

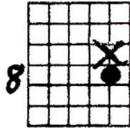
Understanding Voice Leading and Voice Splitting

Ted Greene, 1997-07-18

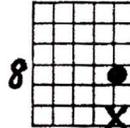
Ted Greene
© 7-18-92

Because much music evolved from people's voices (i.e., singing), the separate harmony parts in chords were and are still often referred to as "voices" even when played instead of sung. Some of us also call them "lines."

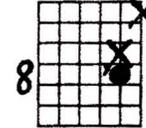
A line may move down:



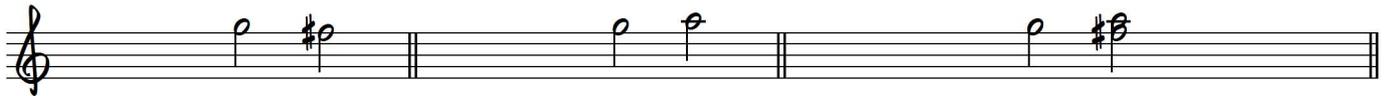
A line may move up:



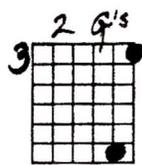
A line may do both at the same time:



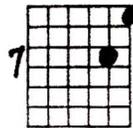
I call this a "Splitting Voice" because the line or voice splits into two lines now.



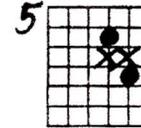
It's as if there were two people playing or singing the same note already:



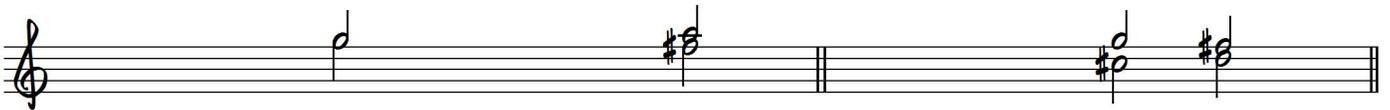
and then they moved from this singing in unison to:



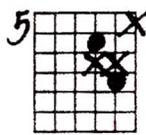
Two notes may move to two others, thereby creating two lines:



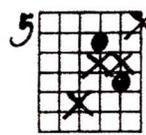
Sounds like A7 to D, right?



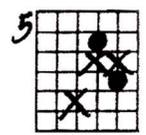
Two voices may become 3 (or even more) if one splits:



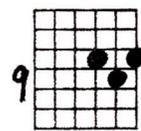
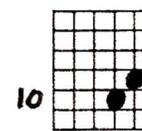
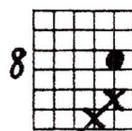
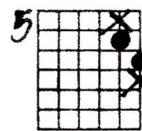
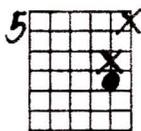
Two voices may become 4 (or more) if both split:



The two voices could have split into a different sound if the lower one only had done the split:



Study the following:



The "Oblique Split" occurs when a voice stays put (sustains) *and* moves somewhere else too:

One voice may split into three:

All of this type of stuff may happen in the top end of larger chords:

Notice this just disappears in and reappears here.

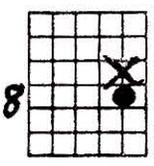
Some would say that there are voice splits in the low-end here. I find it easier in such cases to go with what I seem to *hear*, namely just a varying of the number of voices in the bottom, not so much that they are splitting.

★ Absorb and be able to play all of the above. A page of exercises will follow...when you are ready.

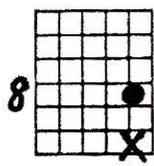
UNDERSTANDING VOICE LEADING and VOICE SPLITTING

Because much music evolved from people's VOICES (i.e. singing), the separate harmony parts in chords were & are still often referred to as "voices" even when played instead of sung. Some of us also call them 'lines'.

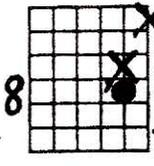
A line may move down



A line may move up



A line may do both at the same time



I call this a "SPLITTING VOICE" because the line or voice splits into 2 lines now.

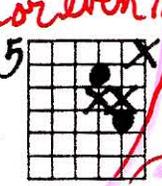
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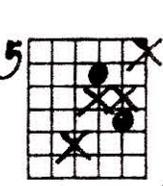
And then they moved from this singing in unison to

two notes, may move to two others, thereby creating 2 lines

2 voices may become 3 if one splits

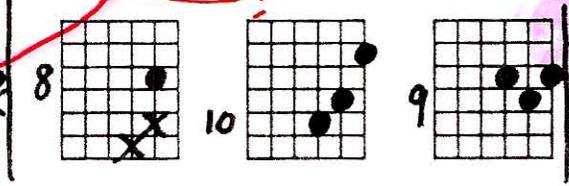


2 voices may become 4 if both split



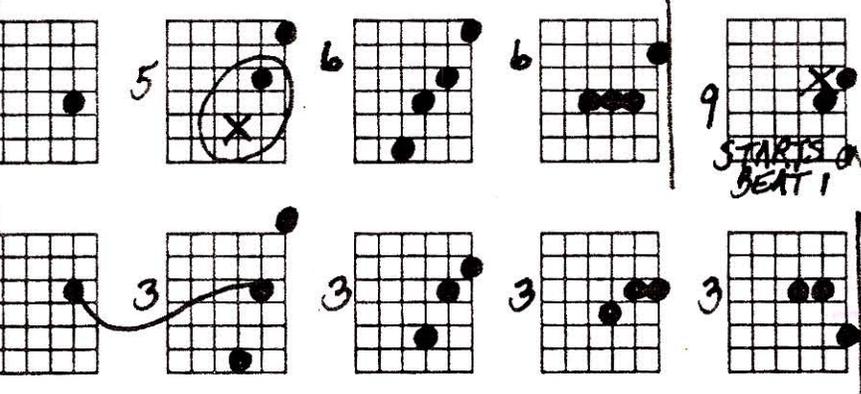
the 2 voices could have split into a different sound if the lower one only had done the split

Study the wings following



"OBLIQUE SPLIT" occurs when a voice stays put (sometimes) and moves somewhere else too

(Since) one voice may split into 3



All of this type of stuff may happen in the top end of larger chords

This voice just disappears in B and reappears here

Some would say that there voice splits in the low-end here. I find it easier in such cases to go with what I seem to hear, namely just a varying of the number of voices in the bottom, not so much that they are splitting

* I work & be able to play all of the above. A page of exercises will follow..... when you are ready.