

Fixing Problem Spots

What is a problem spot?

Passages that are:

- Hard to learn
- Hard to maintain & improve...
 - Sync
 - Tuning
 - Vocal production

Solution 1: Simplifying rhythms

Simpler rhythms may help a spot with:

- Sync trouble
- Other complexity surrounding it (rhythmic or otherwise)
 - *Have you had any downbeats recently?*
- A key change

Once you've changed it...

- Sing it in context
 - *Does it provide contrast, or is the change jarring to the ear?*
 - *Does it fit the intended character, or does it lose flavor?*
- Find an exercise to help teach it (e.g. clapping, speaking in rhythm)

Solution 2: Creating anchors

Anchors are parts that are easy to sing against

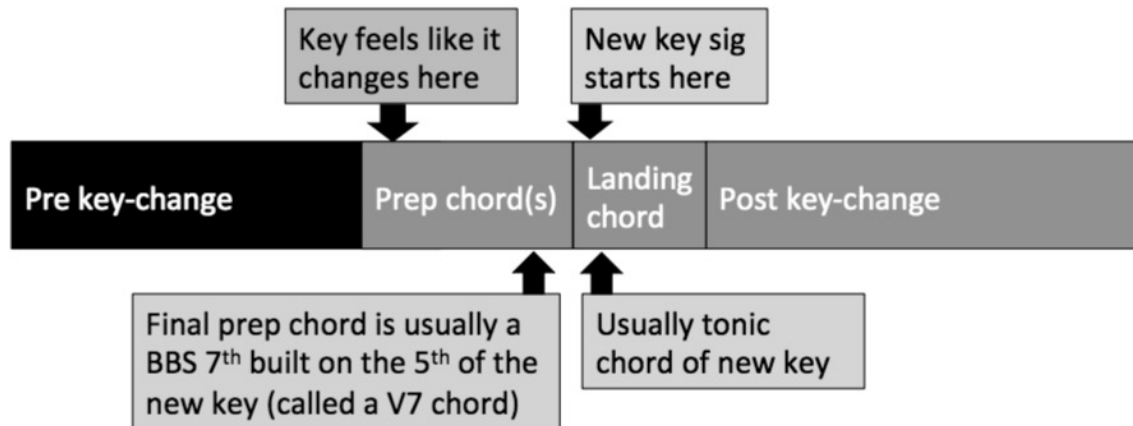
- Directors/coaches often ask you to duet against an anchor
- May involve octaves, fifths, contrary motion, or a part that goes straight across (for example)

What if there are no anchors?

- May need to re-chord to create some anchors
- Are there any common notes that could stay constant in a part?
- Are there any chords that “pop” out, that could be revoiced for smoother voice leading?
- Could the melody line be altered in an intuitive way?
 - An intuitive melody will usually fit in the chord progression
 - *Check your solution with a lead who hates singing baritone!*
- This is not always trivial. May need to ask the arranger

Applying solutions to key changes

Key changes are hard to learn *AND* hard to write!



Example: If the key changes from G → Ab...

- Landing chord:
- Final prep chord (V7 chord):

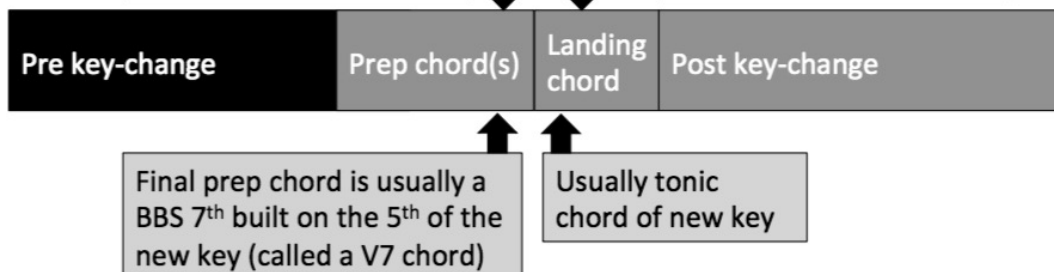
1. What voicing for the **landing chord**?

- From bottom up: 1-3-5-1, 1-5-1-3, 1-1-3-5
- Will it be hard to get to a closed (1-3-5-1) or open (1-5-1-3, 1-1-3-5) voicing?
- Look at what comes before and after

2. What voicing for the **final prep chord**? (Look at what comes before and after)

3. Adjust this if necessary

3. Adjust this if necessary



FINAL NOTE: When in doubt, ASK THE ARRANGER! Show them your solution, or explain what's challenging and ask for a solution.