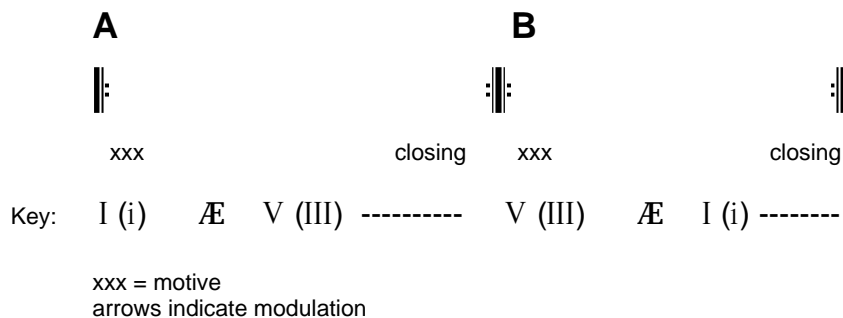
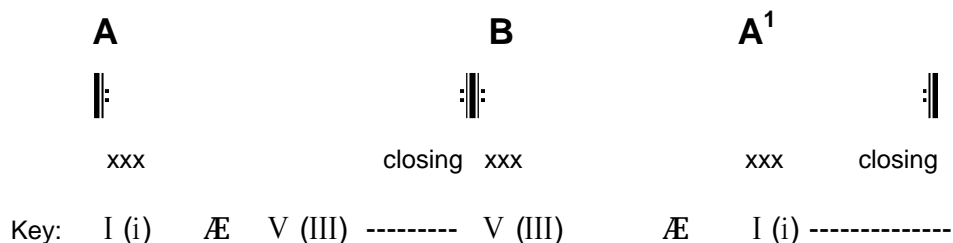


Binary and Rounded Binary Form



Binary form consists of two parts (A and B) which are each usually repeated. As the diagram above illustrates, the A section will normally modulate from I – V (i – III in minor). However, in short binary forms there may not be a modulation at all. The A section may merely end with a half cadence and the B section will redirect the harmony back to the tonic. Typically, the two sections will parallel one another in terms of their beginning idea (the motive marked xxx above) and their closing material. Identical closing material is referred to as cadential “rime.” If the original motivic material or theme of the A section returns in the tonic key before the close of the B section, the form is said to be **rounded binary**. The following diagram illustrates rounded binary form.



Checklist on Binary Forms

Binary Form may be...

- (1) **symmetrical** (both sections are of equal length) or **asymmetrical** (the sections are of different lengths).
- (2) **open** (if the A section cadences in a key other than the tonic or ends with a half cadence) or **closed** (if the A section cadences in the tonic).
- (3) in possession of **cadence rime** (either at the original pitch level or transposed).
- (4) with or without **repeats**. Occasionally, binary form is concealed by the absence of repeat signs.
- (5) **Simple** - closed and symmetrical.

Unrounded - closed or open; symmetrical or unsymmetrical; opening melodic material of the A section does not return at the end of the B section.

Rounded - closed or open; symmetrical or unsymmetrical; opening melodic material of the A section returns at the end of the B section.