

Four-chord Schemas (with variations)

Name: _____

The following tracks use looping chord progressions that are related to one of the four-chord schemas (singer/songwriter, doo-wop, or hopscotch).

- Listen to each track on the Spotify playlist by scanning the QR code or following the link on the textbook chapter.
- Notate the looping chord progression in chord symbols.
- Then, identify which schema this resembles, and identify how it's been varied in the song.
- Describe the effect of the alteration: does it make smoother/leapier voice leading? Does it add chromaticism? Something else?



[Worksheet Playlist](#)

The first song is completed for you as an example.

Sia, “Cheap Thrills” (2016), chorus starting at 0:31

Chord symbols: F#mi – D – A – E/G#

Schema and variations: Singer/songwriter with V chord inverted

Effect: Smoother bass line between Eb and Cmi chords

Static & Ben El Tavori, “Namaste” (2018)

Chord symbols: Eb

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

Iron Maiden, “Blood Brothers” (2000)

Chord symbols: Emi

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

Thomas Rhett, “Life Changes” (2017)

Chord symbols: G

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

Beyoncé, “Halo” (2008)

Chord symbols: A

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

The Black Eyed Peas, “Let’s Get It Started” (2003)

Chord symbols: Bmi

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

Adele, “Someone Like You” (2011), intro and verse

Chord symbols: A _____

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

Mree, “Against the Current” (2011), intro and verse

Chord symbols: D _____

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____