

# 17 CHORD PROGRESSIONS THAT MIGHT JUST CHANGE YOUR LIFE

## (PLUS 4 YOU MIGHT KNOW ABOUT ALREADY)

Hello, Internet –

Here are 21 four-bar chord progressions you can use in songs in virtually every style and genre.

Will they actually change your life? Maybe. Maybe the connection we're sharing right now – you lovingly reading a thing I lovingly crafted – is enough to count as life-changing.

But either way – here are 21 varied but tried-and-tested chord progressions you can use.

For each progression I've given you the chord's 'functional' names – roman numerals that show which degree of the scale the chord's root is, and also the type of chord it is.

If you're not sure what that means, don't worry. I've also given you the chords in three common keys – C, G and E for major keys, A, D and E for minor keys – so you can use them right out of the box.

Here are four quick, practical reminders, especially if you're just starting out:

- Slash chords – like F/A – mean the first chord is the actual chord, the second note name indicates the bass note.
- You can experiment with longer and more advanced progressions when you're ready, but repeating the same 4-bar progression throughout the verse and different one throughout the chorus – or even the same chord progression for both – is absolutely fine.
- The art of choosing a good chord progression is matching that chord progression to the mood or vibe of your song. There's a real mix of vibes in these chord progressions – especially the last seventeen – so try them out, see what they sound like to you and choose from there.
- If you want to be more adventurous, you can always play around with the progressions by changing the chords' order or replacing some of the chords with others. Lots of what you try might sound weird, and that's OK. Just keep playing around until you have something you like.

**Enjoy!**



# FOUR CHORD PROGRESSIONS YOU MIGHT KNOW ABOUT ALREADY

*Four simple but effective chord progressions you can use in virtually any style of songwriting.*

## 1. Those Four Chords – Major Edition

	<b>I</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>IV</b>
C major	C	G	Am	F
G major	G	D	Em	C
E major	E	B	C#m	A

## 2. Those Four Chords – Minor Edition

	<b>i</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>VII</b>
A minor	Am	F	C	G
D minor	Dm	B♭	F	C
E minor	Em	C	G	D

## 3. Happy Days

	<b>I</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>
C major	C	Am	F	G
G major	G	Em	C	D
E major	E	C#m	A	B

## 4. Sweet 'n' Cheerful

	<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>IV</b>
C major	C	F	G	F
G major	G	C	D	C
E major	E	A	B	A

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*These progressions are a bit more adventurous and a bit more niche, but they'll all work in tons of different styles and situations.*

## 5. Just Floatin' Around #1

	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>iii</b>
C major	F	G	Am	Em
G major	C	D	Em	Bm
E major	A	B	C#m	G#m

## 6. Poptastic

	<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>bVII</b>	<b>IV</b>
C major	C	F	Bb	F
G major	G	C	F	C
E major	E	A	D	A

## 7. Mr Peppy

	<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>ii</b>	<b>V</b>
C major	C	F	Dm	G
G major	G	C	Am	D
E major	E	A	F#m	B

*Bonus tip: Adding a seventh to the ii chord is a nice touch.*

## 8. Just Floatin' Around #2

	<b>Ib</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>vi</b>
C major	C/E	F	G	Am
G major	G/B	C	D	Em
E major	E/G#	A	B	C#m

*Bonus tip: You can substitute chord iii (Em in C major) for chord Ib.*

## 9. Those Four Chords (with a Kick)

	<b>I</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>IV</b>
C major	C	E	Am	F
G major	G	B	Em	C
E major	E	G#	C#m	A

*Bonus tip: Add the seventh to the III chord to give the progression even more of a kick.*

## 10. The Power Trip

	<b>I</b>	<b>bIII</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>bIII</b>
C major	C	E $\flat$	F	E $\flat$
G major	G	B $\flat$	C	B $\flat$
E major	E	G	A	G

## 11. Sittin' Pretty

	<b>I</b>	<b>IV/1</b>	<b>V/1</b>	<b>I</b>
C major	C	F/C	G/C	C
G major	G	C/G	D/G	G
E major	E	A/E	B/E	E

## 12. The Andalusian

	<b>i</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>V7</b>
A minor	Am	G	F	E7
D minor	Dm	C	B $\flat$	A7
E minor	Em	D	C	B7

## 13. The Epic Adventure

	<b>i</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>iv</b>	<b>v</b>
A minor	Am	C	Dm	Em
D minor	Dm	F	Gm	Am
E minor	Em	G	Am	Bm

## 14. Todalley Modal

	<b>i</b>	<b>IV7</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>i</b>
A minor	Am	D7	E7	Am
D minor	Dm	G7	A7	Dm
E minor	Em	A7	B7	Em

*Bonus tip: This also works without the sevenths, but has much less character.*

## 15. Funky AF\* (\*and Fresh)

	<b>i</b>	<b>VI7</b>	<b>IV7</b>	<b>V7</b>
A minor	Am	F7	D7	E7
D minor	Dm	Bb7	G7	A7
E minor	Em	C7	A7	B7

## 16. The Smooth Mover #1

	<b>I</b>	<b>I/7</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>IV</b>
C major	C	C/B	Am	F
G major	G	D/F#	Em	C
E major	E	B/D#	C#m	A

## 17. Big-Ass Ballad

	<b>I</b>	<b>vii° III7</b>	<b>vi</b>	<b>IV V</b>
C major	C	Bdim E7	Am	F G
G major	G	F#dim B7	Em	C D
E major	E	D#dim G#7	C#m	A B

*Bonus tips: The two chords in measures 2 and 4 work best with half a measure each. vii° is the diminished chord on scale degree seven (B, D and F in C major). To vary the progression, substitute a chord called the half-diminished seventh or minor seventh flat-fifth (B, D, F and A in C major) here.*

## 18. The Tearjerker

	<b>I</b>	<b>I7d</b>	<b>IVb</b>	<b>ivb</b>
C major	C	C7/B♭	F/A	Fm/A♭
G major	G	G7/F	C/E	Cm/E♭
E major	E	E7/D	A/C♯	Am/C

*Bonus tip: This progression also works with root position (non-slash) chords, but sounds quite different.*

## 19. Moody Tuesdays

	<b>i</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>ii°</b>	<b>V7</b>
A minor	Am	F	Bdim	E7
D minor	Dm	B♭	Edim	A7
E minor	Em	C	F♯dim	B7

*Bonus tip: This progression also works with a half-diminished seventh instead of a regular diminished chord in the second measure (add the note ten half steps above the root, e.g. A above a B root).*

## 20. The Smooth Mover #2

	<b>vi</b>	<b>Vb</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>V</b>
C major	Am	G/B	C	G
G major	Em	D/F♯	G	D
E major	C♯m	B/D♯	E	B

## 21. The Old Timer

	<b>I</b>	<b>♭iii°</b>	<b>ii</b>	<b>V</b>
C major	C	E♭dim	Dm	G
G major	G	B♭dim	Am	D
E major	E	Gdim	F♯m	B

*Bonus tip: This progression also works with a diminished seventh – almost a half-diminished seventh, but different – instead of a regular diminished chord in the second measure (add the note nine half steps above the root, e.g. C above an E♭ root). If you add that note, it's also nice to use a ii7 chord instead of regular ii.*