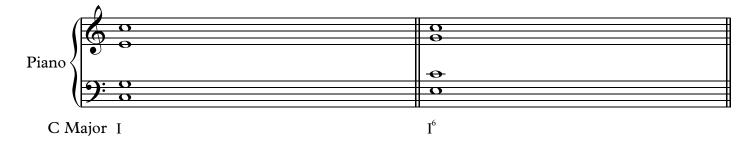
First Inversion Chords - Cheat Sheet

General Rules:

First inversion chords are shown with a 6 (or sometimes, 6/3) in the figured bass. This means that there is a 6th and a 3rd above the bass.

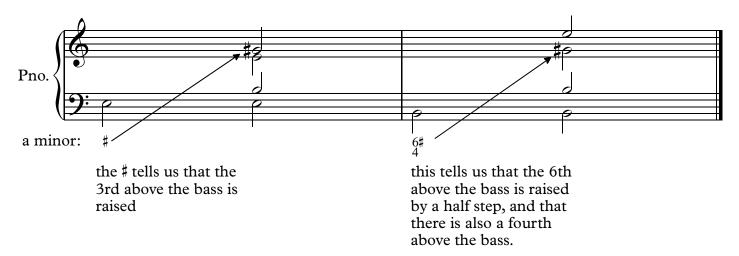
Try not to double the 3rd of a first inversion chord. Instead, double whatever note you gave to the soprano, or, if that doesn't work, the remaining chord member.



**The order of the notes above the bass don't matter. Only that the third is in the bass.

When harmonizing a melody, the use of first inversion can help to smooth out your bassline. You shouldn't use it at the beginning or the end of your piece because it has a weaker sound than a root position chord.

Some other figured bass hints...



^{**} Important note - the sharp does not mean that it automatically gets a sharp. If the note should be flat in the key signature, it is made natural instead. If it is already sharp, it would turn into a double sharp. Think of the sharp as raising the note it refers to by a half-step instead of turning it into a sharp.