

An Introduction to the I-IV-V Progression

Kit Garoutte

In a I-IV-V chord progression, chords are named according to which step of the diatonic major scale they are built from. In other words the bass, or root note of each of the chords in succession are the 1st, 4th and 5th notes of the major scale of the key the song is in.

In the example here, power chords are used to show the location of the chords in the keys of F (The I chord is F, the IV is B \flat and the V is C) and E (The I is E, IV is A, V is B).

I
IV
V

3rd f>

T
A
B

I
IV
V

T
A
B