

Chord Theory

Key of C

C Dmin. Emin. F G Amin. B min C

I ii iii IV V vi vii I

Every step of the scale has a number. Chords are built on each step and their number is written in Roman Numerals. The MOST IMPORTANT Chords are written in upper case... they are the ones always used in songs written in a Major Key. The other chords might be included, but the I (one) chord and the V (five) chord will always be there, and most of the time the IV chord will be used.

Songs usually start with the I(one) chord, and end with the I (one) chord. The V (five) chord always "leads" into the I (one) chord. So, the last two chords in the key of C would be G, then C. There are exceptions to every rule, so you might sometimes see the IV (four) chord leading into the final chord. In the key of C the last two chords in this case would be F then C. This is the "A-men" chord progression.

Notice the the chords can be in an "inversion" in other words, the key note is not on the bottom.

Chord progression in C

9 C F G D

I IV V I

Chord progression in G

G C D G

I IV V I

Chord progression in D

13 D G A D

I IV V I

Chord progression in F

F B \flat C F

I IV V I

To modulate from any key to another key, play the V chord (or the V7 - add the 7th of the V Chord) of the NEW key, then play the I chord in the new key.

Example: Modulate from Key of C to Key of F.

17 C C7 F F B \flat C7 F

I V7ofF F I IV V7 I

Transposition Chords Progression in New Key

Example: Modulate from Key of F to Key of G

F D7 G G C D7 G

I V7ofG G I IV V7 I

Transposition Chords Progression in New Key