

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 1<sup>st</sup> position - the Ionian or the Tonic Note  
ii is the 2<sup>nd</sup> position - the Dorian or the SuperTonic Note  
iii is the 3<sup>rd</sup> position - the Phrygian or Mediant Note  
IV is the 4<sup>th</sup> position - the Lydian or SubDominant Note  
V is the 5<sup>th</sup> position - the Mixolydian or Dominant Note  
vi is the 6<sup>th</sup> position - the Aeolian or SubMediant Note  
vii is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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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