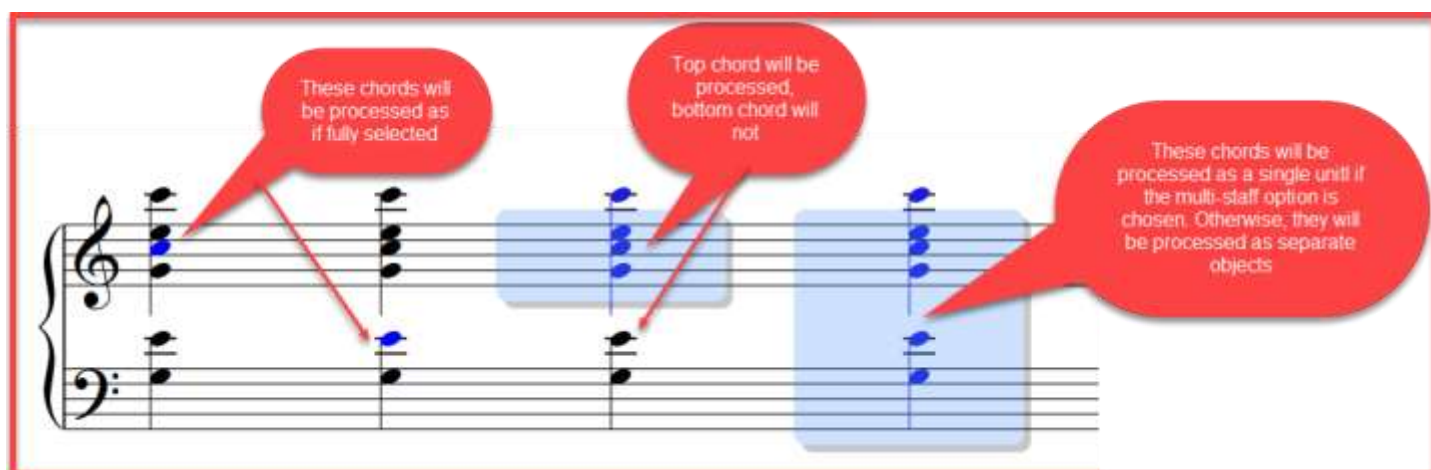# The Invert Chords Plugin

Bob Zawalich September 11, 2018

The **Invert Chords** plugin will transpose the top or bottom note in each selected chord by one or more octaves to make inversions of the chords.
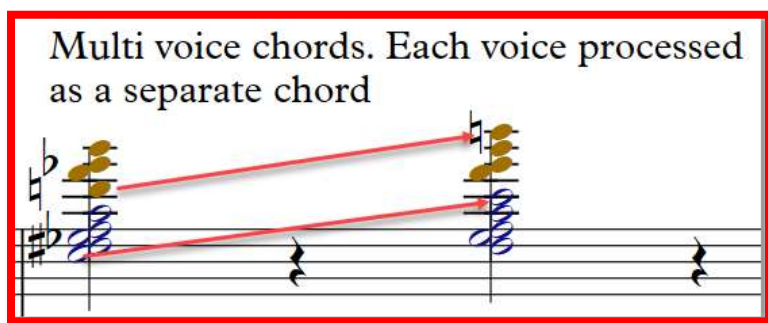
If you just want to invert the notes of a single chord in a single voice on a single staff, everything is straightforward and should work as expected. This document exists to explain what happens in more complex situations.

Any chord with one or more notes selected will be inverted. It is recommended that only one voice should be processed at a time. If multiple voices are processed, each voice is treated as a separate chord. Chords in the same voice on multiple staves can be processed as a group if you use a passage selection. Only chords with 2 or more notes are processed.

You can select one or more notes in a chord, and that chord will be processed as if the entire chord were selected, so you can select a number of non-contiguous chords and process them at once. If you want to process notes in multiple staves as a unit, you must make a passage selection of the notes, and choose "All staves".

