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\(^7\) chord is used in place of the V chord.

![Chord Progression Diagram]

When the IV and V (or V\(^7\)) 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\(^7\)) chord often is moved to the 1st inversion.

- In the IV chord, the 5th (C) is moved down an octave.
- In the V chord, the 3rd (B) and 5th (D) are moved down an octave.
- In the V\(^7\) chord, the 3rd (B), 5th (D) and 7th (F) are moved down an octave.

![Inversion Diagrams]

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root Position</th>
<th>2nd Inversion</th>
<th>Root Position</th>
<th>1st Inversion</th>
<th>Root Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>IV(^6)</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>V(^6) or V(^5)</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercises**

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

   ![Chord 1 Diagram]

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

   ![Chord 2 Diagram]

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

   ![Chord 3 Diagram]

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

   ![Chord 4 Diagram]