

The Invention

Form

Inventions generally consist of a short *exposition*, a longer *development*, and a short *recapitulation* (if present at all). The key difference between an invention and a fugue is that inventions do not contain an answer to the subject in the dominant key whereas the fugue does.

The following is a guide only therefore, it should be remembered that with any textbook-defined structure of form, there are always exceptions.

Exposition

- starts with a short motif, or subject, introduced by one voice in the tonic key
- the subject is then repeated in the second voice in the tonic key while the first voice either plays a countersubject or plays in free counterpoint.

Development

- comprises the bulk of the piece and is more free-form than the fugue. The invention differs from a fugue in that a fugal development contains episodes which are variations based more strictly on the theme, whereas the development section of the invention is usually written in free counterpoint
- various counterpoint techniques:
 - *Inversion* - playing a melody upside-down
 - *Retrograde* - playing a melody backwards
 - *Augmentation* - playing the subject with longer time values
 - *Diminution* - playing the subject with shorter time values
- it should be noted that all *counterpoint techniques* listed may or may not be present in any given composition and, the composer may chose to introduce all new thematic material instead of developing the original theme.

Recapitulation

- tends to be extremely short – depending on the overall length of the composition, it may be only two or four measures long or, it may not be present at all.
- upon recapitulation the theme contains very little variation, or no variation at all.
- it is common for the piece to end with the theme being played in the upper voice while the lower line plays the countersubject, and if there is no countersubject, plays in free counterpoint

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Invention No. 1 C Major – J.S. Bach

Harmonic Plan

The basic harmonic plan used in this invention is similar to those of other invention and of fugues:

- it begins and ends in the main key – the tonic
 - the first modulation is to the dominant key or in the case of minor keys - to the relative major.
- usually contains one or more modulations throughout the work to related keys - in this case, D Minor, F Major and A Minor

Invention - Structural Plan

Exposition, Development and Recapitulation

	<i>Measure</i>
Imitation	1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 11-12, 13-14, 19-20
Inversion	3-4, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18, 19-20
Augmentation	3-4, 11-12, 19-20
Inversion and augmentation	19-20
Invertible counterpoint	7-8, 11-12
Sequences	3-4, 9-10, 11-12, 15-18, 19-20

Analysis by: José Rodríguez Alvira

INVENTION NO.1 IN C MAJOR

J.S.BACH

Exposition

Development

Recapitulation