Example 12-4. Identifying chords in various configurations


Step 1: Take inventory. Consists of three distinct notes: D, B-flat, and F

Step 2: Rearrange until you find a stack of thirds

no no yes!
Step 3: As a stack of thirds, the bottommost note is the root (in this case, B-flat). The original chord is thus B-flat major in first inversion (figured bass: flat-six-three or flat-six) since $D$ is the bass note.


Step 1: Take inventory. Consists of four distinct notes: A, D, F-sharp, and C

Step 2: Rearrange until you find a stack of thirds


Step 3: As a stack of thirds, the bottommost note is the root (in this case, figured bass: seven-five-three). The original chord is thus D7 (major-minor) in second inversion (figured bass: six-four-three) since A is the bass note.

