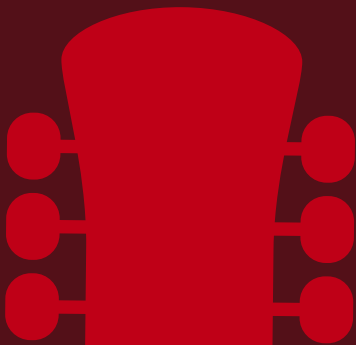




# Chord & Songwriting Cheat Sheet



The ultimate quick start  
guitar resource for beginners.



# Chord & Songwriting Cheat Sheet

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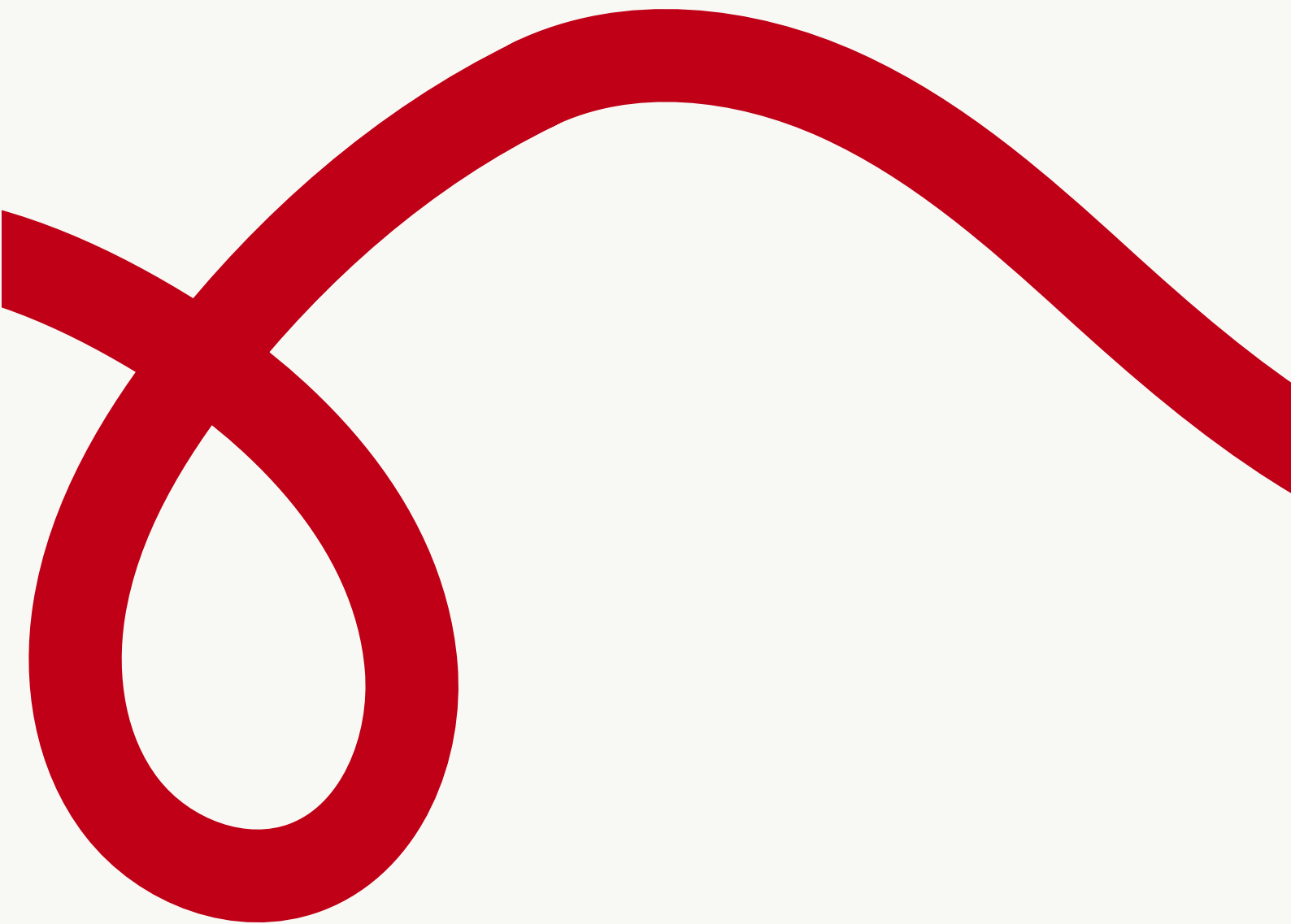
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## Chapter 1

# Introduction

An overview and introduction to this comprehensive eBook and a guide to the chord chart notation contained within this eBook.

- 1.1 MEET DAVE
- 1.2 WHAT'S IN THIS EBOOK?
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"I am a massive advocate for music theory knowledge and how much it can enhance your overall creativity and playing ability. However, I am also a bigger believer in kinesthetic learning, otherwise known as learning by 'doing'."

## Meet Dave



Hey my name is Dave Tran, founder of GuitarZero2Hero!

Thank you for your interest in GZ2H and for taking the time to download this book. It is my hope that regardless of your skill level, this resource will provide you with the tools to create an endless collection of chord progressions and songs.

I am super passionate not only about music and guitar, but also with helping others reach their musical potential on guitar. Picking up the guitar at age 12, I know first hand that learning your favorite songs and playing along to them is the fast track way to becoming a good guitarist and musician. Since then I have played in several bands in varying genres, and have been fortunate enough to have completed and traveled on countless national tours with international bands from the UK and US.

Within these bands I have composed and recorded over 2 full length releases and 7 EP's with world renowned producers and engineers in Australia and the US.

These kind of musical opportunities are not out of your reach, and I hope I can help you reach your goals as a guitarist and musician!

I look forward to hearing about your progress!

**DAVE TRAN**  
**GUITARZERO2HERO FOUNDER**

# What's in this book?

Welcome to your very own Guitar Chord & Songwriting Cheat sheet.

In this extremely handy and helpful value packed book, I'll provide you with the some of the most useful, beautiful, easy and straight-forward guitar chord charts available. This valuable eBook will not only introduce you to 100's of the most useful and common guitar chords, but it will also guide you in knowing which chords to use together to create professionally flowing songwriting structures.

The best part is that you don't need to understand the encyclopedia of music theory to begin implementing these techniques. Don't get me wrong, I am a massive advocate for music theory knowledge and how much it can enhance your overall creativity and playing ability. However, I am also a bigger believer in kinesthetic learning, otherwise known as learning by "doing". Wouldn't you have so much more fun actually constructing cool chord progressions and experimenting with what sounds cool as opposed to studying why it is the way it is?

I know personally for myself when I was learning that this was the case. Self experimentation, learning my favorite songs from my favorite artists and studying how they structured their chords in songs was a massive part of my guitar journey. I eventually learnt the musical theory behind everything which I still highly recommend. But playing, experimenting and learning my favorite riffs was by far, a much more rewarding and encouraging activity for me as a guitarist and provided me with one of the most important things when learning anything - Momentum.

**"Success is like a snowball.  
It takes momentum to build  
and the more you roll in the right  
direction, the bigger it gets."**

Whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced guitar player, the GuitarZero2Hero Chord & Songwriting Cheat Sheet will provide you with the tools to create an endless collection of chord progressions and songs.

## Chord Charts

- 1 THE BEGINNER GUITAR HERO'S ESSENTIAL CHORD CHART
- 2 MOVABLE POWER CHORDS CHART
- 3 MOVABLE CHORD SHAPES CHART
- 4 THE ULTIMATE CHORD LIBRARY

## Songwriting Cheat Sheets

- 1 MAJOR SONGWRITING CHORD MAPS IN 7 DIFFERENT KEYS
- 2 MINOR SONGWRITING CHORD MAPS IN 7 DIFFERENT KEYS

# Chord Chart Notation

For new beginners out there, reading a chord chart might look like just a bunch of lines and circles, thankfully reading a chord chart is not very difficult at all! There's just a few different things we need to keep in mind when reading chord charts.

Let's start with finger positioning - Each finger on your fretting hand is assigned a number/letter. This is the same regardless of whether you are fretting the guitar with your left or right hand.

Any circle with a number/letter designation on a chord chart simply means you will need to push that particular string down on that particular fret with the designated finger.

1 INDEX FINGER

2 MIDDLE FINGER

3 RING FINGER

4 PINKY FINGER

T THUMB

## Handy Hint

Visually, the chord charts shown in this eBook are a visual representation of 5 frets of a guitar neck standing vertically as shown in Figure 2. Therefore from left to right we have the thickest strings to thinnest strings respectively. Simple!

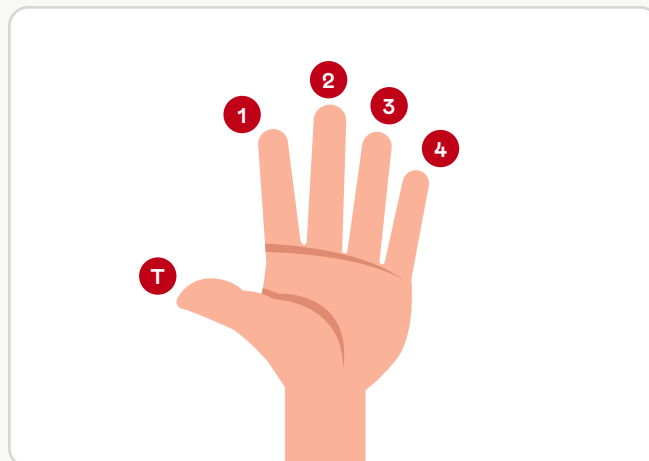


FIGURE 1: FRETTING HAND FINGER DESIGNATIONS



FIGURE 2: GUITAR NECK

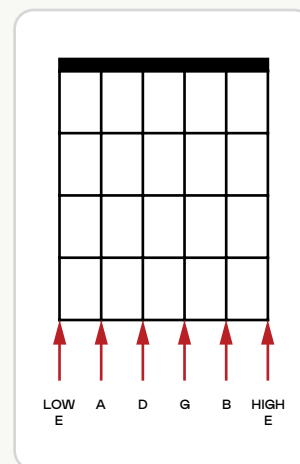


FIGURE 3: BLANK CHORD CHART

# Chord Chart Notation

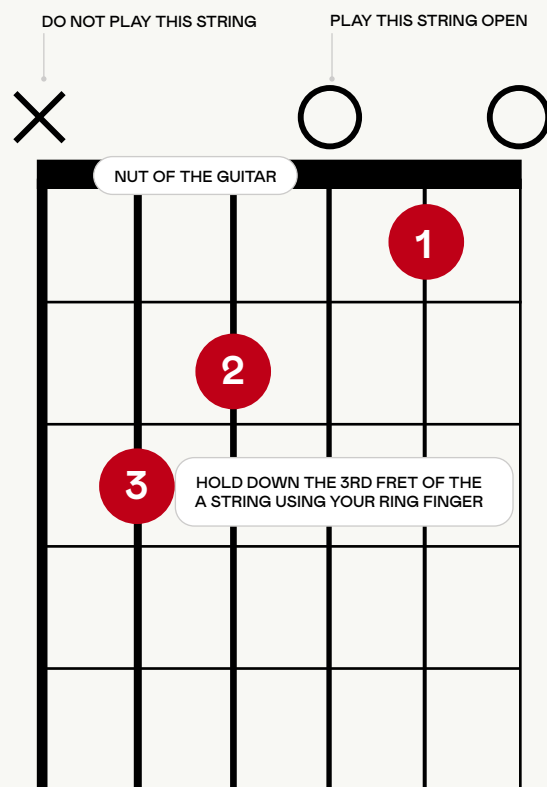
Figures 4 and 5 show examples of chord charts that we will see later on in this eBook. These charts have been annotated with the arrows to further explain what the different parts of the chord chart mean.

