

Two-part Invention No 15

J. S. BACH
BWV 786

THEME STATEMENT
B minor Subject (measures 1-6)
F# minor Counter Subject (measures 7-12)

Chord symbols: I, 6, IV, I⁶, ii⁴⁻³, vii, I⁴⁻³, ii⁶, Bm: V, F#m: I, V, IV⁶, V⁷, I^{6/4}

This chord could be VI (without a third)
I prefer to think of it as ii in first inversion

Imperfect cadence in B minor

The textbooks would assert that it is wrong to have an open fifth. Bach uses it to maintain the imitation. It clearly outlines chord V without E[#] (heard on the previous beat)

Textbooks would consider this consecutive fifths: C# - G# falling to B - F#

Hidden consecutive octaves

Perfect cadence in F# minor

Subject (measures 13-18)
Counter Subject (measures 13-18)

Chord symbols: F#m: V, IV, vii⁶, I⁴⁻³, I⁶, ii⁶, I₄, ii⁶, V, I, 6, ii⁶, I⁶, ii⁴⁻³, vii

This could be V⁷ in third inversion or IV or ii in first inversion depending on which note in the treble is the harmony note and which is the passing note

Deceptive cadence in F# minor (measures 19-20)
EPISODE B minor (measures 21-22)
D major SEQUENCE (measures 23-28)

Chord symbols: F#m: I⁴⁻³, V, Bm: I⁶, VI, IV⁶, V⁶, I, D: vi, I₄, ii⁶, vi₄, ii, iii⁷, IV, V, I⁶, V₄, I, ii⁷, I⁶

An alternative reading might be I⁶ with a 7-6 suspension

10 (G major) D major D major Perfect cadence in D major D major

THEME STATEMENT Counter Subject Subject

D: IV I⁶ vi⁷ ii V⁷ I ii⁴₂ V⁴₃ I vi ii⁶ V I V IV⁶ V⁷ I⁶₄

G: I V⁶

13 Hidden consecutive fifths Perfect cadence in A major A major Subject Subject (E minor)

Counter Subject

D: V⁶₂ vii⁴₄ I⁶₄₋₃

A: IV IV⁶ vii I IV ii⁶ I⁶ ii⁴⁻³ vii Em: IV⁴⁻³ iii vii⁶

16 EPISODE (B minor) Perfect cadence in F# minor F# minor SEQUENCE (E minor) Perfect cadence in E minor (D major) Perfect cadence in D major

THEME STATEMENT B minor Counter Subject Subject

Em: I⁴⁻³ F#m: IV⁴⁻³ iii vii⁶ I⁴⁻³ D: ii⁶ V I⁴⁻³ vi

Bm: IV⁴⁻³ iii vii⁶ I⁴⁻³ Em: ii⁶ V I⁴⁻³ Bm: I ii⁶ iii⁷ I⁶₄

SEQUENCE

19 Hidden consecutive fifths Subject Subject Counter Subject

Bm: V IV vii⁶₄ I⁴⁻³ IV V⁷ I⁶ ii⁴⁻³ vii I⁴⁻³ ii⁶ I⁶ ii⁶₅ V I

Compare bar 4
This could be:
V7 in 3rd inversion or
ii in 1st inversion or IV