Chords in multiple voices are always processed separately (I once tried to treat multi-voice chords as a single unit but the effect was very confusing, so I removed that function). Even if you have a passage selection of chords in multiple voices, the notes in each voice are processed independently.
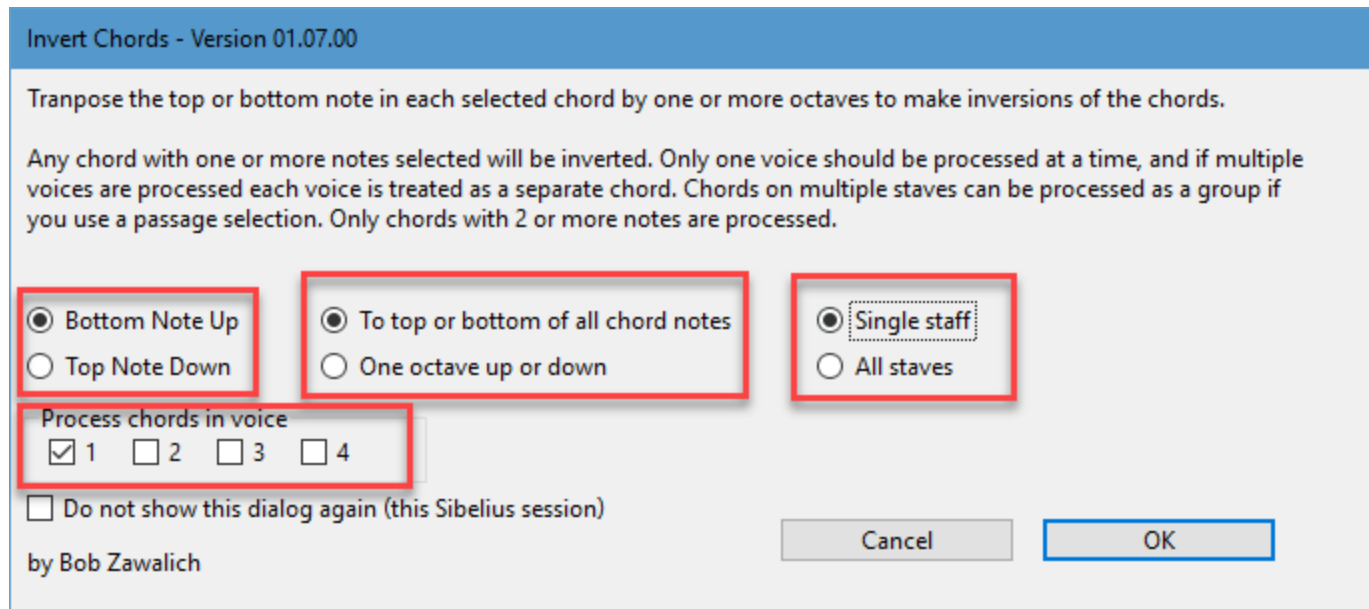

If you are processing multiple staves, I suggest only doing it with grand staff instruments, such as piano or harp. If you use the plugin across multiple instruments, there is no guarantee that the pitches will ascend from the staff on the bottom of the page to the top.

The plugin sorts all the notes by pitch, and it will move the highest of all the notes or the lowest of all the notes by one of more octaves, which may move the note to a different staff.

The plugin does not process single note "chords" to keep the results from being too confusing. It will allow you to process more than 2 staves at once, but be very careful if you choose to do that.

Options

Invert Chords - Version 01.07.00

Tranpose the top or bottom note in each selected chord by one or more octaves to make inversions of the chords.

Any chord with one or more notes selected will be inverted. Only one voice should be processed at a time, and if multiple voices are processed each voice is treated as a separate chord. Chords on multiple staves can be processed as a group if you use a passage selection. Only chords with 2 or more notes are processed.