The main items to note:

- An open circle above a string means that the open string should be played in that chord. Do not mute it or push down on any fret of that string.
- A cross above a string means that we do not play this string in that particular chord.
- The thick black line at the top of the chord chart in Figure 4 represents the nut of the guitar neck. Figure 5 does not have this black line, meaning that this chord shape is further up the guitar neck.

- The “4f” note next to the chart in Figure 5 means that this chord shape begins at the 4th fret.
- The thick bar across Figure 5 indicates a barre chord. Hold down all strings along the bar with the finger number shown (for this example hold down 5 strings starting from the low A string on the 4th fret using the index finger).

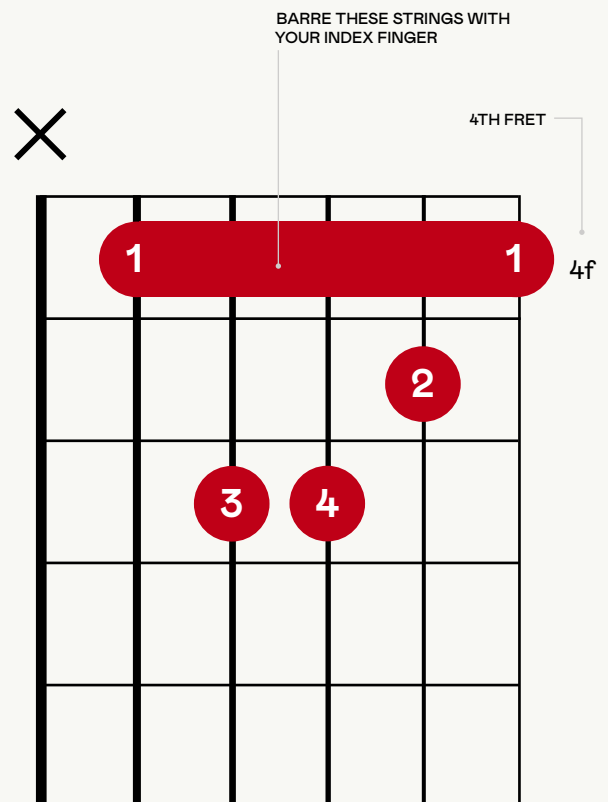
This concludes everything you need to know in order to be able to read a chord chart!



CHORD NAME

**C Major**

FIGURE 4: C MAJOR EXAMPLE



**C# Minor**

FIGURE 5: C# MINOR EXAMPLE



# Chord Chart Notation

Finally to avoid any confusion, we will run through some common abbreviations you may come across when reading chords across different publications.

In this ebook we will provide full names underneath each chord shape to help you learn the chord variants.

Below are the most common chord abbreviations.

A

=

A Major

LETTER BY ITSELF – NO SUFFIX

MAJOR CHORD

Am

=

A minor

m AFTER ROOT NOTE

MINOR CHORD

Am7

=

A minor 7th

m7 AFTER ROOT NOTE

MINOR 7 CHORD

Amaj7

=

AM7

=

A Major 7th

maj7 AFTER ROOT NOTE

CAPITAL M7 AFTER ROOT NOTE

MAJOR 7 CHORD

A7

=

A Dominant 7th

7 AFTER ROOT NOTE

DOMINANT 7 CHORD

A°

=

A dim

=

A diminished

° AFTER ROOT NOTE

dim AFTER ROOT NOTE

DIMINISHED CHORD

A+

=

A aug

=

A augmented

+ AFTER ROOT NOTE

aug AFTER ROOT NOTE

AUGMENTED CHORD

A5

=

A Power chord

5 AFTER ROOT NOTE

POWER CHORD

GZ2H Premium

## Go Premium Today!

If you guys find my free eBook helpful than I know for a fact you'll love GuitarZero2Hero Premium.

GuitarZero2Hero Premium is a complete step-by-step online course membership that teaches you to be a killer guitar player as fast as possible, whether you're a total noob or already have some experience. It goes far beyond what's contained in this ebook.

"I have been playing for a bit over a year (teaching myself) before I stumbled on GZ2H Premium. And so far it has given the biggest boost in learning the guitar for me. I slowed down and worked more focus and the results came surprisingly fast."

KARSTEN M

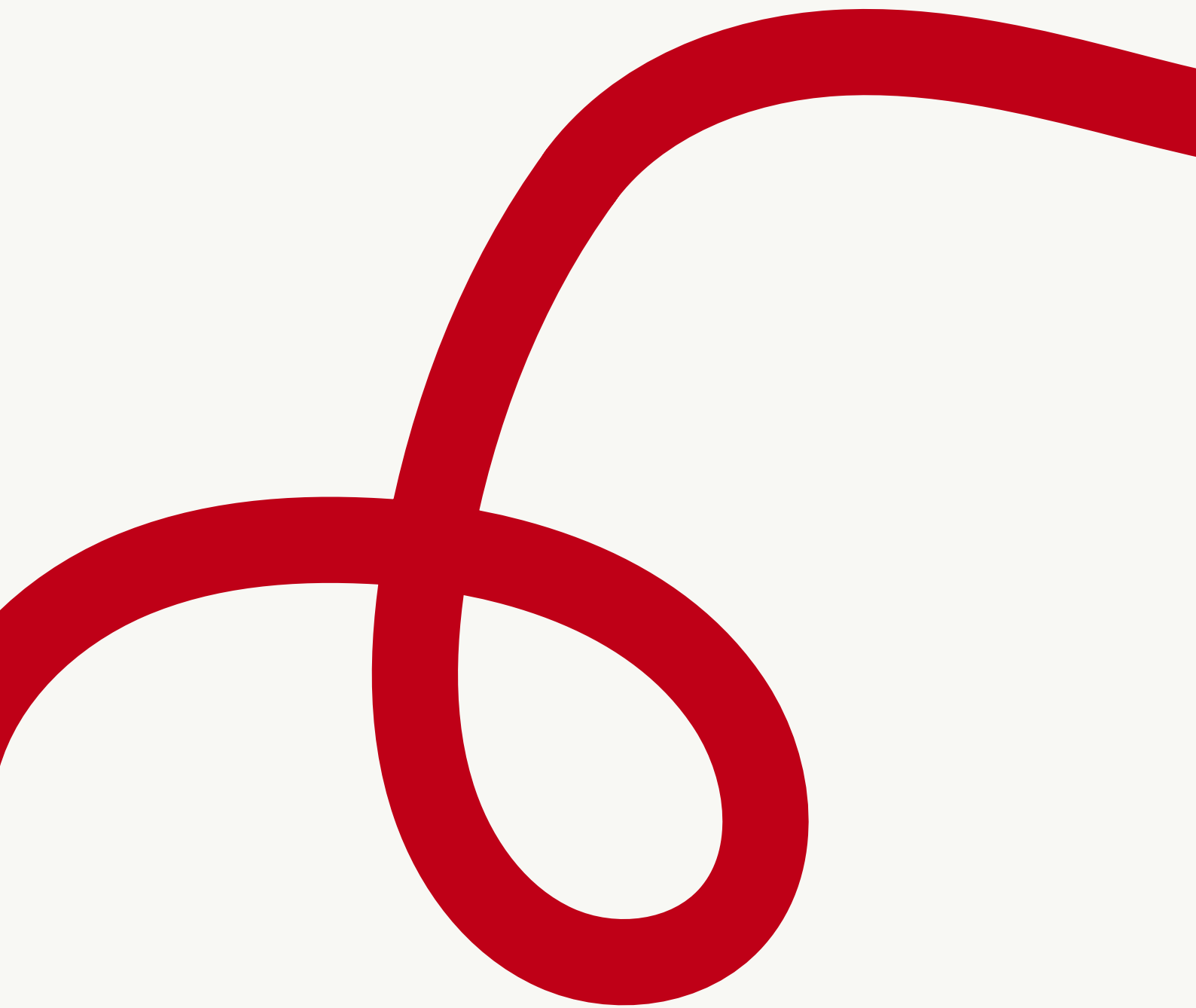


### GZ2H Premium

- Uncover the "stop trying so hard" learning philosophy - get really good really fast while learning guitar much more easily.
- Learn chords, scales, solo playing, fingerpicking, and much more — discover the unspoken "secrets" of being a pro player and you'll be able to learn any song you want.
- Complete step-by-step video course split up into 3 primary sections (Guitar Zero, Guitar Intermediate, Guitar Hero) — learn the essentials fast, and transition seamlessly to more advanced playing.
- More than 200 premium quality videos with visual overlays - never get confused or lost during a lesson.
- Quick-reference downloadable PDF guides for each concept - keep your skills sharp without needing to watch the videos over and over.
- 50% off all GuitarZero2Hero song TABs/ Chord musicsheets at [musicnotes.com](https://musicnotes.com)

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## Chapter 2

# Chord Charts

The most useful set of Guitar Chord Charts available!

- 2.1 THE BEGINNER GUITAR HERO'S ESSENTIAL CHORD CHART
- 2.2 F CHORD TIPS
- 2.3 MOVABLE POWER CHORD SHAPES CHART
- 2.4 MOVABLE BARRE CHORD SHAPES CHART
- 2.5 THE ULTIMATE CHORD LIBRARY

"The following pages provide you with the 16 most essential chords shapes that every guitarist should know. These are the chords that over my 14 years of playing and teaching experience appear in more songs than any other chords."

# The Beginner Guitar Hero's Essential Chord Chart

The chord chart on the following page provides you with the 12 most essential chords shapes that EVERY guitarist should know, along with real life photo's of how they should look.

These are the chords that over my 14 years of playing and teaching experience appear in more songs than any other chords.

If you're a beginner, study this, print it out, stick it on your bathroom door, stick it beside your bed, stick it on your fridge door, hell stick it anywhere you'll be able to see it daily!

There will be 2 versions of these charts

- The first with photos
- The second without photos

Once you've learnt the 16 chords on the next page you've basically learnt the guitar chord shapes used in roughly 60-80% of any song you've ever heard!

Want proof? If you've watched my YouTube video tutorials, you'll notice that 90-95% of the songs I teach use the chords on the next page with the use of a capo.

Pretty amazing when you think about it isn't it? That's some pretty good bang for your buck if you ask me!

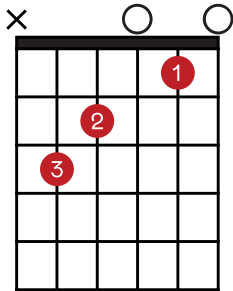
## Handy Hint

Practice your chord memorization and transitions by picking any random 2 chords from the next page. Run a metronome and practice switching between the 2 chords every 4 beats. Try to keep up!

