Chord Progression Chart.

The chords in every major key, with Roman numerals, Nashville numbers and the progressions players use most.

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CHORDS & HARMONY

Chords in Every Key

The seven chords of every major key, in circle-of-fifths order. Pick your key's row and read across; read down a column to see the same number in every key.

NUMERAL NUMBER	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
	1	2m	3m	4	5	6m	7°
C major A minor	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
G major E minor	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F♯°
D major B minor	D	Em	F♯m	G	A	Bm	C♯°
A major F♯ minor	A	Bm	C♯m	D	E	F♯m	G♯°
E major C♯ minor	E	F♯m	G♯m	A	B	C♯m	D♯°
B major G♯ minor	B	C♯m	D♯m	E	F♯	G♯m	A♯°
F♯ major D♯ minor	F♯	G♯m	A♯m	B	C♯	D♯m	E♯°
D♭ major B♭ minor	D♭	E♭m	Fm	G♭	A♭	B♭m	C°
A♭ major F minor	A♭	B♭m	Cm	D♭	E♭	Fm	G°
E♭ major C minor	E♭	Fm	Gm	A♭	B♭	Cm	D°
B♭ major G minor	B♭	Cm	Dm	E♭	F	Gm	A°
F major D minor	F	Gm	Am	B♭	C	Dm	E°

Uppercase numerals and plain numbers are major chords, lowercase and m are minor, ° is diminished. Shaded: 1, 4 and 5, the three main chords. Each key's relative minor uses the same seven chords, with 6m as home.

Common progressions

1 – 4 – 5
I–IV–V · Rock, folk, country
in G: **G – C – D**

1 – 5 – 6m – 4
I–V–vi–IV · Pop
in G: **G – D – Em – C**

2m – 5 – 1
ii–V–I · Jazz, and the end of many songs
in G: **Am – D – G**

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Roman Numerals

Numerals name chords by scale degree, so a progression works in any key.

I Uppercase = major · **ii** Lowercase = minor · **°** Diminished · **+** Augmented · **7** Adds the 7th (V7, ii7)

What each chord does

Tonic Home, at rest	I vi iii
Predominant Moves away	IV ii
Dominant Tension, pulls home	V vii°

iii is sometimes grouped with the dominant instead of the tonic.

PRACTICE TIP

Say the note names out loud as you read.

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Nashville Numbers

Nashville numbers name each chord by its place in the key, like Roman numerals but in plain digits. Write a song once in numbers and the band can play it in any key.

1	A major chord	**in C: C**
2m	m: a minor chord	**in C: Dm**
7°	°: diminished	**in C: B°**
5⁷	Adds the 7th	**in C: G7**
1/3	The 3rd in the bass	**in C: C/E**

A chart in numbers

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star	**1**	**4 1**	**4 1**	**5 1**
in C	C	F C	F C	G C
in G	G	C G	C G	D G

One number is one bar. Two numbers underlined share the bar, usually two beats each.

Minor keys: some players number from the relative major, so a song in A minor has 6m as home; others call the home chord 1m. Agree with your band which you use.

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Common Progressions

I vi Uppercase = major · lowercase = minor

NUMERALS	IN C	STYLE
I V vi IV	C · G · Am · F	Pop anthem
vi IV I V	Am · F · C · G	Same chords, starting on minor
I vi IV V	C · Am · F · G	'50s doo-wop
I IV V	C · F · G	Rock, folk, country
ii V I	Dm7 · G7 · Cmaj7	Jazz's most common move

12-Bar Blues

C7 I7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7
F7 IV7	**F7** IV7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7
G7 V7	**F7** IV7	**C7** I7	**G7** V7

The last bar (V7) is the turnaround back to the top; end the song on I7 instead.

PRACTICE TIP

Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.

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