

## Major Chord Progressions

Chords that move (or progress) from one to another are called a CHORD PROGRESSION. Because the I, IV and V chords contain all the notes of the major scale, they can be used to ACCOMPANY (play along with) most simple melodies. In many chord progressions, a V<sup>7</sup> chord is used in place of the V chord.

C                      F                      C                      G                      G<sup>7</sup>                      C

I                      IV                      I                      V                      or                      V<sup>7</sup>                      I

When the IV and V (or V<sup>7</sup>) chords are in root position, the progression sounds choppy. To make it easier to play and sound smoother, the IV chord often is moved to the 2nd inversion, and the V (or V<sup>7</sup>) chord often is moved to the 1st inversion.

In the IV chord, the 5th (C) is moved down an octave.

2nd inversion  
1 octave lower

IV                      IV<sup>6/4</sup>

In the V chord, the 3rd (B) and 5th (D) are moved down an octave.

1st inversion  
1 octave lower

V                      V<sup>6</sup>

In the V<sup>7</sup> chord, the 3rd (B), 5th (D) and 7th (F) are moved down an octave.

1st inversion  
1 octave lower

V<sup>7</sup>                      V<sup>6/5</sup>

The following positions are often used for smooth progressions. Notice there is a common tone between each chord.

Root Position      2nd Inversion      Root Position      1st Inversion      Root Position

I                      IV<sup>6/4</sup>                      I                      V<sup>6</sup> or V<sup>6/5</sup>                      I

## Exercises

- Write the chords in root position in the key of G major. Write the chord symbol for each above the staff.

I                      IV                      I                      V and V<sup>7</sup>                      I

- Rewrite the above chord progression to make it sound smoother. Add chord symbols.

I                      IV<sup>6/4</sup>                      I                      V<sup>6</sup> and V<sup>6/5</sup>                      I

- Write the chords in root position in the key of F major. Write the chord symbol for each above the staff.

I                      IV                      I                      V and V<sup>7</sup>                      I

- Rewrite the above chord progression to make it sound smoother. Add chord symbols.

I                      IV<sup>6/4</sup>                      I                      V<sup>6</sup> and V<sup>6/5</sup>                      I

**Unit 13** **ACTIVITY 5** Name/Class \_\_\_\_\_**Major Chord Progressions**

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**1** Chord progressions are used to \_\_\_\_\_ melodies.

2-8

**2** The most common chords used in major chord progressions, because they contain all the notes of the major scale are the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ chords.**3** Write the chord progression in each given key, using inversions as indicated for a smooth chord progression. Write the chord symbols above the staff.

F Bb/F

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

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I IV<sub>4</sub><sup>6</sup> I V<sup>6</sup> & V<sub>5</sub><sup>6</sup> I

6-90

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