

## Two Core Prompting Techniques: Chaining & Stacking

### ◆ 1. Prompt Chaining

Prompt chaining is a logical sequence of 2–3 creative steps, in which each prompt depends on the output of the previous one.

Concrete example:

- Prompt 1:  
*“Write emotional lyrics for a synth-pop ballad about longing.”*  
(The model generates the song lyrics.)
- Prompt 2:  
*“Based on those lyrics, generate a matching chord progression.”*  
(The model suggests a chord progression that is harmonically coherent with the lyrics.)
- Prompt 3:  
*“Now describe a synth-based arrangement suitable for these lyrics and chords.”*  
(The model generates an arrangement or instrumental style based on the two previous steps.)

- Goal: to create music through controlled and modular stages  
(*lyrics* → *harmony* → *sound*).

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### ◆ 2. Prompt Stacking (Levels of Specificity)

Prompt stacking consists of progressively adding layers of detail to a prompt, increasing precision and control over the output.

Level 1 – Base (genre and mood)

Start with a simple, generic request:

*“Create a cinematic ambient track with emotional tension.”*

Level 2 – Timbre and instrumentation

Add information about texture, instrumentation, and key sounds:

*“Use sustained string drones, soft piano, and processed ambient textures.”*

Level 3 – Tempo, rhythm, and harmony

Provide metric and harmonic constraints:

*“Keep a free, non-metric rhythm around 50 BPM, in A minor with modal inflections (Aeolian and Dorian).”*

Level 4 – Structure and development

Define formal and dynamic evolution:

*“Start with isolated low-register piano notes, then slowly build with layered harmonics and reversed elements. Avoid strong cadences.”*

Level 5 – Function / usage context

Specify where and how the music should be used:

*“The track should work as underscore for a post-apocalyptic film scene at dawn.”*

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#### Complete Example (Final Stacking Prompt)

*Create a cinematic ambient track with emotional tension. Use sustained string drones, soft piano, and processed ambient textures. Keep a free, non-metric rhythm around 50 BPM, in A minor with modal inflections (Aeolian and Dorian). Start with isolated low-register piano notes, then slowly build with layered harmonics and reversed elements. Avoid strong cadences. The track should work as underscore for a post-apocalyptic film scene at dawn.*