

Part-Writing: Spacing, Doubling, and Ranges of Voices

Open and Close Position: A chord has been voiced in close position, if the distance between the tenor and soprano is less than an octave. A chord has been voiced in open position, if the distance between the tenor and soprano is an octave or greater.

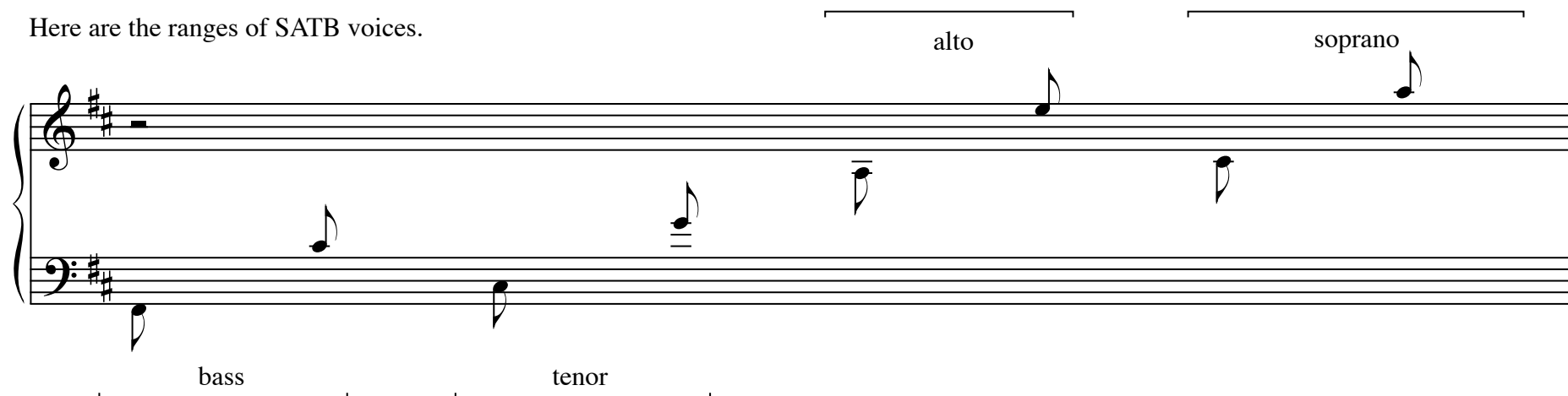


This is an example of a B minor chord voiced in close position.

This is an example of a B minor chord voiced in open position.

Doubling: RULE: never double a tendency tone. PRINCIPLE: for major and minor triads, double the root of the chord, if possible; for diminished triads, double the third of the chord. Notice that in the voicings of a B minor chord above, the root has been doubled in each case.

Here are the ranges of SATB voices.



bass

tenor

alto

soprano