

Common Chord Progressions

I-IV-V in all keys

C: C-F-G
G: G-C-D
D: D-G-A
A: A-D-E
E: E-A-B
B: B-E-F#
F#: F#-B-C#
F: F-Bb-C
Bb: Bb-Eb-F
Eb: Eb-Ab-Bb
Ab: Ab-Db-Eb
Db: Db-Gb-Ab

I-IV-V progressions are all over music!!!
Some songs that use this progression are:
Twist and Shout, La Bamba, Louie, Louie and
Wild Thing.

I-vi-IV-V in all keys

C: C-Am-F-G
G: G-Em-C-D
D: D-Bm-G-A
A: A-F#m-D-A
E: E-C#m-A-B
B: B-G#m-E-F#
F#: F#-D#m-B-C#
F: F-Dm-Bb-C
Bb: Bb-Gm-Eb-F
Eb: Eb-Cm-Ab-Bb
Ab: Ab-Fm-Db-Eb
Db: Db-Bbm-Gb-Ab

I-vi-IV-V progressions are everywhere!
Notice that the Roman Numeral for vi is
lower case. This indicates a minor chord.
Stand by Me, Last Kiss, and Blue Moon
are popular examples of this progression.

vi-V-IV in all keys

C: Am-G-F
G: Em-D-C
D: Bm-A-G
A: F#m-E-D
E: C#m-B-A
B: G#m-F#-E
F#: D#m-C#-B
F: Dm-C-Bb
Bb: Gm-F-Eb
Eb: Cm-Bb-Ab
Ab: Fm-Eb-Db
Db: Bbm-Ab-Gb

vi-V-IV progressions are popular in rock and
roll. For example, Stairway to Heaven and
All Along the Watchtower use this
progression.

I-V-vi-IV in all keys

C: C-G-Am-F
G: G-D-Em-C
D: D-A-Bm-G
A: A-E-F#m-D
E: E-B-C#m-A
B: B-F#-G#m-E
F#: F#-C#-D#m-B
F: F-C-Dm-Bb
Bb: Bb-F-Gm-Eb
Eb: Eb-Bb-Cm-Ab
Ab: Ab-Eb-Fm-Db
Db: Db-Ab-Bbm-Gb

The Beatles' Let it Be and Bob Marley's No Woman No Cry are examples of this.

I-V-IV in all keys

C: C-G-F
G: G-D-C
D: D-A-G
A: A-E-D
E: E-B-A
B: B-F#-E
F#: F#-C#-B
F: F-C-Bb
Bb: Bb-F-Eb
Eb: Eb-Bb-Ab
Ab: Ab-Eb-Db
Db: Db-Ab-Gb

The Who's Baba O'Rielly and If I had a Million Dollars by the Barenaked Ladies use this progression.

vi-IV-I-V in all keys

C: Am-F-C-G
G: Em-C-G-D
D: Bm-G-D-A
A: F#m-D-A-E
E: C#m-A-E-B
B: G#m-E-B-F#
F#: D#m-B-F#-C#
F: Dm-Bb-F-C
Bb: Gm-Eb-Bb-F
Eb: Cm-Ab-Eb-Bb
Ab: Fm-Db-Ab-Eb
Db: Bbm-Gb-Db-Ab

This is a relatively modern progression. Joan Osborn's One of Us as well as the Red Hot Chili Peppers use this progression.

ii-V-I in all keys

C: Dm-G-C

G: Am-D-G

D: Em-A-D

A: Bm-E-A

E: F#m-B-E

B: C#m-F#-B

F#: G#m-C#-F#

F: Gm-C-F

Bb: Cm-F-Bb

Eb: Fm-Bb-Eb

Ab: Bbm-Eb-Ab

Db: Ebm-Ab-Db

One of the most important progressions.
Especially common in jazz, also found in
Maroon 5's Sunday Morning.