

## Chords 1, 5D, 6-, 4 (smooth jazz)

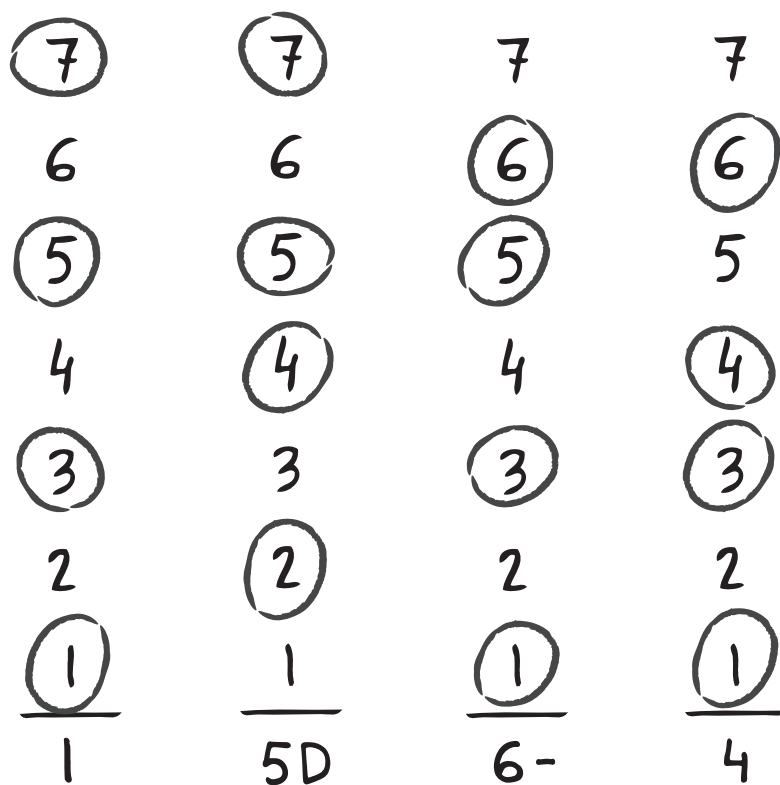
Our final jam track demonstrates the other very common way that these four chords appear in contemporary songs:



Notice how the logic of the above line compares to the chord progression in the previous jam track. Both progressions actually cycle through chords in the exact same order. The only difference is where we consider to be the starting point.

For example, if you imagine pausing the current jam track after the first two chords and then starting the music again, the next four chords that you would hear would be 6-, 4, 1 and then 5D. This is exactly the chord progression you studied in the last jam track. This illustrates a wonderful principle about music which is that all of its elements can be interchanged and used in many different ways.

Below is a map of how the chord notes flow across this progression in its new order:



## Practice tips

I hope you have enjoyed IFR Jam Tracks Level 2: Pure Harmony Essentials and that it will continue to serve you for a long time. Even as you progress in the IFR Jam Tracks series and you add more harmonic concepts to your vocabulary, I invite you to come back to this collection from time to time just to check in and see how your own playing and thinking has evolved.

I also encourage you to keep coming back to this material as an essential creative exercise that will make you a stronger musician, even after you have already moved on to more advanced harmonic material. There is a reason why great athletes continue to study and drill the most basic techniques all their lives, even after they are already competing at a professional level in games that require a much more sophisticated combination of skills and reflexes. It's in the quiet of the practice room, with time for relaxed contemplation and reflection, that all of the most important discoveries are made.

And so the final practice tip that I would like to share with you is to measure your progress not by the number of harmonic concepts that you've acquired, but by the beauty and power of your own music. Even working with the simplest harmonic material like that found in the first few jam tracks of this collection, a truly great musician can play the most beautiful and memorable music you've ever heard.

Don't ever fall for the illusion that you need to learn more concepts or acquire more techniques in order to become a better improviser. The truth is just the opposite. Everything that you need to make perfect, beautiful, important music is already inside you. All you need is an instrument, some harmonic material that appeals to you and maybe a backing track. The rest is in your hands, and the possibilities are absolutely unlimited.

## Note about transposing for wind instruments

Remember that not all instruments use the same names for the notes. In the tracks, the key listed for each jam track always refers to the concert key. If you play an instrument that is not in concert key, remember to transpose this key name to the corresponding key on your instrument. (If you're not sure how to do this for your instrument, a quick Google search will lead you to many clear explanations.)