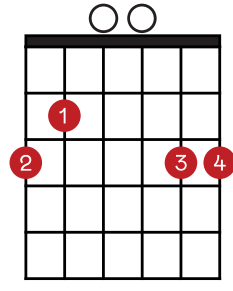


## The Beginner Guitar Hero's Essential Chord Chart

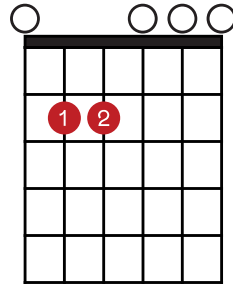
**C Major**



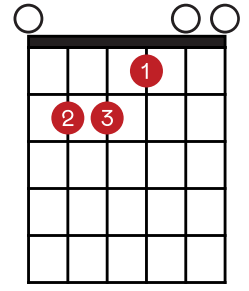
**G Major**



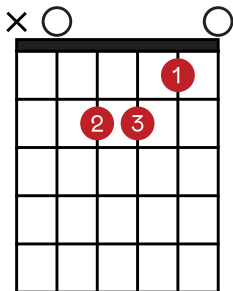
**E minor**



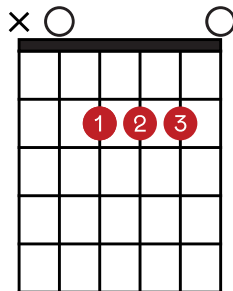
**E Major**



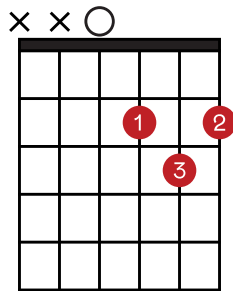
**A minor**



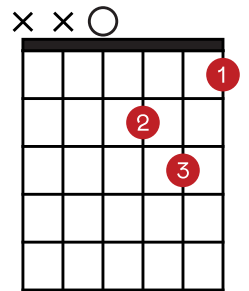
**A Major**



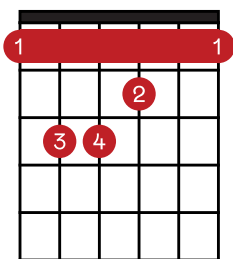
**D Major**



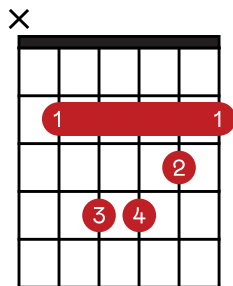
**D minor**



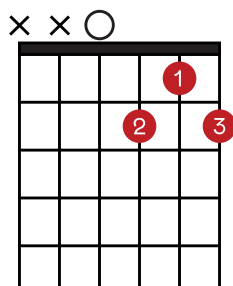
**F Major**



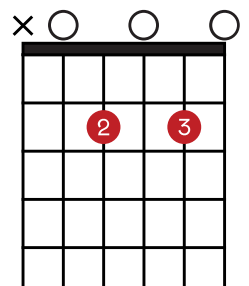
**B minor**



**D7**



**A7**





# F Chord Tips

As a guitar player, you've likely encountered the notorious F chord – the seemingly insurmountable hurdle that leaves many beginners feeling frustrated and discouraged. You might have even heard rumors about its difficulty, making you hesitant to tackle it head-on. However, in this section we will debunk the myths surrounding the F chord and show you why it should not be avoided.

### Embrace The Challenge

The F chord's reputation as a difficult chord to master is not entirely unfounded. For it's most common form, it does indeed require a bit more finger strength and coordination compared to some of the other basic chords. However, like any obstacle in life, mastering the F chord comes with its own set of rewards and benefits. By learning the full form of the F chord you're also learning how to play barre chords - killing 2 birds with 1 stone!

### Why Avoiding the F chord Hinders Progress

Avoiding the F chord may offer temporary relief, but it ultimately stunts your progress as a guitarist. If you continually sidestep the challenge, you'll miss out on essential opportunities for growth and improvement. Moreover, you might develop a mental block, fearing the F chord rather than embracing it.

Remember, every seasoned guitarist has faced this challenge at some point. It's a rite of passage, and once you conquer it, you'll gain a newfound confidence in your abilities.

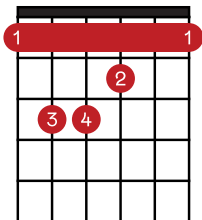
### Different Ways To Play The F Chord

One of the remarkable aspects of the F chord is the variety of ways you can play it on the guitar neck. Each variation offers its own advantages, and you can choose the one that best suits your current level. Here are a few popular ways to play the F chord:



#### F Barre Chord

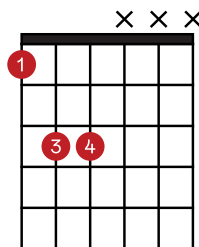
This form of the F chord is often the most daunting for beginners as it requires barring the first fret with your index finger. However, it opens up possibilities for playing this chord shape in different positions to easily play other major chords. With practice, the barre chord becomes more comfortable and serves as a versatile tool in your arsenal. Don't be discouraged if all the strings don't ring out clearly. It will improve over time with practice.



#### F Power Chord

A stripped-down version of the F chord, the F power chord consists of just the top 3 strings of the full F Barre chord. This chord shape is prevalent in rock, punk, and metal genres and serves as an excellent starting point for beginners before advancing to full-fledged F chords.

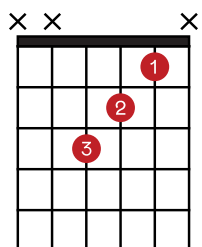
This is one of my favourite ways of getting a full sounding F without having to master the barre. You'll get 70-80% of the result of the full F barre chord with just these top strings.



#### F Triad Chord

This form of the F chord is the most simple to play however it sounds the least full, lacking the bottom end of the thicker strings.

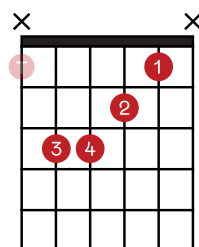
Additionally, you will need to be sure not to let any of the unfretted strings ring out (6th, 5th, 1st). This can be difficult when strumming so you'll need to be careful to target only the fretted strings within your strumming motion.



#### F/C

A slightly easier variation, the F/C chord omits the barre and allows you to focus on fretting only the middle four strings. Similarly to the easy F triad chord, don't let any of the unfretted strings (6th or 1st) ring out.

If you're up for the challenge you can even reach your thumb over the top to lightly fret the 1st fret of the 6th string. In doing so the chord can be considered an F as the lowest note is an F.



# Moveable Power Chord Shapes Chart

What are power chords you may ask? Power chords are perhaps the most common chord shape used in contemporary rock and roll. Name any famous rock band or rock song and more likely than not, they will feature a power chord somewhere. Bands like Blink-182, Green Day, AC/DC, Nirvana & Metallica have the majority of their songs played with power chords.

Musically speaking, power chords are abbreviations of full chords, or in other words - a shortened version of a chord which typically consists of 3 or more unique notes. A power chord consists of the root note, which identifies the name of the power chord, and the 5th note in the scale above the root note. It for this reason that power chords are formally known as 5 chords (for example - a C5 chord).

The beauty of the power chord is that they are incredibly easy to play, are extremely versatile and sound especially awesome in rock music. Learning how to play these is **ESSENTIAL** for any guitarist, so don't skip out on this next chord chart.

The reason why they sound so great in rock music and are used so widely in this genre probably has something to do with how open chords consisting of 5 or 6 strings sound with distortion - try it! It doesn't sound awful, but it does sound rather messy.

Now try play a power chord with distortion and you will notice that it sounds tight, focused and powerful.

The power chord chart on the following page provides you an easy visual guide to playing any power chord!

The following chord chart is another excellent resource to print out and have handy and stuck around anywhere you can see it. It's also a great way to learn some of the notes on the guitar.

There are 2 power chord shapes that we can use. The choice of which to use is a matter of personal preference as they both essentially achieve the same thing.

Let's review the 2 most common power chord shapes.

## Power Chord Shape 1

Contains 2 notes (2 unique notes)

- The root note
- The 5th above the root note

## Power Chord Shape II

Contains 3 notes (2 unique notes)

- The root note
- The 5th above the root note
- The octave above the root note (same as root)

As you can see from below, Power chord shape II is an extension of Power Chord Shape I and simply provides a fuller sound when played, but harmonically speaking, won't sound all that different.

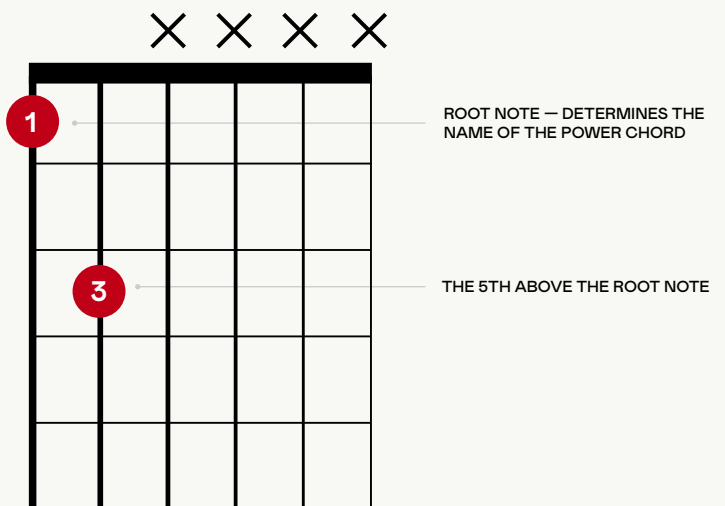


FIGURE 6: POWER CHORD SHAPE I

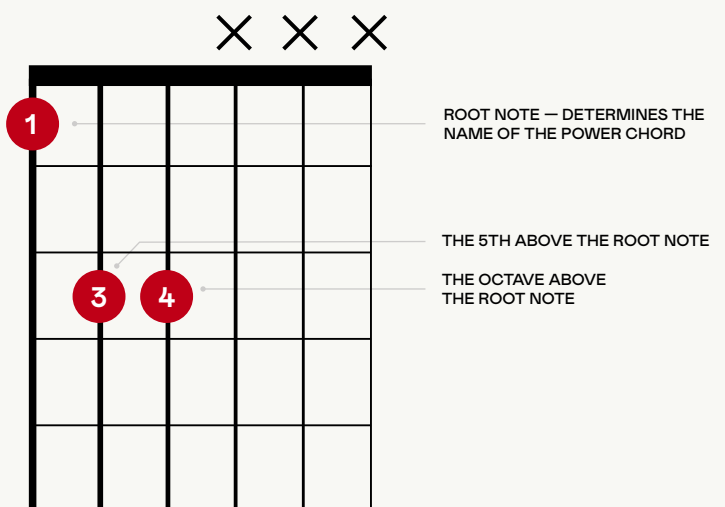


FIGURE 7: POWER CHORD SHAPE II

# Movable Power Chord Shapes Chart

## Step 1

- Determine what power chord you want/need to play.
- Find the note on 6th or 5th string of the fretboard.

*Example - F# Power Chord*

## Step 2

- Locate the root note for the F# power chord and use your index finger to position your power chord shape.

