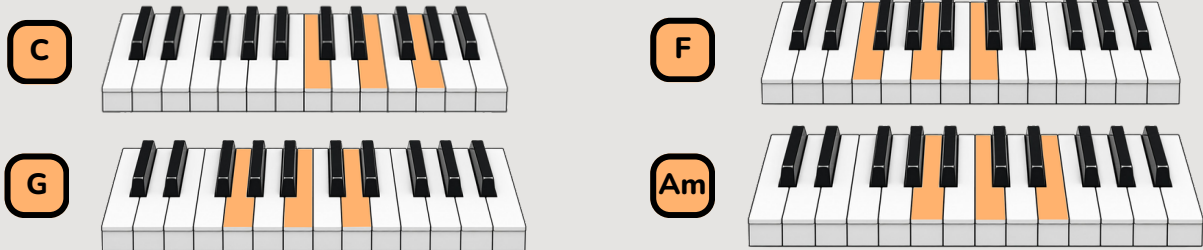


PLAY HUNDREDS OF SONGS WITH JUST 4 CHORDS

The chord progressions behind the music you already know

Four chords do an extraordinary amount of the work in popular music. Learn them, learn the orders they get played in, and you hold the harmony behind hundreds of songs you have loved your whole life. Here they are in the key of C major, along with nine progressions that real songs actually use.



These are not just C, F, G and Am

They are the 1, 4, 5 and 6 chords of a major key. C major is simply the easiest key to show them in. Every progression on this sheet works in every other key too, using that key's own 1, 4, 5 and 6 chords. The songs listed were not all recorded in C. The pattern is what they share.

THE EIGHT PROGRESSIONS

PROGRESSION				1	SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
I	V	vi	IV	Let It Be The Beatles	Love Story Taylor Swift	I'm Yours Jason Mraz	With or Without You U2	
C	G	Am	F	No Woman, No Cry Bob Marley	Don't Stop Believin' Journey	Anti-Hero Taylor Swift	It's My Life Bon Jovi	
Poker Face Lady Gaga				She Will Be Loved (chorus) Maroon 5	Wrecking Ball Miley Cyrus	Titanium David Guetta ft. Sia	Halo Beyoncé	
This is the most used progression in modern popular music. The comedy band "Axis of Awesome" created a fun song medley with it, stringing dozens of hits together over the same four chords without changing them. Search "Axis of Awesome 4 Chords" on YouTube to see it.								

PROGRESSION				2	SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
vi	IV	I	V	<i>Zombie</i> The Cranberries	<i>All of Me</i> John Legend	<i>Perfect (chorus)</i> Ed Sheeran	<i>Apologize</i> OneRepublic	
Am	F	C	G	<i>Let Her Go</i> Passenger	<i>Firework</i> Katy Perry	<i>Save Tonight</i> Eagle-Eye Cherry	<i>Numb</i> Linkin Park	
<i>Africa (chorus)</i> Toto				<i>Paradise</i> Coldplay	<i>Demons</i> Imagine Dragons	<i>Secrets</i> OneRepublic	<i>Impossible</i> James Arthur	
The same four chords as number 1, started on the minor. That one change makes it feel darker and more emotional.								

PROGRESSION				3 SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
IV	I	V	vi	<i>Umbrella</i> Rihanna	<i>Complicated</i> Avril Lavigne	<i>Party in the U.S.A.</i> Miley Cyrus	<i>Fireflies</i> Owl City
F	C	G	Am	<i>Dynamite</i> Taio Cruz	<i>Raise Your Glass</i> P!nk	<i>Breakaway</i> Kelly Clarkson	<i>Bad Blood</i> Taylor Swift
Similar to progression 1, but it starts on the 4 chord. Feels uplifting from the very first chord because it starts on the 4.							

PROGRESSION				4 SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
I	vi	IV	V	<i>Stand By Me</i> Ben E. King	<i>Perfect (verse)</i> Ed Sheeran	<i>Every Breath You Take</i> The Police	<i>Unchained Melody</i> The Righteous Brothers
C	Am	F	G	<i>Runaround Sue</i> Dion	<i>Blue Velvet</i> Bobby Vinton	<i>Earth Angel</i> The Penguins	<i>Blue Moon</i> The Marcels
A genuinely different order, not a rearrangement of the first two. Warmer and more settled.							

PROGRESSION				5 SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
I	IV	V	V	<i>Twist and Shout</i> The Beatles	<i>La Bamba</i> Ritchie Valens	<i>Old Time Rock and Roll</i> Bob Seger	<i>Ring of Fire</i> Johnny Cash
C	F	G	G	<i>I Love Rock 'n' Roll</i> Joan Jett	<i>Three Little Birds</i> Bob Marley	<i>Surfin' U.S.A.</i> The Beach Boys	<i>Fortunate Son</i> Creedence Clearwater Revival
No A minor chord. Very popular progression from the 60's to the 80's, and still one of the most joyful.							

PROGRESSION				6 SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION			
I	V	IV	IV	<i>Seven Bridges Road</i> The Eagles	<i>Bad Moon Rising</i> Creedence Clearwater Revival	<i>Helpless</i> Neil Young	<i>All Summer Long</i> Kid Rock
C	G	F	F	<i>Sweet Home Alabama</i> Lynyrd Skynyrd	<i>Get a Haircut</i> George Thorogood	<i>Take It Easy</i> Eagles	<i>Folsom Prison Blues</i> Johnny Cash
The same three chords as number 5, however the 4 and 5 chords reversed. Completely different attitude. This one swaggers.							

PROGRESSION				7	SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION	
I	IV	I	V		<i>Brown Eyed Girl</i> Van Morrison	<i>The Lion Sleeps Tonight</i> The Tokens
C	F	C	G		<i>Blowin' in the Wind</i> Bob Dylan	<i>Mr. Tambourine Man</i> Bob Dylan

This progression comes home to the 1 chord in the middle, instead of travelling away from it. That return is what gives it its easy, rolling feel.

PROGRESSION				8	SONGS THAT USE THIS PROGRESSION	
I	IV	V	IV		<i>Walking on Sunshine</i> Katrina & the Waves	<i>The Joker</i> Steve Miller Band
C	F	G	F		<i>Kansas City</i> Wilbert Harrison	<i>Mustang Sally</i> Wilson Pickett

The 4 and 5 swap back and forth. A little bit of tension, then release, then tension again. That rocking motion is why it feels so danceable.

ONE LOOP, FOUR DOORS

Progressions 1, 2 and 8 are not three different progressions

They are the same circle of four chords, entered at different points. Play any of them round and round and you are travelling the same loop. The only thing that changes is where you got on.

C → G → Am → F
 Am → F → C → G
 F → C → G → Am
 G → Am → F → C

Learn the loop once and you have all four. The fourth door is the one almost nobody uses, and it is yours to explore.

HOW TO PLAY THESE

Play four steady counts on each chord. When you reach the end, go straight back to the beginning without stopping. Keep it going for a minute or two, and somewhere in there the song underneath starts to appear. Then try a different progression from the list and listen for how the mood changes, even though your hands are barely moving anywhere new.

Want to play these in any key?

Every progression here is built from the 1, 4, 5 and 6 chords, so it works in all twelve keys. The only thing standing between you and that is knowing your chords. Easiest Ever Chord Foundations teaches you all 12 major and 12 minor chords in a way that finally makes them stick.

Come and share how you got on

Post in the [Piano Learners Support Community on Facebook](#) and tell me which progression you recognised first. I read every post.