

Diatonic chord progressions

A sequence of chords that does not leave a key area is called a **diatonic chord progression**. In western music, there are rules that govern which chord can lead to the next. The chart shows the rules for diatonic chord progression and the examples demonstrate the rules.

Diatonic chord rules

Key: D major

I ii V₄⁶ I⁶

Key: F major

I IV₄⁶ vi⁶ V₄⁶ I⁶

I Tonic	⇒	Anything
V Dominant	⇒	I, IV, vi
IV Subdominant	⇒	I, V, vi
vi Submediant	⇒	V, IV, ii, (I)
ii Supertonic	⇒	V, IV
iii Mediant	⇒	vi, (I)

Harmonic cadences

The chords at the end of the phrase create a **harmonic cadence**. The table shows the five most used cadence types in classical and pop music.

Key: Eb major

Deceptive cadence
ii V₄⁶ vi⁶

Key: G major

Plagal cadence
V₄⁶ IV₄⁶ I

Authentic	V ⇒ I
Plagal	IV ⇒ I
Half	Anything ⇒ V
Deceptive	V ⇒ Anything but I
Cadencial _{6/4}	I ₄ ⁶ ⇒ V ⇒ I