*Example - For an F# Power Chord, there are 2 options:*

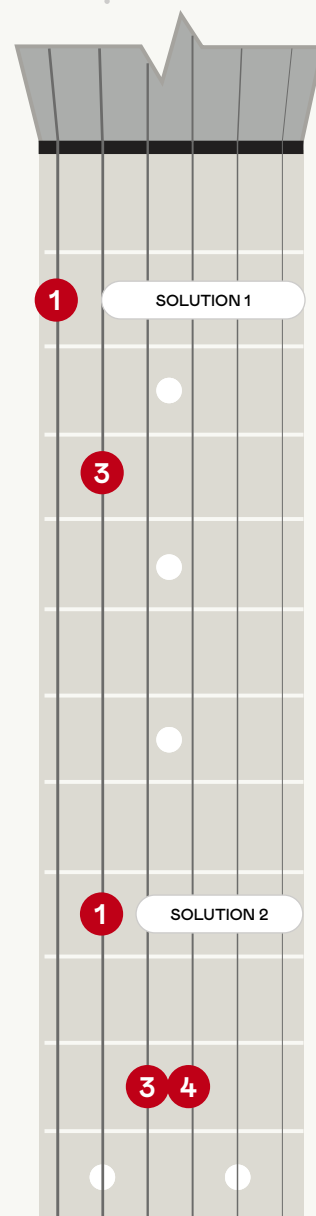
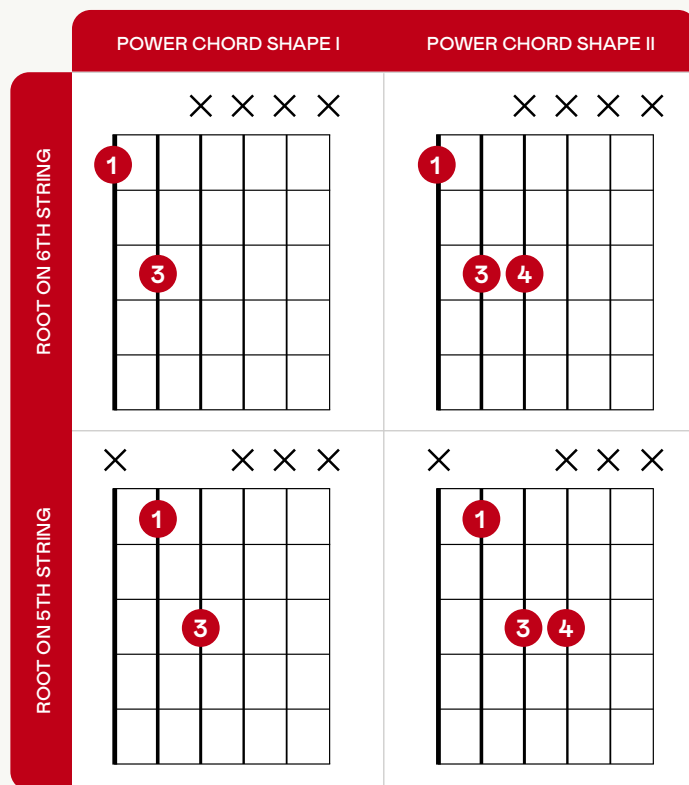
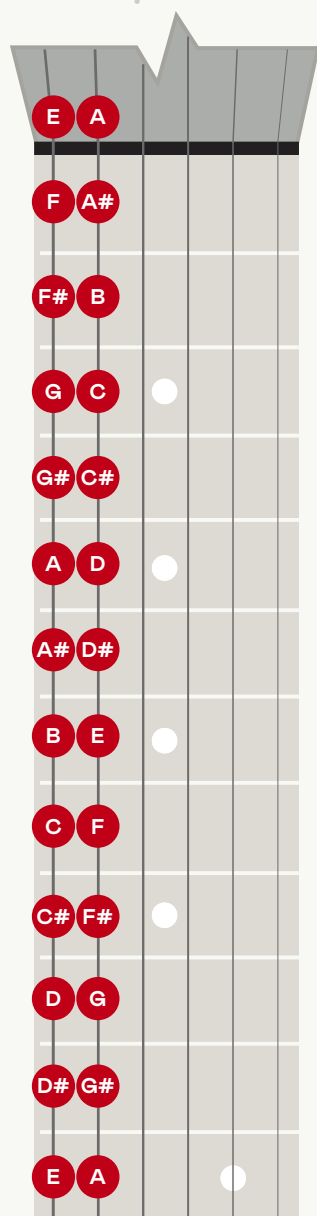
- 2nd Fret of the 6th string
- 9th Fret of the 5th string

## Step 3

- Depending on the shape you want to play (option I or II) place your other fingers relative to the index finger root note.
- Make sure to only strike the notes you're pushing down with your fretting hand. The other strings can be muted by have the index finger lightly resting over them.

*Example - F# Power Chord*

*See the 2 of the 4 possible solutions below! They are all correct. What you choose is a matter of preference and what sounds best for the song.*





# Moveable Barre Chord Shapes Chart

Barre chords are essential to a developing guitarists' chord arsenal. Barre chords are given their name from the way in which they are fretted - by having one or more fingers pressing down across multiple strings on the same fret. This resembles a rigid "bar" that presses down on the strings - hence the term "Barre Chord". If you're wondering "why the strange spelling?", well that's because the specific spelling "barre" comes from latin-Spanish, as the guitar originated from Spain.

In contrast to power chords, barre chords contain more notes in their composition and therefore provide more specific voicings. With power chords, if you were to strike a power chord by itself with no context (not in a chord progression), it would neither be minor or major. With barre chords we are able to be more intentional with what we play and we're able to add more depth and color to our chord.

When do we use barre chords? Well, barre chords are typically used for more complex voicings and for when we are playing in keys that are not suited to basic open chords. The beauty of barre chords are that their shapes are movable and universal!

If you look closely at the movable barre chord shapes on the next page, you will notice that the first two notes of every barre chord shape are power chords if played just by themselves! That's why you should consider barre chords as the "extension" or "add-on" of the power chord - think of it as the bells and whistles of the power chord. It goes without saying, but prior to learning barre chords, you should be able to play power chords. If you can't play a power chord properly then there will be a low chance you will be able to play a barre chord. Make sure your foundations are sound. Similar to power chords, we will base the root note of barre chords off either the 6th (E) or 5th (A) string of the guitar.

The following movable barre chords chart will provide you with 12 barre chord shapes which will allow you to play hundreds of chord variations, how neat is that?!

The one thing all the barre chord shapes have in common is that their name is dictated by their root note or the lowest note that your index finger plays. This system is similar to what we encountered with power chords.

The other thing the following barre chord shapes have in common is that they are all barred with the index finger. No exceptions!

With over a decade of teaching experience, barre chords are often a big hurdle for beginner guitarists, but as I will always say - with practice, patience and persistence, anyone can play barre chords (even if you have small hands!). At the core, barre chords are very basic, however beginner guitarists will often give up just because they can't immediately play the chord. This is NONSENSE and you (the reader) are better than this. Finger dexterity and strength takes practice, patience and persistence - 1 year from now for beginners, these 3 P's will separate the guitar

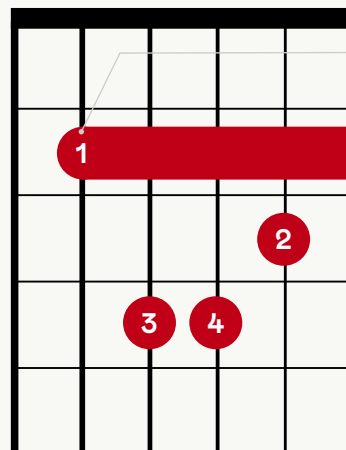


FIGURE 8: BARRE CHORD SHAPE EXAMPLE

# Movable Barre Chord Shapes Chart

## Step 1

- Determine what barre chord you want/need to play.
- Find the note on 6th or 5th string of the fretboard.

*Example - F# Major Barre Chord*

## Step 2

- Locate the root note for the F# major chord and use your index finger to barre across the entire fret starting from the root string.

*Example - For an F# Major Chord, there are 2 options:*

- 2nd Fret of the 6th string
- 9th Fret of the 5th string

## Step 3

- Depending on the shape you want to play (5th or 6th string major barre chord) place your other fingers relative to the index finger barred.
- Make sure to only strike the notes you're pushing down with your fretting hand. If playing a 5th string root barre chord, avoid striking the 6th string

*Example - F# Power Chord*

*See the possible solutions below! They are both correct. What you choose is a matter of preference and what sounds best for the song.*

	ROOT NOTE 6TH STRING	ROOT NOTE 5TH STRING
MAJOR		
MINOR		
MAJOR 7		
MINOR 7		
DOMINANT 7		

SOLUTION 1

SOLUTION 2

# The Ultimate Chord Library

The next chord library is perhaps one of the most useful reference tools in this chord and songwriting cheat sheet. The Ultimate Chord Library shown in the next 4 pages is a concise, compact and informative guide to over 200 chords including the suggested fingering position.

Think of it as your personal chord dictionary. See a chord that you don't recognize in a song tab? No worries, just refer to this beautifully laid out chord chart and you'll find your answer.

The Ultimate Chord Library is separated into the 12 different notes of the chromatic scale to provide you with a giant selection of common and supplementary chords in any root note.

Each root section will then be presented with 20 chord types shown below. The A root note has been used for the below example.

As with any chord on guitar, there is always more than one position to play it. The Ultimate Chord Library therefore is comprised of the easiest and most common sense finger positions for each chord.

For extra chord variations and positions, a great online tool to use is the JGuitar chord search engine.

<http://jguitar.com/>

## Handy Hint

Sharps and flats are the same pitch, just written differently. For example, C# and Db represent the note on the guitar. C# is just one semi-tone pitch higher than C, and Db is one semi-tone pitch lower than D. For the following chord library the non-natural roots are expressed using sharps



CHORD QUALITY	CHORD SYMBOL
Major chord	A
minor chord	Am
Dom 7th chord	A7
Major 7th chord	Amaj7
minor 7th chord	Am7
5 chord (Power Chord)	A5
add9 chord	Aadd9
diminished chord	Adim or A°
augmented chord	Aaug or A+
sus2 chord	Asus2
sus4 chord	Asus4
7sus2 chord	A7sus2
7sus4 chord	A7sus4
6th chord	A6
minor 6th chord	Am6
9th chord	A9
minor 9th chord	Am9
minor 7b5 chord (Half diminished)	Am7b5 or AØ
11th chord	A11
13th chord	A13

A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A		A	
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C#												
D												
Db												

D#		E		F	
D#	D#	E	E	F	F
D#sus2	D#	E	E	F	F
D#sus4	D#m	Em	Esus4	Fm	Fsus4
D#7	D#7	E7	E7sus2	F7	F7sus2
D#maj7	D#maj7	Emaj7	E7sus4	Fmaj7	F7sus4
D#m7	D#m7	Em7	E6	Fm7	F6
D#5	D#5	E5	Em6	F5	Fm6
D#add9	D#add9	Eadd9	E9	Fadd9	F9
D#dim or D#°	D#dim or D#°	Edim or E°	Em9	Fdim or F°	Fm9
D#aug or D#+	D#aug or D#+	Eaug or E+	E11	Faug or F+	F11
D#m7(b5) or D#m7b5	D#m7(b5) or D#m7b5	Em7(b5) or EØ	E13	Fm7(b5) or FØ	F13

<p><b>F#</b></p> <p><b>F#</b></p>	<p><b>F#m</b></p> <p><b>F#m</b></p>	<p><b>F#7</b></p> <p><b>F#7</b></p>	<p><b>F#maj7</b></p> <p><b>F#maj7</b></p>	<p><b>F#m7</b></p> <p><b>F#m7</b></p>	<p><b>F#5</b></p> <p><b>F#5</b></p>	<p><b>F#add9</b></p> <p><b>F#add9</b></p>	<p><b>F#dim or F#°</b></p> <p><b>F#dim or F#°</b></p>	<p><b>F#aug or F#+</b></p> <p><b>F#aug or F#+</b></p>	<p><b>F#13</b></p> <p><b>F#13</b></p>
<p><b>G</b></p> <p><b>G</b></p>	<p><b>Gm</b></p> <p><b>Gm</b></p>	<p><b>G7</b></p> <p><b>G7</b></p>	<p><b>Gmaj7</b></p> <p><b>Gmaj7</b></p>	<p><b>Gm7</b></p> <p><b>Gm7</b></p>	<p><b>G5</b></p> <p><b>G5</b></p>	<p><b>Gadd9</b></p> <p><b>Gadd9</b></p>	<p><b>Gdim or G°</b></p> <p><b>Gdim or G°</b></p>	<p><b>Gaug or G+</b></p> <p><b>Gaug or G+</b></p>	<p><b>G#13</b></p> <p><b>G#13</b></p>
<p><b>G#</b></p> <p><b>G#</b></p>	<p><b>G#m</b></p> <p><b>G#m</b></p>	<p><b>G#7</b></p> <p><b>G#7</b></p>	<p><b>G#maj7</b></p> <p><b>G#maj7</b></p>	<p><b>G#m7</b></p> <p><b>G#m7</b></p>	<p><b>G#5</b></p> <p><b>G#5</b></p>	<p><b>G#add9</b></p> <p><b>G#add9</b></p>	<p><b>G#dim or G#°</b></p> <p><b>G#dim or G#°</b></p>	<p><b>G#aug or G#+</b></p> <p><b>G#aug or G#+</b></p>	<p><b>G#13</b></p> <p><b>G#13</b></p>



## Chapter 3

# Songwriting Cheat Sheets

Easy to follow cheat sheets to get you writing your own amazing songs with basically no musical theory knowledge needed!

