

# Chord Identification

Chords can be built on each note of the scale. Some of the triads are Major, some are minor and the seventh triad is diminished. Chords are identified by Roman numerals.

Major chords use upper case : **I IV V**

Minor chords use lower case: **ii iii vi vii°**

## Tonic Chord

The tonic chord, **I**, is the most important chord. Think of it as “home base.” All music ends on a tonic chord.

## Dominant Chords

Dominant chords are the second most important chords. They include the **V** chord and the **vii°** chord. Dominant chords are used to lead to the tonic chord.

## Pre-Dominant Chords

Pre-dominant chords are next in the hierarchy and include the **IV** chord, the **ii** chord and the **vi** chord. Of these, the **IV** chord is most common. The **IV** chord is used to lead to the **V** chord.

## Other

The **iii** chord is last. It is used within music to lead away from the tonic.

## Chord Progression

Chords follow a progression that begins and ends on tonic. Here are some common examples of chord progressions:

- 1) **I IV V I**
- 2) **I ii V I**
- 3) **I ii IV V I**