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Arranging 3

Lesson 2:
Mechanical Voicings: Drop-2
Technique

This lesson is excerpted from an online course. While the navigation links on each page are not active, all of the multimedia interactions are. Have fun!

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Drop-2 voicings are used when a slightly larger sound is wanted or the range of the melody (top note of the voicing) goes high enough to warrant making the structure larger. This may also enable all horns to play their assigned notes more easily. Example 2 shows a melody that is harmonized using 4-way close. This is the foundation of a drop-2 voicing.

Example 2a illustrates how the pitches from example 2 could be assigned to a horn section.

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Example 3 shows the same melody but now written in a drop-2 technique. Looking closely, you can see that what was once the second voice down from the top has been moved an octave lower. The remaining voices stayed in their original positions. The total size of the voicing is now well over an octave. Listen to the audio example and note the difference between examples 2 and 3.

Example 3a illustrates how the pitches from example 3 could be assigned to a horn section.

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Harmonize the following example using drop-2 voicings.

Notate in Finale or by hand using the template provided below.

When finished check your answers with [Activity 1 answers](#).

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