

STRUCTURE

Bass lines

- ALBERTI BASS

Broken chords played by the left hand outlining harmonies whilst the right hand plays the melody. Typically, the notes are presented in the order *lowest, highest, middle, highest*. The broken chord pattern helps to create a smooth, sustained, flowing sound on the piano. It can also be heard as an accompaniment pattern on other instruments.

Classical composers such as Haydn and Mozart used this technique extensively.



It gets its name from the 18th Century Italian composer, Domenico Alberti, who used it in many of his compositions



• PEDAL

PEDAL, is short for 'PEDAL POINT. It is a note which **is held on or is repeated continuously in the BASS** while the harmony changes above.

- In each of these examples, circle the bars with the pedal in it.

e.g. opening of Also Sprach Zarathustra

Sehr breit. ♩ = 69 feierlich.

tremolo p f sub p < f rit. marcato

pp p f f a tempo mp mp

e.g. Raindrop Prelude - Chopin

24 Sostenuto

p

28 sotto voce

cresc.

e.g. Bach Prelude in C major

C7 (C-E-G-B♭) F/C (F-A-C) Dm7/C (D-F-A-C)

C pedal (in bass) starts as consonant note (in the chord)

G7 (G-B-D-F) C (C-E-G)

ped. pt. ped. pt.

pedal point (in bass) is now a non-chord tone

- **INVERTED PEDAL**

An **INVERTED PEDAL** is a pedal (ie a note that is held on or sounded continuously in the TOP PART instead of the bass

The image displays a musical score with multiple staves. A red rectangular box highlights a section in the upper part of the score, specifically the top staff, where a single note is sustained across several measures, serving as an inverted pedal. A blue rectangular box highlights a section in the lower part of the score, specifically the bottom staff, where a complex rhythmic pattern is played. Another red rectangular box highlights a section in the lower part of the score, specifically the second staff from the bottom, where a single note is sustained across several measures, also serving as an inverted pedal. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'f' (forte).

• GROUND BASS

This is a theme in the bass which is repeated many times while the upper parts are varied.

e.g. Monteverdi *Zefiro torna*



Listen to the music and fill in concepts for each category in the grid below:

Melody/ Harmony	Rhythm/ Tempo	Texture/ Structure	Timbre (Instruments/ techniques)	Style	Dynamics

e.g. Little Brown Jug – NB this is an example of SWING music



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• WALKING BASS

A moving bass line with notes usually of the same value. It often moves by step, but not always so. Features heavily in jazz/swing.

e.g. In the Mood – this is an example of SWING music



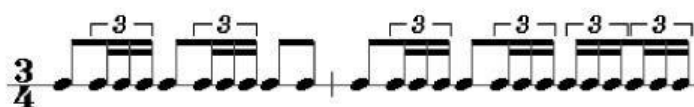
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• OSTINATO (*Rhythmic & Melodic*)

An OSTINATO is a short musical pattern repeated many times.

It can be purely **rhythmic** e.g. Ravel's Bolero , Holst – Mars, Pirates of the Caribbean



or it can be **melodic**.

e.g. Carillon – Bizet – Here the 3 note ostinato represents the pealing of bells



e.g. Carol of the Bells



• RIFF

A Riff is a repeated phrase usually found in jazz and popular music. It is similar to an ostinato.

e.g. Smoke on the Water – Deep Purple



e.g. Listen to Black Sabbath's "The Iron Man



e.g.. Listen to Day tripper – The Beatles



Concepts checklist Write what each of these terms mean	
Tempo	
Dynamics	
Articulation	
Staccato	
Legato	
Passing notes	
Alberti bass	
Pedal	
Inverted pedal	
Ground bass	
Walking bass	
Ostinato	
Riff	
Tonic pedal	
Alberti bass	
Passing notes	
Theme and Variations	

CHORDS CHECK – write the notes in the following chords	
C	
F	
G	
Am	
Em	
D	