



Creating Diatonic Chord Sequences In a Major Key - Part 1

A great way to start composing is by using the chords that occur in a major key. This is a process that is commonly used in many styles of music such as pop, rock and folk. If we look at the C major scale, we can build chords starting on each degree of the scale -

C E G = **C Major**
D F A = **D Minor**
E G B = **E Minor**
F A C = **F Major**
G B D = **G Major**
A C E = **A Minor**
B D F = **B Diminished**

These chords are commonly given numbers from 1 to 7 (written as Roman Numerals). We can compose a chord sequence by putting these chords in any order. As they are all from the same key, they will all work together in a sequence. It is not very common to use a diminished chord in pop music so we could substitute it for chord 5 with the 7th note in the bass (G/B). Here are a couple of examples of chord sequences in the key of C. Try putting your own together. You can't go wrong if you stick to these chords!

Sequence 1 -

|| C | Em | Dm | G ||

Sequence 2 -

|| Am | C | Em | F ||

Sequence 3 -

|| Em | G | G/B | C ||