3.1 MAJOR KEY SONGWRITING CHORD MAPS

3.2 MINOR KEY SONGWRITING CHORD MAPS

"There are chord combinations and chord progressions which have been used time and time again for centuries due to their harmonious nature."



# Songwriting Chord Maps In 7 Different Major Keys

It can sometimes get confusing, especially for beginners, to understand and know what chord should follow another when writing a song. If you're new to music and music theory in general, you might have a hard time trying to learn what chords sounds good together. There are endless combinations for chord progressions which is the beauty of music, however there are of course combinations and progressions which have been used time and time again for centuries due to their harmonious nature.

In this section I map out an easy to follow chord map for 7 different major keys (out of a possible 12 - I have selected these keys as there are generally the most common you will use).

In each key I present to you the 7 chords that fit together for that key. Then, using the easy to follow infographic map you will be able to compose your own chord progressions in a matter of seconds! It's actually that easy.

I won't go into the nuts and bolts behind why the maps work, as it is my goal is to get you playing, writing and crafting your own songs straight away without worrying about the technical stuff. All you need to know is that it works! Having said that, I do strongly advocate that you try to learn about musical theory as well. There are endless benefits in understanding the blueprint behind the machine, but for now we will keep it simple.

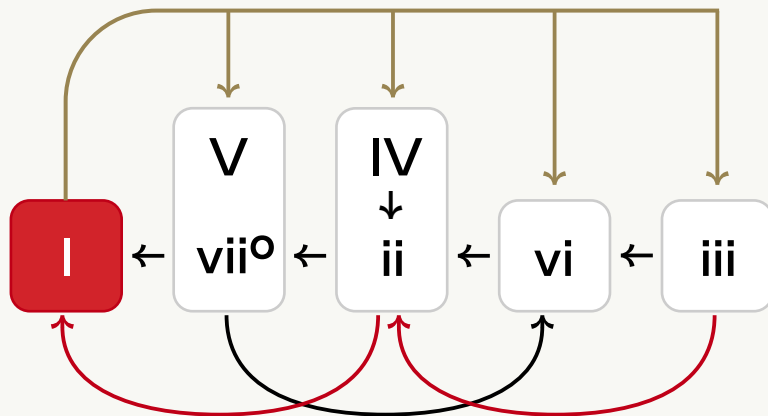
This section provides you with 7 Chord Map Cheat Sheets for the following keys:

- [C Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [D Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [E Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [F Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [G Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [A Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [B Major Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)

Despite keeping this guide free from complicated jargon, I would advise you to read the below dot points for tips, pointers in order to understand how to use the cheat sheet.

- Major keys are used generally for happier sounding songs. Especially if you're progression starts with the I chord.
- For each key, the 7 diatonic chords that work within that key are presented. They are represented by roman numerals 1-7 like so: (I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii°).
- The upper case numerals (I, IV and V) represent major chords and are classified as our primary chords.
- The lower case numerals (ii, iii and vi) represent minor chords and are classified as our secondary chords.
- The vii° chord is a diminished chord and is not commonly used in contemporary/pop music and is classified as a tertiary chord.
- To use the chord map, pick a starting chord and then follow the arrows to create your chord progression.
- The I chord is the typical starting point but it can be different a different chord.
- Select your path on the chord map until you are satisfied with your progression.
- Typically chord progressions contain 2-4 chords.
- The chord map provided is a GUIDE only. The beauty of music is that the rules are not binding. So you're also welcome to make chord jumps that aren't suggested on the map.
- Feel free to introduce chords outside of the key if you think they sound good. There's a science to this but we won't delve into it as beginners.
- Experiment with chord variants. Sus2 and sus4 chords are neither major or minor. They therefore can be used to replace any of the chords (with the exception of vii°) to provide more interesting progressions. For example instead of using A minor, try Asus2 or Asus4.
- Experiment with 7th chords. For example instead of using C Major, try C Major7.
- Experiment with strumming patterns and tempos. They can immediately change the feel of your song.
- Check out the example at the bottom of each cheat sheet to see how a famous act has structured their chord progression using the same principles

## Key of C Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

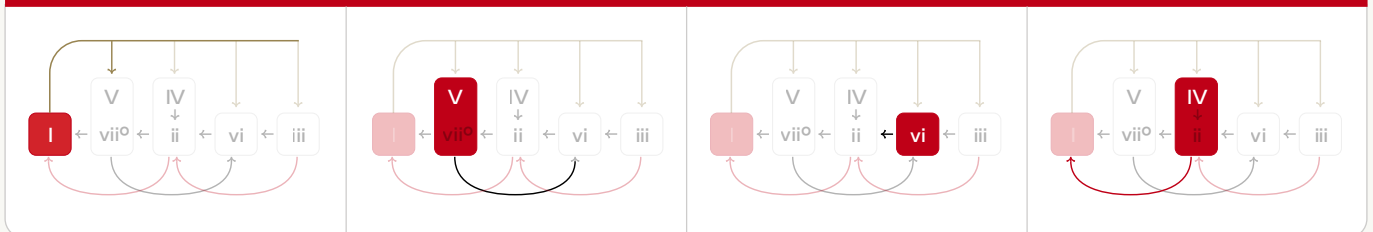


### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C Major	D minor	E minor	F Major	G Major	A minor	B diminished

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

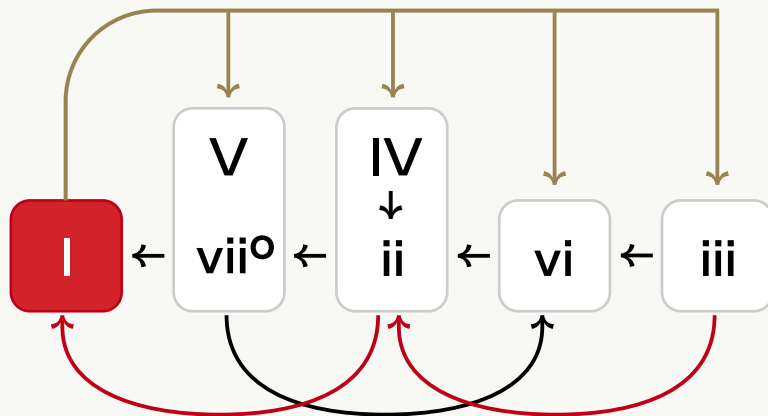
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

BLINK-182  
ALL THE SMALL THINGS

I - V - vi - IV  
C - G - Am - F

## Key of D Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

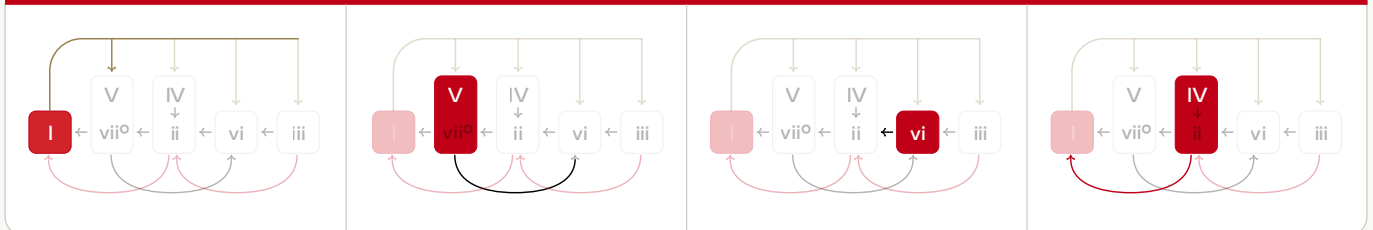


### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
D Major	E minor	F# minor	G Major	A Major	B minor	C# diminished

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

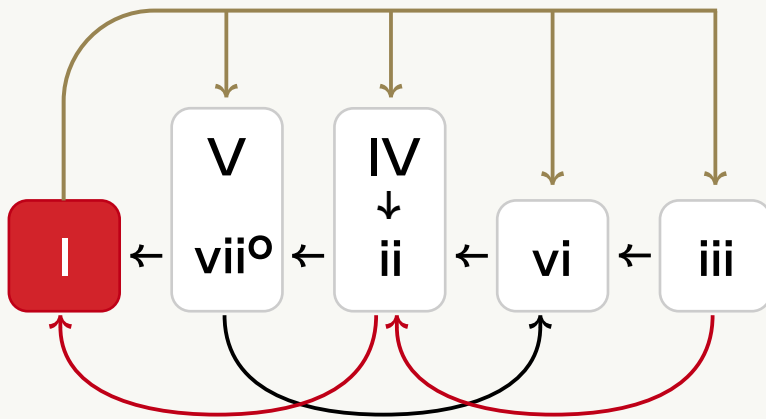
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

TAYLOR SWIFT  
LOVE STORY

I - V - vi - IV  
D - A - Bm - G

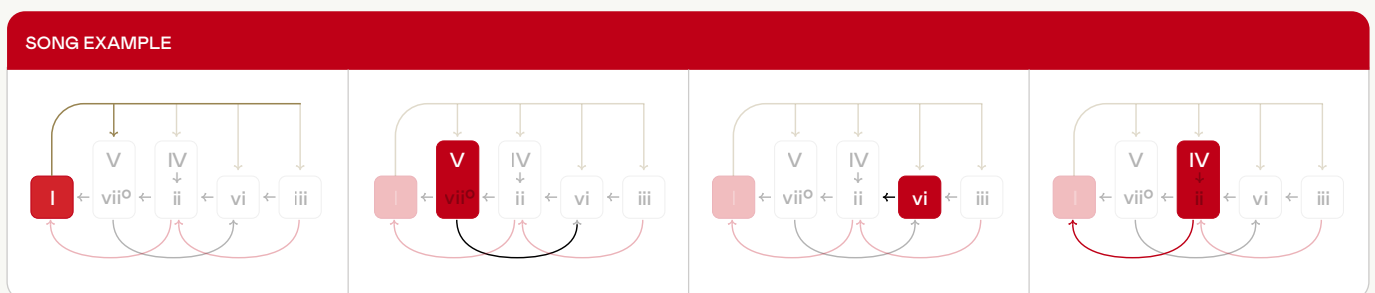
## Key of E Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet



### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
E Major	F# minor	G# minor	A Major	B Major	C# minor	D# diminished



### Directions

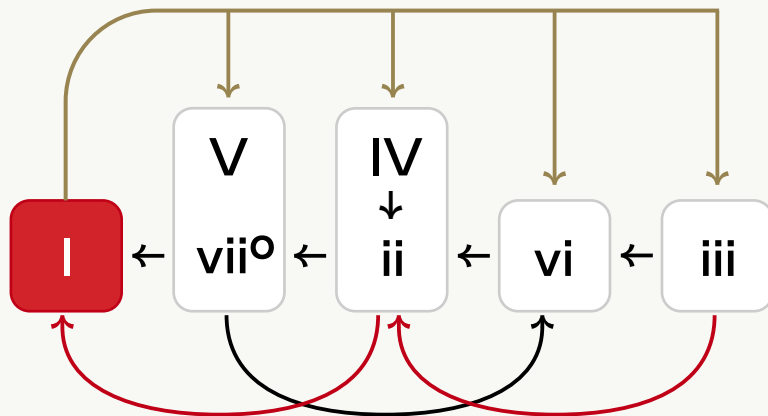
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS  
UNDER THE BRIDGE