- ⦿ Bottom Note Up
- ○ Top Note Down
- ⦿ To top or bottom of all chord notes
- ○ One octave up or down
- ⦿ Single staff
- ○ All staves

Process chords in voice
- ☑ 1　☐ 2　☐ 3　☐ 4

☐ Do not show this dialog again (this Sibelius session)

Cancel　　OK

by Bob Zawalich

You can have the plugin

- Move the bottom note of the chord up or the top note down
- Move the note by 1 octave, or move it by multiple octaves until the note is at least at the top or bottom of the chord
- Process each staff independently or treat chords in multiple staves as a single unit, possibly moving notes from one staff to another
- Choose one or more voices to be processed at a time. One at a time is strongly recommended.
- Run without the dialog showing, using the current set of options. The dialog will always appear the first time the plugin is run in a Sibelius session and when you run the plugin with no selection.

Limitations and restrictions

- Chords in different voices are processed separately, and never combined into a single chord
- Only chords with 2 or more notes are processed.
- If you are selecting more than 2 staves at once, check the results carefully.
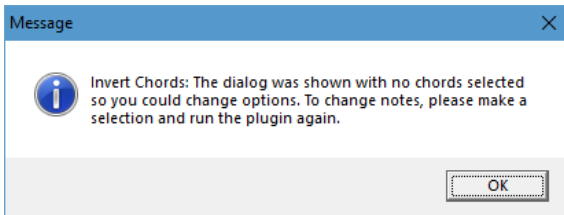
Changing directions and running the plugin

If you are going to be using the plugin a lot (during the composing or arranging process, for example), **it is convenient to have the plugin assigned to a shortcut, and to use it with the dialog turned off** (the dialog will always appear the first time you run it in a Sibelius session, but you can check the "Do not show this dialog again" checkbox, and it will run silently after that).

2 copies of the plugin will be installed by the plugin installer: **Invert Chords** and **Invert Chords Down**. These are identical except that **Invert Chords** moves the bottom note up, and **Invert Chords Down** moves the top note down. You can, if you wish, assign each plugin to a separate shortcut, then select a chord and type

the appropriate shortcut. This will be most effective if you hide the dialog, so the notes will be changed each time you type the shortcut.

