



The II V I Chord Sequence - Major

The II V I chord sequence is one of the most commonly used in jazz music. It is worth spending a significant amount of time studying as it makes up such a large percentage of standard jazz harmony. The II V I chord sequence refers to the 2nd, fifth and 1st chords which occur in a key. In a major key, chord II is a minor 7, chord V is dominant 7 and chord I is major 7. We reach this conclusion by taking the root, 3rd, 5th and 7th of the second, fifth and first modes of the major scale. This is demonstrated with the chord tones highlighted in bold.

D Dorian - **D** E **F** G **A** B **C** = **D minor 7**
G Mixolydian - **G** A **B** C **D** E **F** = **G dominant 7**
C Ionian - **C** D **E** F **G** A **B** = **C major 7**

It is important to be able to recognise II V I sequences in all keys. This can be practised away from your instrument. Below is a list of II V I chord sequences in all keys with enharmonic alternatives.

C = Dm7 G7 Cmaj7
F = Gm7 C7 Fmaj7
Bb = Cm7 F7 Bbmaj7
Eb = Fm7 Bb7 Ebmaj7
Ab = Bbm7 Eb7 Abmaj7 (A#m7 D#7 G#maj7)
Db = Ebm7 Ab7 Dbmaj7 (D#m7 G#7 C#maj7)
Gb = Abm7 Db7 Gbmaj7 (G#m7 C#7 F#maj7)
B = C#m7 F#7 Bmaj7 (Dbm7 Gb7 Cbmaj7)
E = F#m7 B7 Emaj7
A = Bm7 E7 Amaj7
D = Em7 A7 Dmaj7
G = Am7 D7 Gmaj7