I - V - vi - IV  
E - B - C#m - A

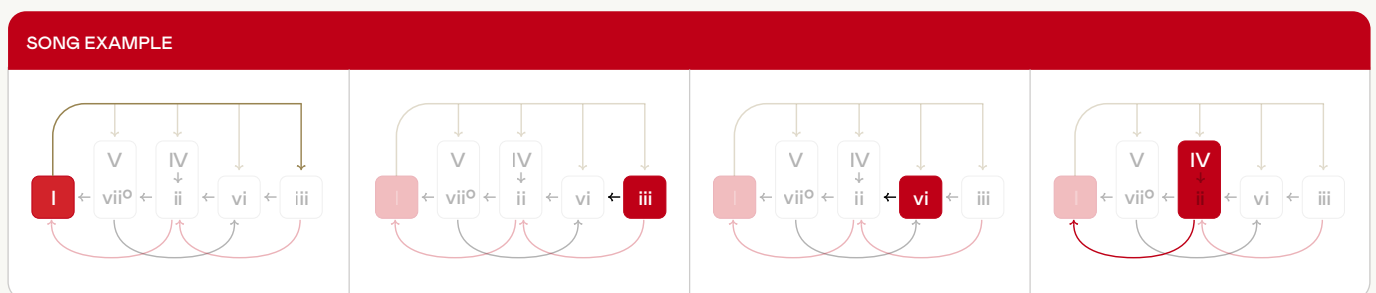
## Key of F Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet



### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
F Major	G minor	A minor	Bb Major	C Major	D minor	E diminished



### Directions

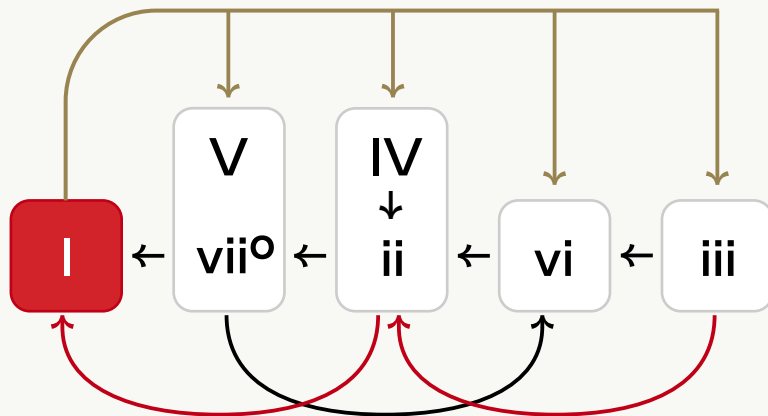
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

JESSIE J  
PRICE TAG

I - iii - vi - IV  
F - Am - Dm - Bb

## Key of G Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

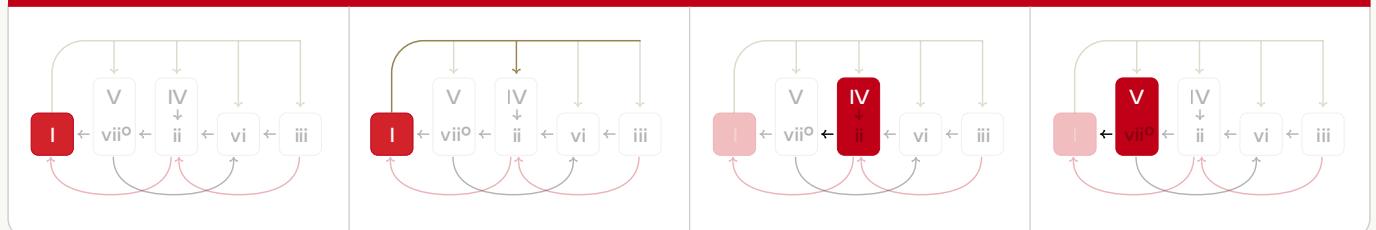


### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
G Major	A minor	B minor	C Major	D Major	E minor	F# diminished

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

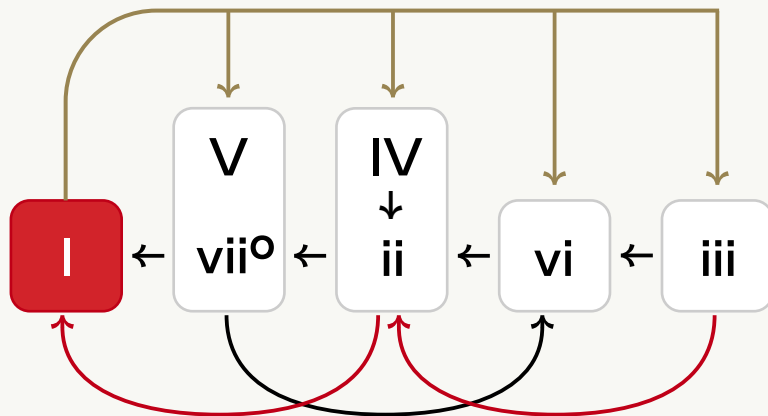
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

GREEN DAY  
TIME OF YOUR LIFE

I - I - IV - V  
G - G - C - D

## Key of A Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

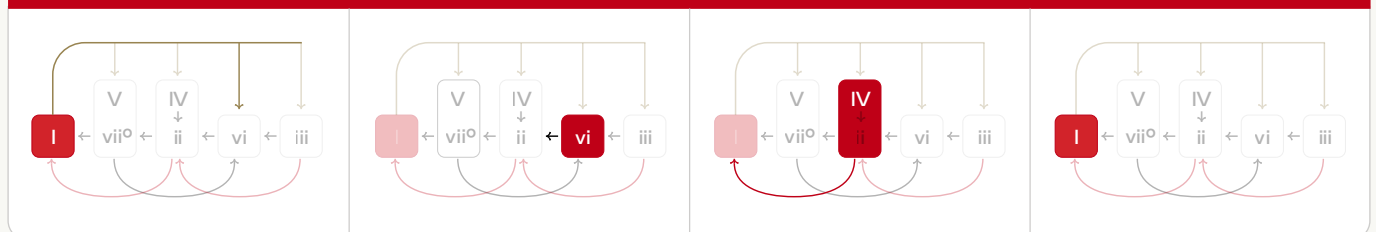


### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
A Major	B minor	C# minor	D Major	E Major	F# minor	G# diminished

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

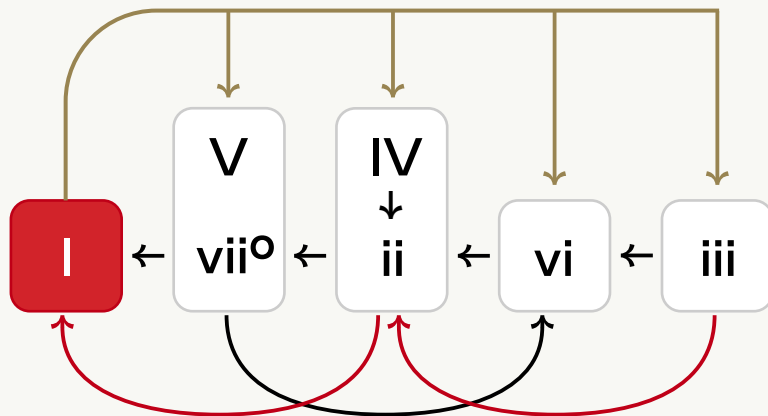
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

ED SHEERAN  
THE A TEAM

I - vi - IV - I  
A - F#m - D - A

## Key of B Major — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

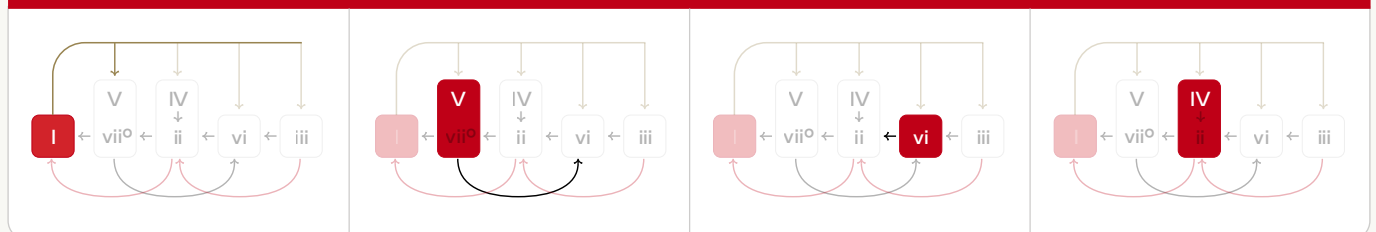


### Common Progressions

- I - IV
- I - V
- I - V - vi - IV
- I - vi - IV - V
- I - IV - V - IV
- V - IV - I
- ii - V - I

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
B Major	C# minor	D# minor	E Major	F# Major	G# minor	A# diminished

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the I chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

JASON MRAZ  
I'M YOURS

I - V - vi - IV  
B - F# - G#m - E



## Songwriting Chord Maps In 7 Different Minor Keys

Similar to the previous section, this section presents an easy to follow chord map for 7 different minor keys.

In contrast to the major keys, the minor keys provide a much sadder feel (especially if starting with the i chord) and these are often used in sad or emotional songs. In each key I present to you the 7 chords that fit well together for that key. Then, using the easy to follow infographic map you will be able to compose your own chord progressions in a matter of seconds!

I won't go into the nuts and bolts behind why the maps work, as it is my goal is to get you playing, writing and crafting your own songs straight away without worrying about the technical stuff. All you need to know is that it works! Having said that, I do strongly advocate that you try to learn about musical theory as well. There are endless benefits in understanding the blueprint behind the machine, but for now we will keep it simple.

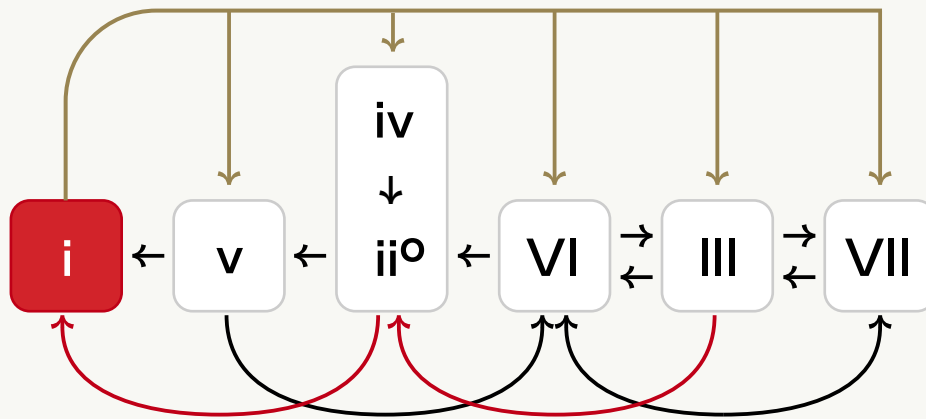
This section provides you with 7 Chord Map Cheat Sheets for the following keys:

- [A Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [B Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [C# Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [D Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [E Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [F# Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)
- [G# Minor Chord Progression Cheat Sheet](#)

Despite keeping this guide free from complicated jargon, I would advise you to read the below dot points for tips, pointers in order to understand how to use the cheat sheet.

