

SUMMARY OF FUNDAMENTAL BIG BAND VOICINGS

Name(s)	Use	Orchestration		
closed position		4 parts < 8va (6th or 7th chord) 4 parts = 8va (4th part doubles 1st at octave) 5 parts = 8va (5th part doubles 1st at octave)		
open position		4-5 parts > 8va		
		<i>trumpets</i>	<i>trombones</i>	<i>saxes</i>
4-part block (Basie 4-part)	agile, fast melodies	closed	closed (8va ↓ tpts)	closed (8va ↓ tpts)
chorale (combination)	slower melodies	closed	closed (8va ↓ tpts)	open
percussive (basic ensemble)	punches, limited range	closed	open	open

Some open position voicings

x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	8	9	10	3	9	3	5	5	7
5	5	5	5	7	7	8	8	10	10
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
						?	?		

4-part block

sxs

Chorale

sxs

Percussive

sxs