

Harmony Hints

There are really just three Golden Rules of harmony:

- 1. No consecutive 5ths or 8ves**
- 2. Good voice leading**
- 3. Leading note goes to tonic**

Let's go into a little more detail about each of these.

1. No consecutive 5ths or 8ves

- Consecutive 5ths weaken the tonality of the chords. The ear hears the 5ths instead of the 3rd of the chord
- Consecutive 8ves effectively make it into 3-part harmony!

2. Good voice leading

- A knowledge of open/close structure helps here (as taught in the Music Craft teacher guides)
- Keep voices on a 'note in common' where possible
- Double-check (ha ha pardon the pun) which note of the chord you have doubled. Good doubling means you have
 - i. Doubled the root as the first choice, the 5th as the 2nd choice
 - ii. Been very careful when doubling the of the 3rd of the chord (not advisable in a major chord)
 - iii. Observed doubling rules for the cadential 6/4 (double the bass note) and the Interrupted/Deceptive cadence (double the 3rd in chord VI)
 - iv. Sometimes tripled the root in the case of a perfect cadence where the soprano moves 2-1.

3. Leading note to tonic

- In Music Craft it is acceptable for the leading note to drop to the 5th of the chord, as long as this occurs in an inner voice.
- In Theory/Musicianship it is not acceptable to do this until Grade 7.