- For each key, the 7 diatonic chords that work within that key are presented. They are represented by roman numerals 1-7 like so: (i, ii°, III, iv, v, VI, VII).
- The lower case numerals (i, iv and v) represent minor chords and are classified as our primary chords.
- The upper case numerals (III, VI and VII) represent major chords and are classified as our secondary chords.
- The ii° chord is a diminished chord and is not commonly used in contemporary/pop music and is classified as a tertiary chord.
- To use the chord map, pick a starting chord and then follow the arrows to create your chord progression.
- The i chord is the typical starting point but it can be different a different chord.
- Select your path on the chord map until you are satisfied with your progression.
- Typically chord progressions contain 2-4 chords.
- The chord map provided is a GUIDE only. The beauty of music is that the rules are not binding. So you're also welcome to make chord jumps that aren't suggested on the map.
- Feel free to introduce chords outside of the key if you think they sound good. There's a science to this but we won't delve into it as beginners.
- Experiment with chord variants. Sus2 and sus4 chords are neither major or minor. They therefore can be used to replace any of the chords (with the exception of ii°) to provide more interesting progressions. For example instead of using A minor, try Asus2 or Asus4.
- Experiment with 7th chords. For example instead of using C Major, try C Major7.
- Experiment with strumming patterns and tempos. They can immediately change the feel of your song.
- Check out the example at the bottom of each cheat sheet to see how a famous act has structured their chord progression using the same principles

## Key of A Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

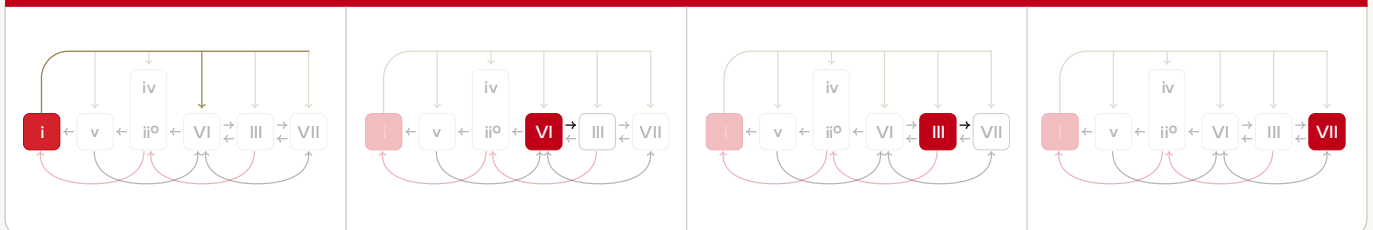


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
A minor	B diminished	C Major	D minor	E minor	F Major	G Major

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

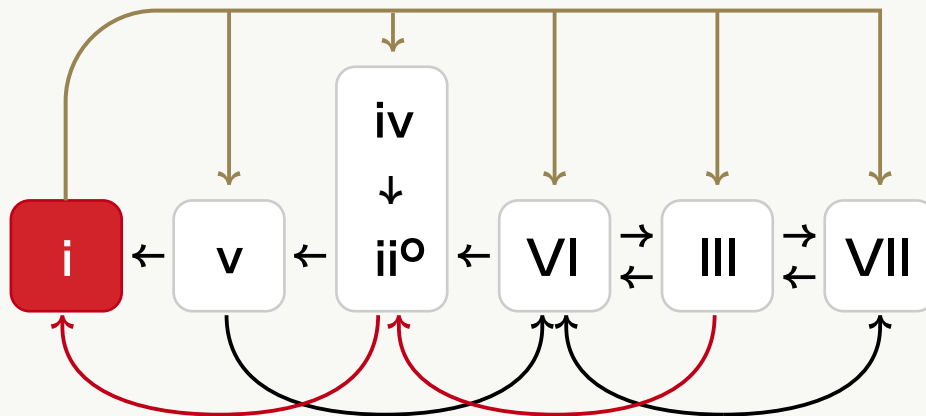
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS  
OTHERSIDE

i - VI - III - VII  
**Am - F - C - G**

## Key of B Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

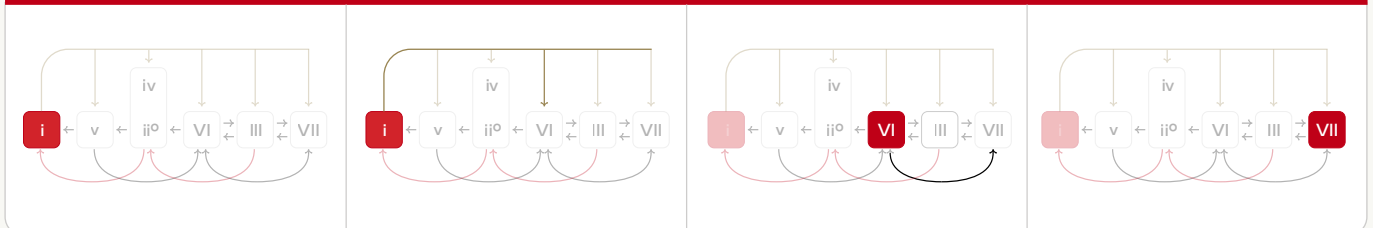


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
B minor	C# diminished	D Major	E minor	F# minor	G Major	A Major

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

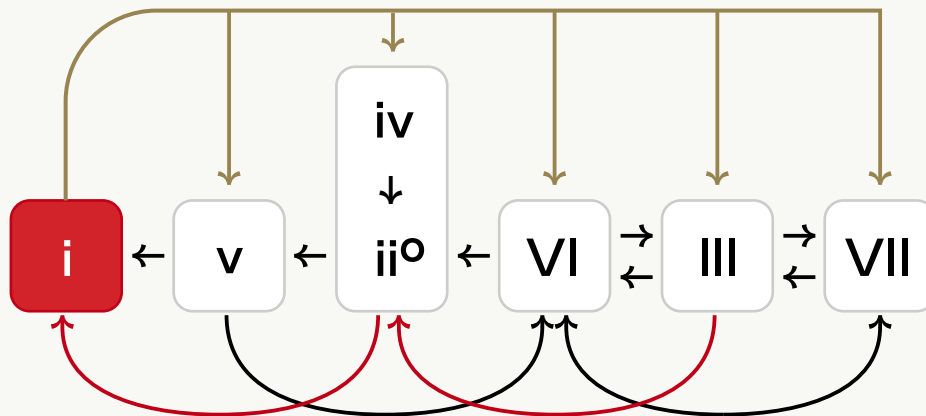
### SONG EXAMPLE

3 DOORS DOWN  
KRYPTONITE

i - i - VI - VII

**Bm - Bm - G - A**

## Key of C# Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

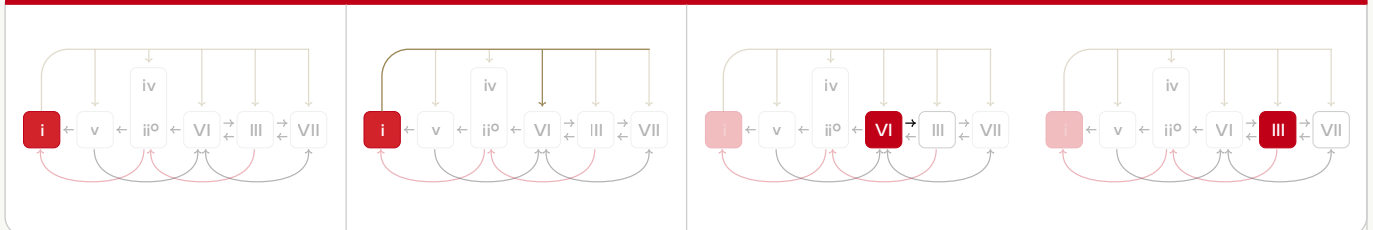


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
<b>C# minor</b> 	<b>D# diminished</b> 	<b>E Major</b> 	<b>F# minor</b> 	<b>G# minor</b> 	<b>A Major</b> 	<b>B Major</b> 

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

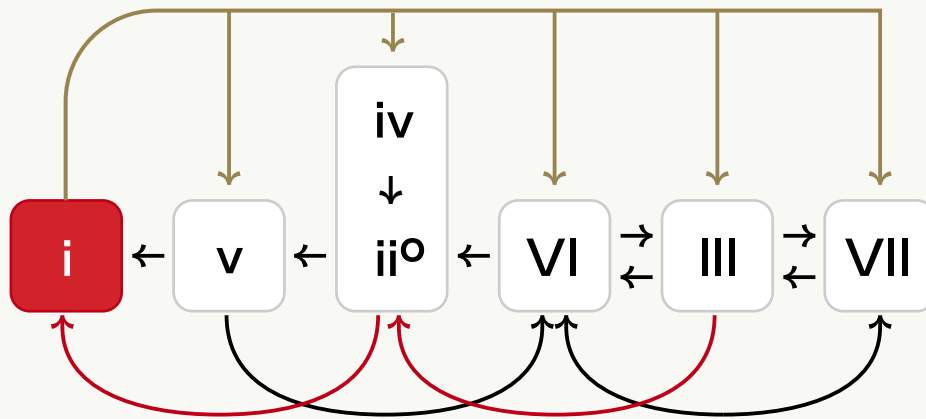
### SONG EXAMPLE

JOHN MAYER  
SLOW DANCING IN A  
BURNING ROOM

i - i - VI - III

C#m - C#m - A - E

## Key of D Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

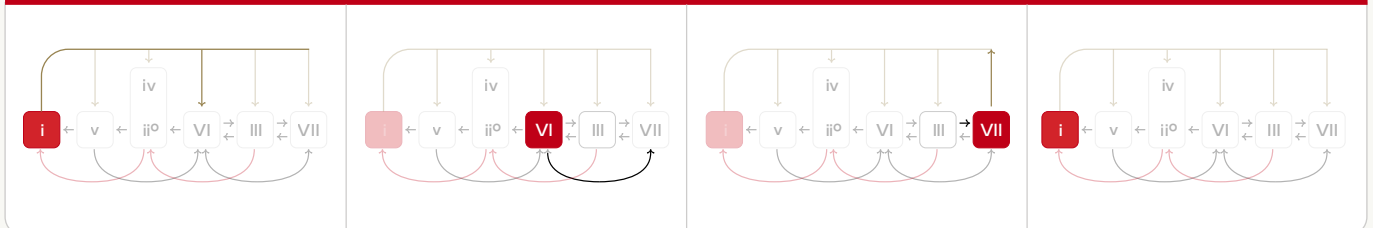


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
D minor	E diminished	F Major	G minor	A minor	Bb Major	C Major

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

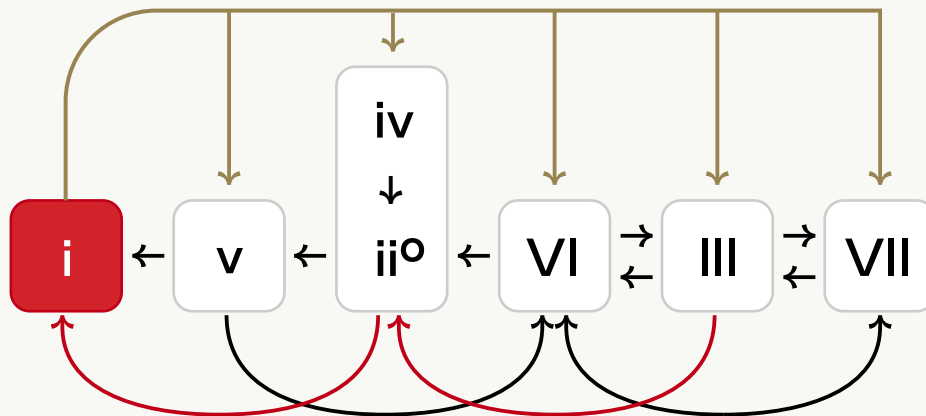
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

