

Here is an introduction to first species counterpoint. Notice that there are only consonances, and that perfect octaves and perfect fifths are approached by contrary motion.

First species counterpoint (homophony) in 4/4 time. The score consists of five measures, each containing a whole note in the treble voice and a whole note in the bass voice. The intervals between the voices are indicated by numbers below the bass staff: 8, 6, 6, 8, and 5. The notes are: Measure 1 (C4, G4), Measure 2 (F4, A4), Measure 3 (E4, B3), Measure 4 (D4, C3), and Measure 5 (C3, F2).

Here is an introduction to second species counterpoint. Notice that there are two notes against one. Notice in each case that a dissonant passing tone is "sandwiched" between two consonances. Notice that the voice with the dissonance approaches and leaves that dissonance with stepwise motion in the same direction.

Second species counterpoint (diatonic) in 4/4 time. The score consists of eight measures, each containing two eighth notes in the treble voice and one half note in the bass voice. The intervals between the voices are indicated by numbers below the bass staff: 10, 9, 6, 10, 11, 6, 10, 11, 6, 8, 7, and 5. The notes are: Measure 1 (G4, A4, C4), Measure 2 (F4, E4, C4), Measure 3 (G4, A4, D4), Measure 4 (F4, E4, D4), Measure 5 (G4, A4, C4), Measure 6 (F4, E4, C4), Measure 7 (G4, A4, D4), and Measure 8 (F4, E4, D4).