Examples of Common Chord Patterns

Here's a small sample of songs that use Common Chord Patterns (I use the word "patterns" and "progressions" interchangeably).

You may find broken links. I'm not always able to catch them as the videos get taken down or stop working.

Note: I'm using the Roman Numeral system because it indicates which chords are major and which are minor. If you'd like help with this I've created a quick easy lesson at: The Roman Numeral System Explained

I - IV - V

- Best Friends Girl (The Cars)

- The verse of Good Riddance (Green Day)

- the entirety of Stir it Up (Bob Marley).

- Twist And Shout (Beatles) just about the entire song

- [Like A Rolling Stone](#) chorus (Bob Dylan)

- 12 bar blues which goes: I – I – I – I – IV – IV – I – I – V – IV – I – V.

- Many "Chuck Berry" style rock and roll songs use a variation of the 12 Bar Blues pattern

I – IV – V – IV

- [Wild Thing](#) (The Troggs)

- [Louie Louie](#) (Richard Berry) (a big hit for the Kingsmen)

- [La Bamba](#) (Ritchie Valens)

- [Bad Moon Rising](#) (Creedence Clearwater Revival)

I - V - iv - VI

- The verse of [Your Beautiful](#) (James Blunt)

- The chorus of [Down Under](#) (Men At Work)

- [I'm Yours](#) (Jason Mraz)

- [When I Come Around](#) (Green Day)

- The verse of [Don't Stop Believing](#) (Journey)

- [Where's The Love](#) (Black Eyed Peas)
- [Can You Feel The Love Tonight](#) (Elton John)
- [Hey Soul Sister](#)-verse (Train)
- [Take Me Home Country Roads](#) chorus (John Denver)
- [Paparazzi](#) (Lady Gaga)
- [With Or Without You](#) (U2)
- [She Will Be Loved](#) (Maroon 5)
- [Let It Be](#) (Beatles)
- [No Woman No Cry](#) (Bob Marley)
- [Someone Like You](#)-chorus (Adele)

I - vi - IV - V (50's Progression)

- [Donna](#) (Ritchie Valens)
- [This Boy](#) (Beatles)
- [Sherry Baby](#) (Franki Valle & The Four Seasons)
- [The Wonder of You](#) (Elvis)
- [Blue Moon](#) (The Marcels)
- [Stand By Me](#) (Ben E. King)
- verse of [Chain Gang](#)(Sam Cooke)

- verse of [Unchained Melody](#) (made popular by The Righteous Brothers)

- Many modern pop songs also use the 50s progression; example: [Beautiful Girls](#) (Sean Kingston)

- the chorus of [What About Now](#) (Daughtry)

- [Friday](#) (Rebecca Black)

vi – IV – I – V

- Beginning with the minor chord... sounds darker or sadder than the other four progressions.

  - verse and chorus of [Zombie](#) (The Cranberries)

  - the chorus of [Africa](#) (Toto)

  - [Apologize](#) (OneRepublic)

  - [Cheap Thrills](#) (Sia)

  - the chorus of [Numb](#) (Linkin Park)

Andalusian Cadence i–VII–VI–V (minor key)

This chord progression is popular. It can be found in songs

such as :

- [Stray Cat Strut](#) (Stray Cats

- [Hit the Road Jack](#) (Ray Charles)

- [Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood](#) (The Animals)

- [Walk Don't Run](#) (The Ventures)