

6. Harmony

II – V – I Progressions

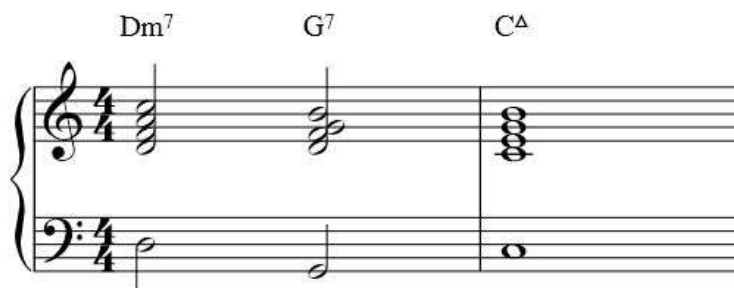
II – V – I (2 – 5- 1) progressions are the most common chord sequence used in Jazz.

It's important to know them in every key because Jazz Standards (common Jazz tunes) often move quickly through many keys.

If we think back to the scale-tone sevenths we can see that in C major:

- Chord II would be Dm7 (minor 7th)
- Chord V would be G7 (dominant 7th)
- Chord I would be CΔ (major 7th)

Fig 14.



Note! A dominant 7th chord is generally just called "7", eg G7, A7

Chord Symbols

There are several different ways of writing chord symbols, which can be frustrating at first. Some are better than others but it's important to be familiar with them all.

Major 7th

Cmaj7
CM7
CΔ

Minor 7th

Cm7
Cmin7
C-

Dom' 7th

C7

Half-dim'

Cm7b5
C-b5
Cø

Dim'

Cdim7
Co7
Co

Exercise

Each of the progressions in the following exercise are II-V-I progressions in different keys. It's important to become familiar with all 12 keys.

Dm⁷ G⁷ C^Δ Cm⁷ F⁷ B^bΔ

B^bm E^b7 A^bΔ A^bm⁷ D^b7 G^bΔ

F[#]m⁷ B⁷ E^Δ Em⁷ A⁷ D^Δ

Dm⁷ G⁷ C^Δ