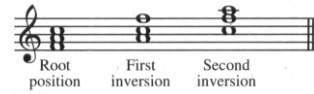


## Position Symbols

## Triad inversions

- Triads can be *inverted*, with the third or the fifth of the chord as the lowest note



- Root position = root in the bass
- First inversion = third in the bass
- Second inversion = fifth in the bass

## Triad position symbols

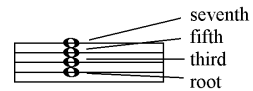
- To label inversions, we use position symbols (or inversion symbols), which basically indicate the intervals above the bass

Sonority desired			
Complete figured bass symbol	5 3	6 3	6 4
Symbol most often used		6	6 4

- Root position = no symbol
- 1<sup>st</sup> inversion = 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion = 6 4

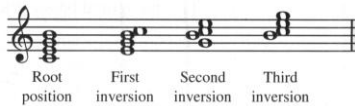
## Seventh chords

- A seventh chord is formed by stacking another note (a third) on top of a triad
- You could continue stacking thirds to create ninth chords, eleventh chords, and thirteenth chords
- The four parts of the seventh chord are the **root**, the **third**, the **fifth**, and the **seventh**



## Seventh inversions

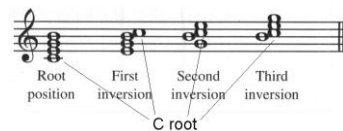
- Seventh chords can be inverted *three* times



- First inversion = third in the bass
- Second inversion = fifth in the bass
- Third inversion = seventh in the bass

## Seventh inversions

- In an inverted seventh chord, two of the notes are only a step apart
- Remember that the upper note is the root (and the lower note is the seventh)



## Seventh chord position symbols

- For seventh chords the symbols are:

Sonority desired				
Complete figured bass symbol	$\begin{matrix} 7 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{matrix}$
Symbol most often used	7	$\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{matrix}$

- Root position = 7
- 1<sup>st</sup> inversion =  $\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{matrix}$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion =  $\begin{matrix} 6 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{matrix}$
- 3<sup>rd</sup> inversion =  $\begin{matrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{matrix}$  or 2

remember:  
7-65-43-2