AKFiguredBass and AKContinuoUS

The fonts are made for figured bass in Baroque music. They work in many music programs and in word processors. Numbers, accidentals and brackets can be typed directly one above the other at four different distances from the baseline, without changing to another input level (line).

AKContinuoUS has exactly the same keyboard layout as AKFiguredBass in a lighter, more classical design. Both fonts are the US keyboard versions of AKGeneralbass and AKContinuo: every character is on the same key as in the German version.

Requirements and installation

Windows, macOS or iPad and a music program (such as Finale or Sibelius) or a word processor (such as Word or Pages) that supports ligatures. Double-click the font file and click “Install”. In the font menu the font can be selected quickly by typing its first letters.

Keyboard layout: standard US layout (Mac: “U.S.” or “ABC”; Windows: “US”). The fonts also work with **US International**: there `'` `"` and `^` are dead keys and produce accented letters (e.g. `'` + `u` = ú). The fonts recognize these letters and show the intended figured bass characters, so you can type as described here.

How it works

Imagine that every key carries only numbers that differ in their distance from the baseline. A key in the top letter row (`q` … `p`) gives the same number as the key diagonally above it to the left – just one “line” lower, and so on. The only exception is 0, which is available in the two upper lines only.

Crossed numbers (raised intervals) are typed with Shift on the same keys. The accidentals are on the remaining Shift combinations `1`, `3` and `8` and the keys below them.

The spacing character is `\`, a half space is `|`. They are needed in music programs, where the space bar would move on to the next “syllable” in lyrics mode.

Stacked characters are always entered from bottom to top[1]; then, to the right of the stack – again from bottom to top – accidentals etc. After a stack, type `\` as separator to get the correct spacing.

Key layout – characters in four levels

Position	Keys									
Line 1 (top)	`1`	`2`	`3`	`4`	`5`	`6`	`7`	`8`	`9`	`0`
Line 2	`q`	`w`	`e`	`r`	`t`	`y`	`u`	`i`	`o`	`p`
Line 3	`a`	`s`	`d`	`f`	`g`	`h`	`j`	`k`	`l`	–
Line 4	`z`	`x`	`c`	`v`	`b`	`n`	`m`	`,`	`.`	–
Printed (line 2)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
With Shift (line 2)	♯	2+	♭	4+	5+	6̸	7̸	♮	9̸	

Examples

6 4	6 4	6 4	6̸ 4 2	9̸	3♯	7♭	3♮	6♯ 3	6 3♯
`vh`	`fy`	`r6`	`xfY`	`(`	`3\!`	`u\E`	`d\K`	`ch\A`	`ch\Z`

[1] For later corrections it is advisable to always enter stacks in the same order; top to bottom is of course also possible.

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Further characters by ligatures

Before the key of the printed character, type a control key that sets the level. The four control keys lie one below the other on the keyboard, to the right of the number keys: `-` line 1, `[` line 2, `'` line 3, `/` line 4. Repeating the control key makes brackets taller. Round brackets are typed with `(` and `)`, square brackets with the keys directly below them, `0` and `P`.

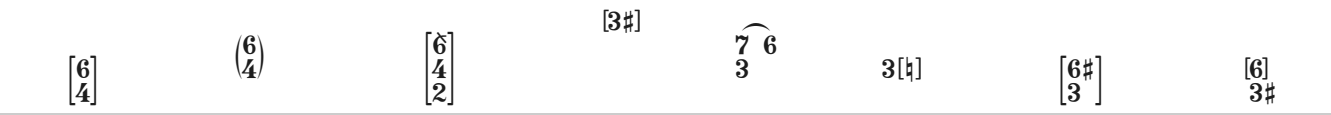
In music programs (e.g. Finale in lyrics mode) the hyphen `-` moves on to the next syllable. There, use `=` instead of `-` and `+` instead of `_`: all combinations work the same way, e.g. `=03\!=P` for `-03\!-P`. A control key typed on its own shows its key symbol until the combination is complete.

Level	round	square	taller	taller still
Line 1 `-`	( ) `-( -)`	[ ] `-0 -P`		
Line 2 `[`	( ) `[( [)`	[ ] `[0 [P`	( ) [ ] `[[( [[)` `[[0 [[P`	
Line 3 `'`	( ) `'( ')`	[ ] `'0 'P`	( ) `''( '')` `''0 ''P`	( ) `'''( ''')` `'''0 '''P`
Line 4 `/`	( ) `/( /)`	[ ] `/0 /P`	( ) ( ) `//( //)` `///( ///)`	( ) `////( ////)` `////0 ////P`

Control key + key	Design alternatives and additional characters (here line 2, `[`)								
`-` `[` `'` `/` plus	`5`	`6`	`7`	`9`	`l`[2]	`}`	`]`	`U`[3]	`u`
e.g. `[5` `[6` ...	⸸5	6	+7	9	–	^	+	⌒	‿

By repeating a key	line 1	line 2	line 3	line 4
Keys	`!!` `##`	`QQ` `EE`	`AA` `DD`	`ZZ` `CC`
Printed	⁑ ♭♭	⁑ ♭♭	⁑ ♭♭	⁑ ♭♭

Examples



[6 4]	(6 4)	[6 4 2]	[3♯]	7 6 3	3[♮]	[6♯ 3]	[6] 3♯
`//0vh//P`	`''(fy'')`	`///0xfY///P`	`-03\!-P`	`du{Uy`	`d|'0'PK`	`//0ch\A//P`	`'0ch'P\Z`

All examples work the same way in AKContinuoUS.

[2] The line can be extended in every level by pressing `l` repeatedly, without moving the cursor.

[3] If the control keys are pressed together with Shift (`_` `{` `"` `?`), the slurs on `u` and `U` are longer and leave additional space between the characters.

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