You can also choose to just run a single copy of the plugin. Even if the dialog is turned off, it will still appear if you have no selection. You can then change the direction or other options, and when you choose OK, you will see this warning:
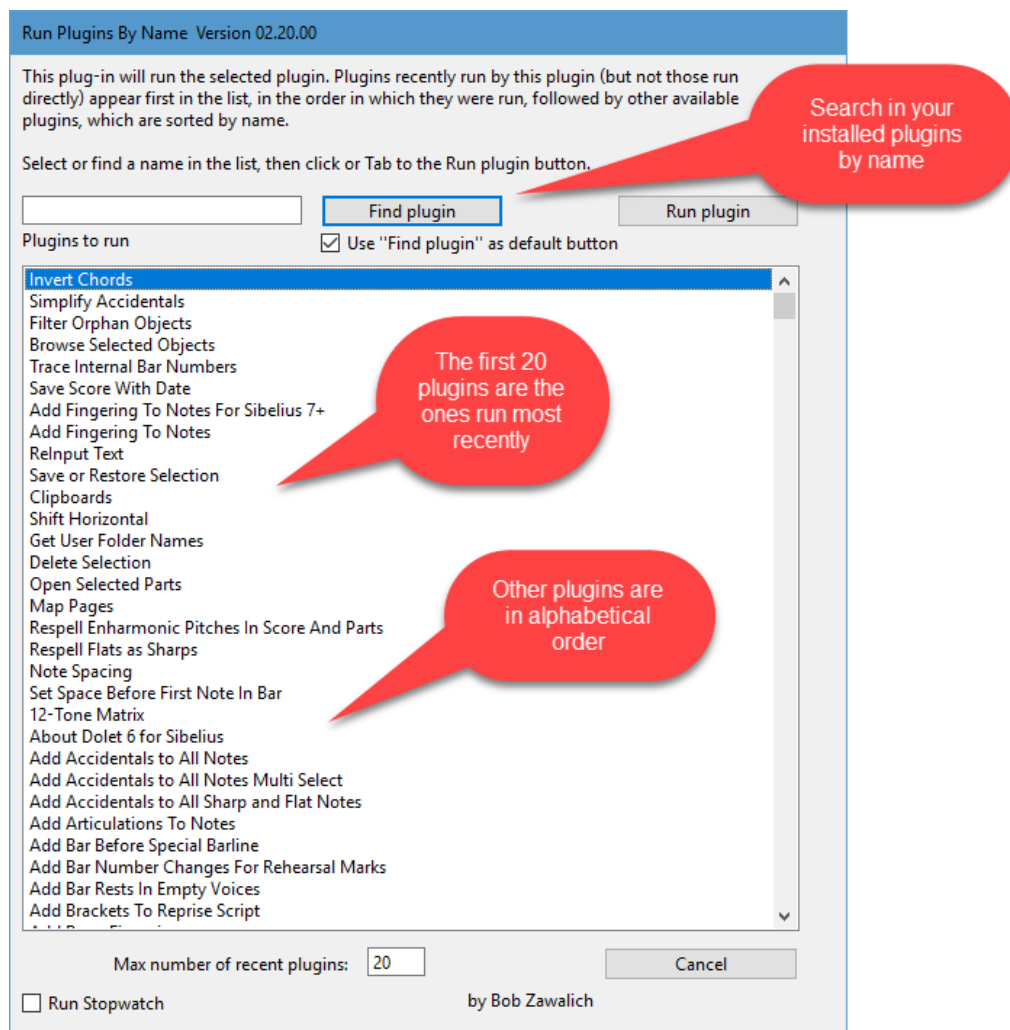

Choose OK, make a selection, and you can start processing chords in the opposite direction. If you will be flipping back and forth a lot, having 2 plugins with 2 shortcuts will be more efficient.

Personally, rather than assigning separate shortcuts for every new plugin I use (and I use a lot of them), I have shortcuts assigned to the plugins **Run Plugin By Name** and **Run Last Named Plugin**, and use those to run other plugins.

You can read about using **Run Plugin By Name** at https://www.scoringnotes.com/tutorials/using-run-plugins-by-name-or-fixed-plug-in-shortcuts/.
Run Last Named Plugin will be installed automatically if you install **Run Plugin By Name,** and when you run it, it will run the last plugin that was run by **Run Plugin By Name.**

After I run them once, I can have **Invert Chords** and **Invert Chords Down** at the top of the list, and choose to run one of them, then rerun it using **Run Last Named Plugin**, as many times as I like, using my 2 shortcuts.

Some examples

Simple chord in one voice on one staff. Raise the bottom note to the top of the chord notes, then move the top note down.

Starting | C up | E up | G up | B up | B down | G down | E down | C down

root | 1st Inversion | 2nd Inversion | 3rd Inversion | root

C# from unison bottom notes is raised 2 octaves.
Technically, the inversion is not changed.
The plugin moves the top or bottom note by 1 or more octaves. It does not guarantee a change of inversion.

There is an octave in the bass. Moving it up leaves the other E in the bass, so the inversion has not changed

Can move notes by 1 octave or to the top or bottom of chords. If moving to the top or bottom note results in a unison, it does not move an additional octave.

1 octave

2 octaves to top, results in unison

Invert Chords may be downloaded directly through Sibelius 7 and higher at **File > Plug-ins > Install Plug-ins > Composing Tools**. Users may also install it manually in Sibelius 6 or higher by visiting the plug-in download page and following the usual manual installation procedure, or by using the Install New Plug-in plug-in.

This plugin was requested by James Humberstone.