

# Assaf Kehati

jazz guitarist and composer

[www.assafkehati.com](http://www.assafkehati.com)

## Jazz chord progressions

We define the chord progressions with a simple numeral system based on a major scale.

This is one of a few valid ways to do it.

C major scale is the following notes: C D E F G A B C

We can also refer to the notes as numbers: C=1, D=2, E=3, etc.

If we are in the key of C major, but we want to step outside we will use flats (b) or sharps (#) and we will apply these signs (flat or sharp) on our numeric system. For example: Db would be b2.

If I'm in the key of C and playing the chords F, G, C, I'm playing (in Greek numeric):

IV (major), V (major), I (major).

Examples of typical jazz chord progressions: (all in C major and C minor , you can transpose to other scales.)

Key of C major:

D-7 G7 Cmaj7 = II (-7) V (7) I (maj7)

D-7 G7 Cmaj7 C7 Fmaj7 = II (-7) V (7) I (maj7) I (7) IV(maj7)

E-7 Eb7 D-7 Db7 = III (-7) bIII (7) II (-7) bII (7)

Cmaj7 A7b9 D-7 G7 = I (maj7) VI (7 b9) II (-7) V (7)

Cmaj7 B7 E-7 Bb7 A7 D-7 G7 Cmaj7 = I (maj7) VII (7) III (-7) bVII (7) VI (7) II (-7) V (7) I (maj7)

Cmaj7 F#-7b5 F-7 E-7 = I (maj7) #VI (-7b5) IV (-7) III (-7)

Key of C minor:

*\* keep in mind that even that Ab is diatonic to C minor scale and it is the sixth degree of the minor scale, we still call it flat sixth because we are still counting according to the major scale.*

D-7b5 G7b9 C-7 = II (-7b5) V (7 b9) I (-7)

C-7 Abmaj7 G-7b5 C7 b9 F-7 = I (-7) bVI (maj7) V (-7b5) I (7 b9) IV(-7)

C-7 Ebmaj7 Ab7 G7 = I(-7) bIII (maj7) bVI (7) V (7)

C-7 A-7b5 D7 G-7 = I(-7) VI (-7b5) II (7) V (-7)

C-7 Gb7 F-7 E7 Ebmaj7 D7 G7 C-7 = I(-7) #IV (7) IV(-7) III (7) bIII (maj7) II (7) V (7) I (-7)

C-7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 G7 = I(-7) bVII (7) bIII (maj7) V (7)

*There are more lessons and also short guides with thoughts and ideas about improvisation and about music on my website in the section "free stuff": [www.assafkehati.com](http://www.assafkehati.com)*

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*Assaf*