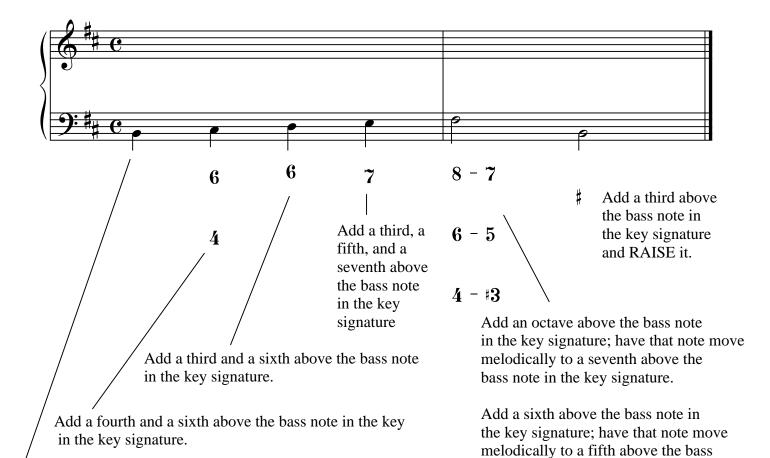
Here is an elementary introduction to figured bass--the art of adding soprano, alto, and tenor lines to a bass line. In addition to proper spacing, doubling, beautiful melodic writing and tendency tone resolution here are the nuts and bolts of what the numbers mean.

Remember: you add these notes above the bass note in the key signature; if you need to alter the note in any way, you do that conceptually AFTER finding the generic interval. For example, look at the final sharp under B-natural. You find a third above the bass note in the key signature (which is d-natural); then you raise it. So the pitch class you'll write in tenor, alto, or soprano voice will be a D-sharp.



Add a third + a fifth above the bass note in the key signature.

Add a fourth above the bass note in the key signature; have that note move melodically to a third above the bass note in the key signature and then RAISE that note

note in the key signature.