ERIC CLAPTON  
LAYLA

i - VI - VII - i  
Dm - Bb - C - Dm

## Key of E Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

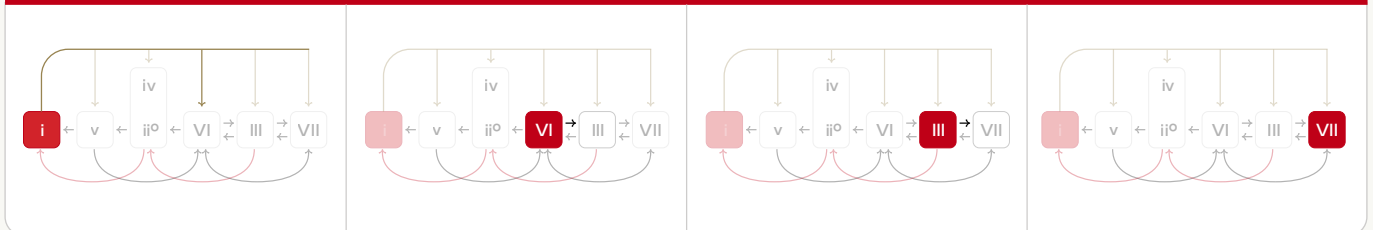


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
E minor	F# diminished	G Major	A minor	B minor	C Major	D Major

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

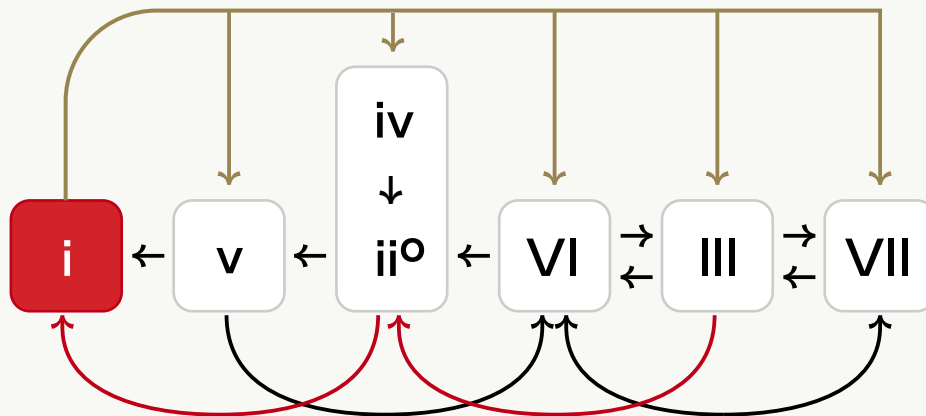
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

THE CRANBERRIES  
ZOMBIE

i - VI - III - VII  
Em - C - G - D

## Key of F# Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

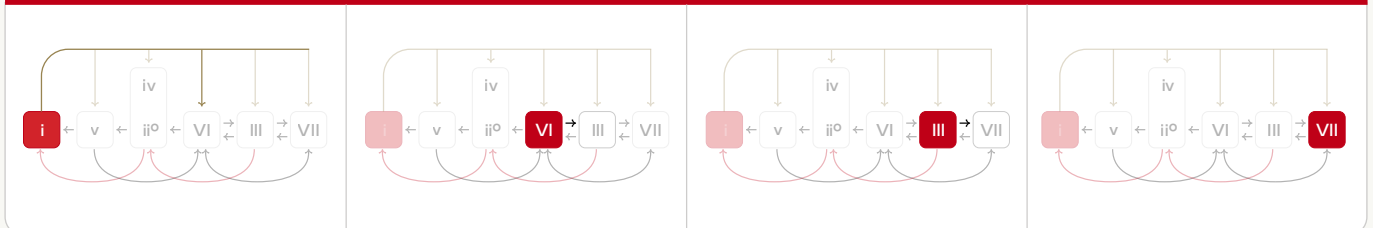


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
<b>F# minor</b>	<b>G# diminished</b>	<b>A Major</b>	<b>B minor</b>	<b>C# minor</b>	<b>D Major</b>	<b>E Major</b>

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

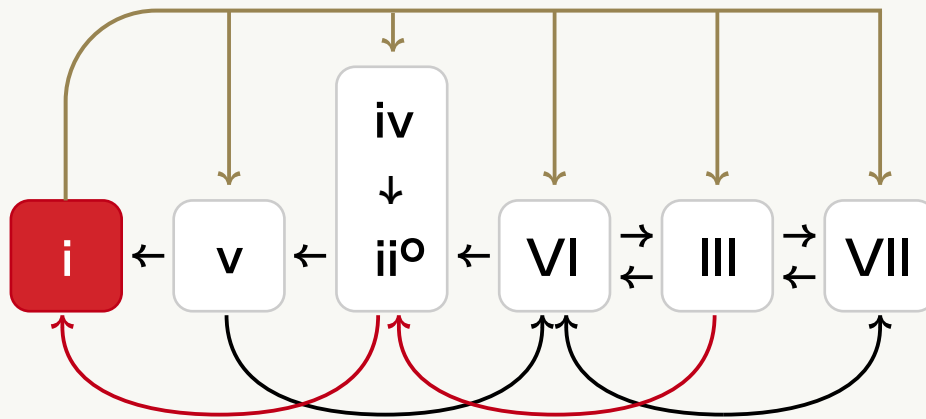
1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

### SONG EXAMPLE

MGMT - KIDS

i - VI - III - VII  
F#m - D - A - E

## Key of G# Minor — Chord Progression Cheat Sheet

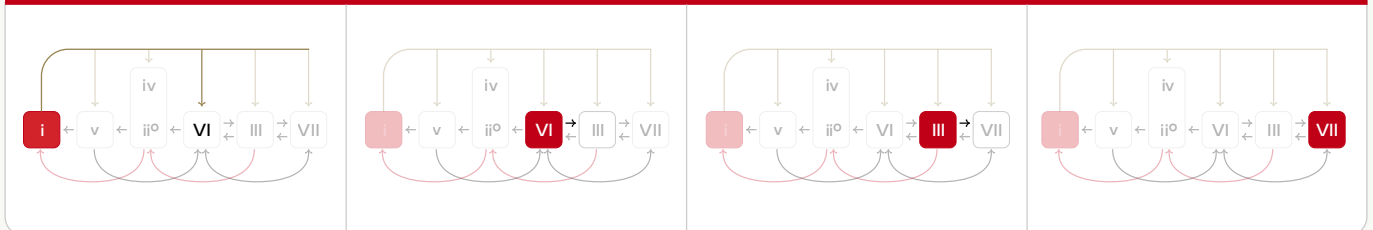


### Common Progressions

- i - VI
- i - v
- i - III
- i - VI - III - VII
- i - VI - VII
- i - VI - III
- i - III - VII - VI
- i - v - VI - VII

i	ii°	III	iv	v	VI	VII
G# minor	A# diminished	B Major	C# minor	D# minor	E Major	F# Major

### SONG EXAMPLE



### Directions

1. Pick a chord to start with, this will typically be the i chord.
2. Follow the arrow to the next chord
3. Complete this for however many chords as you like. Typically 2-4 chords for a standard progression.
4. Once you're happy with your progression write it down and use it for your song!

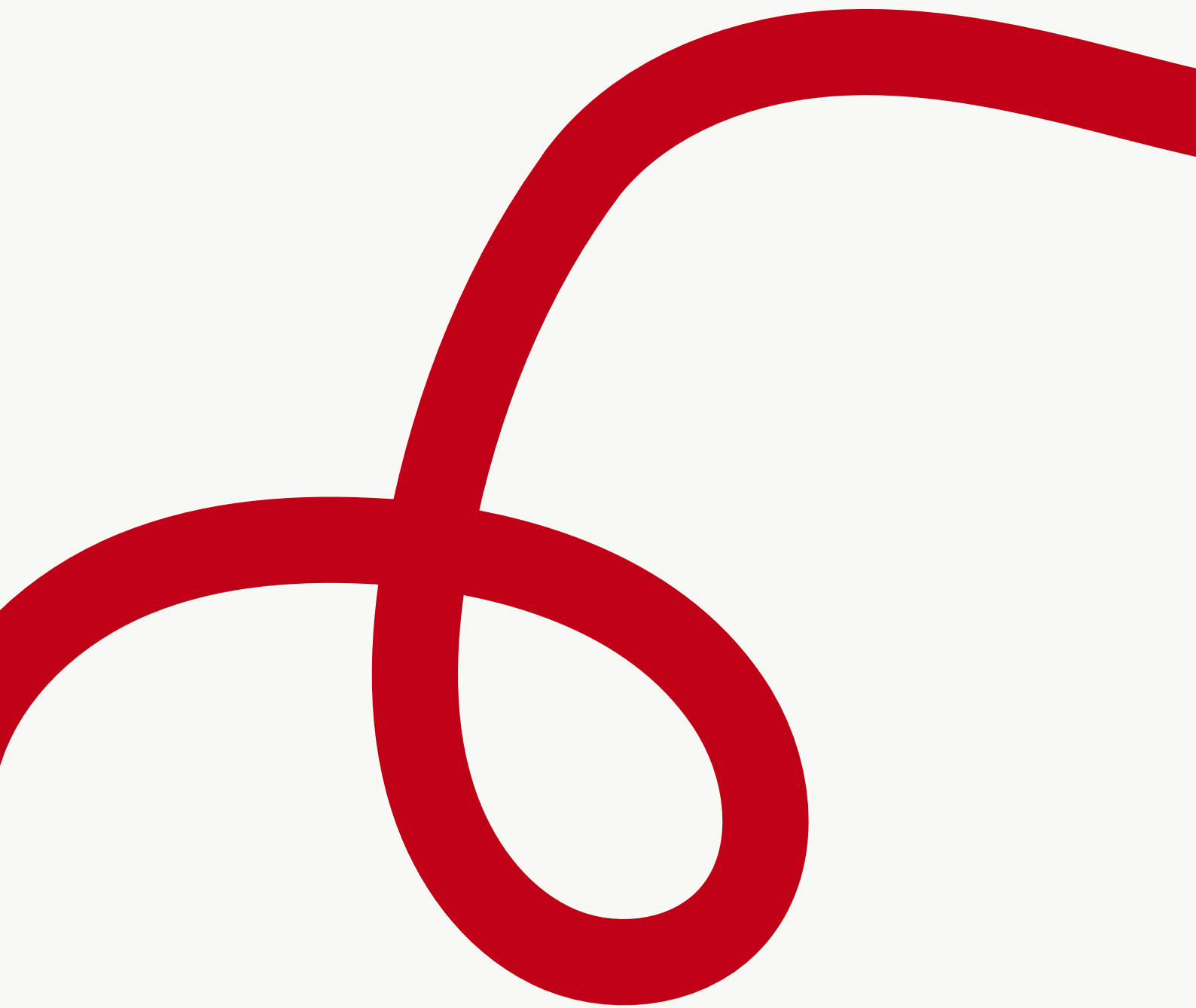
### SONG EXAMPLE

LADY GAGA  
POKERFACE

i - VI - III - VII

G#m - E - B - F#





## Chapter 4

# Conclusion

A summary and final words to end this comprehensive eBook.

**"What are you waiting for?  
Start experimenting with  
chords and songwriting!"**

## Summary

There are an endless amount of chords and chord combinations out there, and often as a beginner it is difficult to know what is important to learn and what is not.

The GuitarZero2Hero Chord & Songwriting Cheat Sheet helps to un-complicate this essential knowledge and to blur out the noise. Whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced player I have no doubt that this value packed resource will serve you well as a songwriting companion or even just as a chord dictionary.

Our beautiful chord charts are second to none and provide you with the easiest way to play over 200 chords. With this library of chords at your disposal, you will never run out of ways to spice up your songwriting with new flavors just like a chef experimenting with spices.

Crafting a beautiful sounding song is no longer reserved for those with extensive musical theory training and knowledge. With the GuitarZero2Hero songwriting cheatsheets, we show you what chords work well and sound harmonious together. Even the most inexperienced guitarist can start writing their own song structures straight away.

So what are you waiting for? Start experimenting with chords and songwriting. Condensing my years of songwriting and guitar playing experience, has resulted in this extremely useful chord and songwriting cheat sheet.

Enjoy and most of all, have fun!  
If you have any questions, thoughts or feedback, then please don't hesitate to contact me by email to assist.



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KARSTEN M



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