with stepwise motion and longer note values, gradually accelerating, so that shorter note values are used to approach the climax.

Beginning and Ending

Prefer to start with a rest, prefer to start with second or fourth species.

End as in fourth species, usually with a decorated resolution.