

The sixth lesson on improv8ing uses the chord progression of I vii vi V

2 Hints on Improvisation

I / / / / I / / / / vii / / / / vii / / / /

vi / / / / vi / / / / V7 / V / V / V7

HINT 1: The first thing you will notice that is different from the previous improv charts is the Notation Of The Chords. The “/” means the repetition of a chord. Depending on the style or genre you wish to play in, you do not need to sound the chord on every beat.

HINT 2: The Roman Numerals represent the POSITIONS of a chord within a scale.
I is the 1st position - the Ionian or the Tonic Note
ii is the 2nd position - the Dorian or the SuperTonic Note
iii is the 3rd position - the Phrygian or Mediant Note
IV is the 4th position - the Lydian or SubDominant Note
V is the 5th position - the Mixolydian or Dominant Note
vi is the 6th position - the Aeolian or SubMediant Note
vii is the 7th position - the Locrian or SubTonic/ Leading Note

HINT 3: Roman Numerals are the STANDARD SYMBOLS for all Triads (3 note) and TetraChords (4 note) of the scale.
Written in *upper case* they represent Major and Augmented Chords - I, Iaug, I+, V, V7
Written in *lower case* they represent Minor and Diminished Chords - ii, iii7, viidim

HINT 4: If you have sheet music (especially for your favourite artists’ song) you can practice translating the chords to Roman Numerals. This will help you to understand the construction of a composition. Thinking in Roman Numeral you can transpose these hints, and your favourite songs, into any key signature you prefer.

HINT 5: So far these hints have all been written in the key of C Major. Try thinking in Roman Numerals to help you to transpose them into any Key Signature you prefer.

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