

The Rule of the Octave: Part by Part

Ascending

One upper part centred on tonic

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'

Three upper parts in 'first position'

33 Three upper parts in 'second position'

Three upper parts in 'second position'

41 Three upper parts in 'third position'

Three upper parts in 'third position'

Descending

49

One upper part centred on tonic

P1 m3 m3 M3 A4 m6 M6 P8

57

One upper part centred on third

M3 m3 P4 P5 M6 P8 m10 M10

65

One upper part centred on fifth

P5 m6 M6 P8 M9 m10 P11 P12

73

Three upper parts in 'first position'

P5 m6 M6 P8 M9 m10 P11 P12

81

Three upper parts in 'second position'

P5 m6 M6 P8 M9 m10 P11 P12

89

Three upper parts in 'third position'

P5 m6 M6 P8 M9 m10 P11 P12