

COMMON TONE RULES

Common tones - notes that are shared in two voice parts in succession

Inner voice common tones:

When a note changes from the tenor voice to the same note in the alto voice, tie the notes

When a note changes from the alto voice to the same note in the tenor voice, break the notes

Common tones involving the soprano voice:

When the soprano line is ascending and common tones are involved, tie the common tones

When the soprano line is descending and common tones are involved, break the common tones

TYING RULES

.Fast Hymns

If four voices are repeating, tie one voice (usually alto)

If three voices are repeating, tie none

Slow Hymns

If four voices are repeating, tie two voices (usually alto/bass)

If three voices are repeating, tie one (usually the alto or the voice in the middle of the repeating texture)

Tie from strong to weak beats, not from weak to strong.

Only when common tones are involved, may you tie across bar lines.

Never tie the soprano voice.

Less tying is needed with dotted rhythms.