

One- and Two-Chord Progressions & Songs

“One Chord is fine. Two chords is pushing it. Three chords and you’re into jazz.” Lou Reed

One-Chord Songs

Major

Frère Jacques
Within You Without You [George Harrison]
Mannish Boy [Muddy Waters]
Moanin’ at Midnight [Howlin’ Wolf]
Who do You Love? [Bo Diddley]
Coconut [Harry Nilsson]

Minor

Get the Party Started [Pink]
Music [Madonna]
Slow [Kylie Minogue]
Chain of Fools [Aretha Franklin]
Papa was a Rolling Stone [The Temptations]
Run Through the Jungle [Creedence Clearwater Revival]

Two-Chord Songs

I – V (and i – v)

Paperback Writer [The Beatles]
Jambalaya [Hank Williams Sr.]
Achy Breaky Heart [Billy Ray Cyrus]
Dance the Night Away [The Mavericks]
Come Unto Me [The Mavericks; minor key]
All Night Long [The Mavericks; minor key]
What You Do to Me [The Mavericks; minor key]
Dance in the Moonlight [The Mavericks; except bridge]
Tom Dooley [Kingston Trio]
Tulsa Time [Eric Clapton]
Mendocino [Sir Douglas Quintet]
La Mucara [Traditional Cumbia]
You Never Can Tell [Chuck Berry]
Fallin’ [Alicia Keys]
The Banana Boat Song; “Day-O” [Harry Belafonte]
Feelin’ Alright [Joe Cocker]

I – IV (and i – IV)

Feelin' Alright [Joe Cocker]
Shout [Isley Brothers]
Everyday People [Sly and The Family Stone]
Born in the U.S.A. [Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band]
Lively Up Yourself [Bob Marley]
Sing [Ed Sheeran]
Use Me [Bill Withers]
Memphis Tennessee [Chuck Berry]
When Love Comes to Town [U2 / BB King]

I – ii (and I – II)

Horse with No Name [America]
Tennessee Whiskey [Chris Stapleton]
I'd Rather Go Blind [Etta James]
You Ain't Goin' Nowhere [Bob Dylan]
Wild Horses [The Rolling Stones]
Whole Lotta Love [Led Zeppelin]
Easy As It Seems [The Mavericks]
Dreams [Fleetwood Mac]
Break On Through to the Other Side [The Doors]
You Never Can Tell "C'est la Vie" [Emmylou Harris]

Dorian 2-Chord Vamp (a.k.a. "Pink Floyd" Vamp)**i – IV**

Apache [The Shadows]
No Quarter [Led Zeppelin]
Evil Ways [Santana]
Oye Como Va [Santana]
I Wish [Stevie Wonder]
Pick Up the Pieces [Average White Band]
Chamaeleon [Herbie Hancock]
Riders on the Storm [The Doors]

Others

Eleanor Rigby [The Beatles; vi – I]