

Melodic variation

Let's start with a melodic variation. In this, you will turn your theme into a continuous stream of shorter notes that follow the outline of the theme. Here is how Mozart turned the first part of his piano concerto theme into a part in semiquavers:

The notes of the theme

(Piano)

F# omitted

Generally, in this type of variation, you should aim to include each note of the theme somewhere within the semiquavers on the corresponding beat. Usually, the figuration will also outline the harmony, which means that the same accompaniment can be used.

How can you keep the semiquaver part moving? There are several options:

- You can use written-out turns

- You can go up and down between the notes of the harmony, either with fragments of diatonic scales (using the notes of the key you are in) or chromatic scales

Key: C major. Harmony: C major chord

* Notes from C major chord

- You can use arpeggios formed from the notes of the harmony

Key: C major. Harmony: C major chord

- You can use longer diatonic or chromatic scales

Key: C major. Harmony: C major chord

Diatonic scale

Chromatic scale