


# Barbershop Arranger Terminology

Suzy Lobaugh, CMA – June 2022

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
A tempo	Established tempo in an uptune; return to original tempo
Accidental	A sharp, flat, or natural symbol that alters a tone.
Ad Lib	Meter loosely interpreted, take artistic liberties.
Augmented	A major triad with the 5 <sup>th</sup> raised ½ step (1,3,5+).
Anchor	Pivot note (note maintained through a modulation)
Backbeat	Rhythmic pattern pulsing on “off - beats.”
Barbershop 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dominant seventh chord. (1, 3, 5, 7 ♭ )
Bars - Barline	The vertical line on the staff at the end of each measure.
Beam (Beam Bar)	The bar that is attached to the top of 8 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> notes.
Bell Chord(s)	Series of notes sung independently to form a chord/ chords
Bird's Eye	Slang name for Fermata. (See Fermata).
Brace	A character connecting two or more staves – indicates the number of voice parts to be sung at the same time.
Bridge	The section of music that connects verses and choruses. The “B” section of a song whose form is AABA.
Chart	Another name for musical manuscript.
Chinese 7 <sup>th</sup>	An open voiced BBS7 <sup>th</sup> with the interval of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> at the top.
Chord Spelling	Correct components of a chord based on its root.
Chord	A group of three or more tones intended to be heard as a unit, built on intervals of the third.
Chromatic	Progression of half steps.
Clock	Another name for the Circle of Fifths. (12 o'clock = tonic, 1 o'clock = dominant)
Closed Voicing (Octave voicing)	When all four voice parts are within an octave.
Comfort Zone (Tessitura)	Strongest, most comfortable range of a voice (comfort zone)
Composition	Overall plan design of a BBS arrangement (Intro, Verse, Chorus, Tag)
Contrary Motion (Pull apart)	Two parts moving in opposite directions.

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Contrary Motion (Pull apart)	Two parts moving in opposite directions.
Courtesy Accidental	An accidental that appears in ( ) usually after a bar line to aid singers.
Cross Relationship	Two voice parts in adjacent chords with a chromatic tone relationship. (aka: False Relationship.)
Diatonic Scale	Our most common scale. WWH W WWH (2 tetra chords)
Diminished 7 <sup>th</sup>	A four note chord: 1, 3b, 5b, 7bb. Never double anything.
Dominant	The fifth tone of a scale or a chord built on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of a scale.
Doubling	Using the same note twice (in unison or in an octave.)
Driver (Song is a “Driver”)	A relentless rhythmic pulse; “driving” onward.
Duets (Double Duets)	Two parts moving harmonically. Two parts holding.
Echoes	A chord sequence on a repeated word passage
Embellishment	Harmonic movement used to “fill” or enhance timing.
Enharmonic	Same tone, notated differently ( A# - B b )
False Relationship (Cross Relationship)	Two voice parts in adjacent chords with a chromatic tone relationship (aka: Cross Relationship)
Fermata (Bird’s Eye)	Symbol  above/below a note indicating the note is to be held beyond its designated value.
Flip	A sequence of two inversions of the same chord where voice parts exchange (“flip”) notes.
Fundamental Tone	Tone on which overtones are produced.
Form	Construction of the chorus of a song (example: AABA)
Glissando	Type of slur - sung hitting all notes between the first and last on a single syllable.
Hanger / Post	Note(s) held by a voice part(s) while the other parts exit then return to move around it.
Harmony	A musical element based on the simultaneous combination of tones (chords); a vertical concept.
Harmonization	Chords selected to harmonize a given melody.
Hidden Duet	Two voice parts in a series of chords moving as in a duet.
Homophonic	Notes and words sung by all voices on the same beat. Basis of Barbershop art form.

