

The Rule of the Octave: Part by Part

Ascending

One upper part centred on tonic

4 P8 M6 m6 P5 M3 m3 m3 P1

9 One upper part centred on third

M10 m10 P8 M6 P5 m6 d5 M3

17 One upper part centred on fifth

P12 P11 m10 M10 P8 m6 m6 P5

25 Three upper parts in 'first position'

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

33 Three upper parts in 'second position'

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

41 Three upper parts in 'third position'

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

Descending

49

One upper part centred on tonic

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	Tonic	3rd	5th	6th	7th	8th		
49	P1	m3	m3	M3	A4	m6	M6	P8
50								
51								
52								
53								
54								
55								
56								

57

One upper part centred on third

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	3rd	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
57	M3	m3	P4	P5	M6	P8	m10	M10
58								
59								
60								
61								
62								
63								
64								

65

One upper part centred on fifth

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
65	P5	m6	M6	P8	M9	m10	P11	P12
66								
67								
68								
69								
70								
71								
72								

73

Three upper parts in 'first position'

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part
73	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
74	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
75	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
76	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
77	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
78	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
79	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
80	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

81

Three upper parts in 'second position'

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part
81	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
82	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
83	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
84	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
85	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
86	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
87	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
88	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

89

Three upper parts in 'third position'

A musical staff with two staves (treble and bass). The notes are as follows:

Measure	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part	1st Part	2nd Part	3rd Part
89	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
90	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
91	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
92	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
93	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
94	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
95	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
96	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8