

The 12 Musical Keys

This chart shows the 12 musical keys. Anytime you hear someone say “that’s the fourth chord” or lets play a 1,4,5 chord progression, that’s exactly what they are referring to!

So for example, if I said, “ let’s play a 1,4,5 in “C”. The 1 would be C, the 4 would be F or F7 and the 5 would be G or G7.

The parallel minor is always the 6th the key. So in the key of C, the parallel minor is A minor. In the key of G, the parallel minor is Em In the key of D the parallel minor is Bm and so on...

So the point here, is that within any one key, there are really two keys. You can make the same key sound both MAJOR or MINOR, depending which chords you pay more attention to.

If the progression starts on a MAJOR chord, there is really good chance that the progression is MAJOR. The same goes if the progression starts on a MINOR chord.

Here is an example of a major chord progression:

C, Am, F, G - This is clearly a C major chord progression.

Here is an example of a minor chord progression:

Am, Dm, F, G - This is clearly a A minor chord progression.

Play around with the chords in the key of C and your ear will show you the way!

Key	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#°
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#°
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#°
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D#°
B	B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	A#°
G ^b	G ^b	A ^b m	B ^b m	C ^b	D ^b	E ^b m	F°
D ^b	D ^b	E ^b m	Fm	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b m	C°
A ^b	A ^b	B ^b m	Cm	D ^b	E ^b	Fm	G°
E ^b	E ^b	Fm	Gm	A ^b	B ^b	Cm	D°
B ^b	B ^b	Cm	Dm	E ^b	F	Gm	A°
F	F	Gm	Am	B ^b	C	Dm	E°