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Interlude	Connecting segment within the form of an arrangement.
Intervals (Harmonic, Melodic)	The distance between two notes.
Intervals of a 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Two notes next to each other, a whole step apart (C-D). Also known as Phnert, Chinese, Car Horn, Chopstix.
Intonation	A horizontal system of determining pitch in the chosen key. Based on Pythagory.
Intro	Short segment of arrangement that precedes a Verse or Chorus.
Inversions	Repositioning of the notes with in a chord.
Key Change	Moving from the initial key signature to another.
Leading Tone	Tone leading to “do” (tonic, “home” or I).
Major 7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> tone of a scale. Interval of 1 to 7 in a major scale.
Manuscript	Written arrangement. Also called “Chart.”
Measure Numbers	Numbers placed at beginning of each measure.
Measures	Groups of beats.
Meter	Grouping/Measurement of time (3 beats/measure = $\frac{3}{4}$ time.)
Modulation	A progression of chords within a composition often resulting in a permanent key change.
Notation	Written music on a staff indicating two properties of tone, Pitch and Duration.
Oblique Motion	One voice remaining constant while the others are moving.
Octave	An interval of 1 to 8.
Octave Voicing (Closed Voicing)	Outer voices in a chord are an octave or less apart.
Open Voicing	Outer voices in a chord are beyond an octave.
Overtone	An unsung tone produced by harmonics of fundamental tone.
Parallel Motion	Two or more parts moving in the same direction with the same interval pattern.
Patter	Sets of lyrics in different rhythmic patterns, sung concurrently.
Penultimate	Next to the last chord , often creating tension before resolving
Phrase	A section of a song.
Post / Hanger	Note(s) held by a voice part(s) while the other parts exit then return to move around it.

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Progression (Chord Progression)	A scheme by which chords change. A sequence of chords.
Push Beats	Beats hit early (“Nervous Twos” ala Dale Syverson.)
Pythagorean	Mathematical system of tuning.
Railroad Tracks	Two slanted lines, //, indicating greater break in tempo/mood.
Refrain	Phrase (theme) of song repeated at intervals throughout a song.
Relative Minor	Minor triad built on 6 <sup>th</sup> note of major scale.
Relative Major	Major triad built on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> note of a minor scale.
Reprise	Part of song/arrangement that is repeated.
Rhythm	An element of time determined by accent and duration.
Ring-ability	Opportunity for overtone.
Root	The tone on which a chord is built.
Rubato (Ad-Lib)	Flexible timing for expressive effect. (see Ad-Lib)
Scissors	Two parts moving towards and away from each other (usually with an octave in the middle within a minor chord.)
Seconds (Chopstix-Phnert-Resistance)	A whole step interval which creates harmonic tension.
Similar Motion	All voice parts moving in the same direction one chord to the next
Slide	Similar to slurs/swipes but only involves 2 chords
Slur - Swipe	Two or more notes sung on a single word or syllable that result in forming additional chords.
Solfeggio	The system of musical language utilizing the syllables of Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do.
Solo Passage	One part singing a “solo” while the other three parts sing something different in the background. (Non-contest material)
Spread to the 10th	A chord inversion with an interval of 10 notes from the highest to lowest notes.
Staff	Groups of five lines & four spaces organized to notate music.
Sweet Adeline Arranger’s Guide	Instruction Manual available from SAI.
Sweet Adeline Home Study Course	Advanced Manual for advancing in the arranger’s program.
Swipe - Slur	Several chords moving through a sustained vowel sound
Syncopation	A shifting of the normal accent; also known as counterpoint.

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Tag/Tag Out	Final sequence of music to end the lyrical and musical essence of an arrangement.
Tempo	Italian word meaning “time” - Overall speed of song.
Tiddly	Tiny/fancy swipe sung by one part to attract attention.
Tight Voicing	Chord inversion having an interval of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the middle with the outer voices being less than an octave apart.
Tonality	A musical property which creates a sense of gravitation toward a key center.
Tonic	The first or key note of a diatonic scale. The term is also used to reference a chord built on the first tone of a diatonic scale.
Transfer	Two chords in succession with a common note. The repeated note is sung by either the same or different voice part.
Triad	Basic components of a chord. Three harmonic tones played or sung concurrently, usually the root, 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> notes of a scale.
Trios	Three parts holding with one part moving or the reverse.
Turn Around	Harmonic chord progression which leads to a new or previous section of a song (arrangement).
Vamp	A repeated rhythmic pattern.
Verse	Sets up the chorus of a song musically and lyrically.
Voice Leading	The manner in which the individual part lines move horizontally from note to note.
Voicing	The assignment of notes in a chord among the voice parts
Unison	Two or more parts singing the same note.
Walking Line	Notes sung in a scale pattern by a single part.