Circle-of-Fifths Progression Chart

I – IV – vii° – iii – vi – ii – V7 – I · in C major: 8 bars

Interactive page: triads-guitar.com/progressions-library/circle-of-fifths-progression · Play it with a band: triads-guitar.com/progression-builder-app

The progression in C major

I	IV	vii°	iii	vi	ii	V7	I
C	F	B°	Em	Am	Dm	G7	C

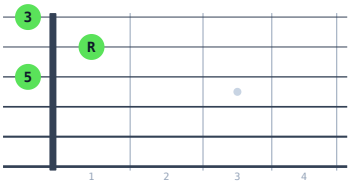
Why it works: Every root falls a fifth (or the next step round the key) until it lands home: in C major, C, F, B°, Em, Am, Dm, G7, C. Each chord leans into the next one a fifth below, so the pull never lets up, and the B° is the one diminished chord in the key, which leans into the Em. It is the longest chain of falling fifths the key allows, so it walks through every chord of the key in one loop. The minor version runs i, iv, bVII, bIII, bVI, ii°, V7, i, the way I Will Survive and Fly Me to the Moon go.

Songs built on it: I Will Survive · Fly Me to the Moon · Autumn Leaves

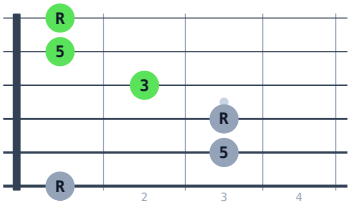
Heard in: Disco · Gospel · Swing and standards · Bossa nova · Classical

How to play it in C major

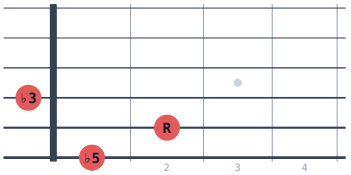
I · C · D shape



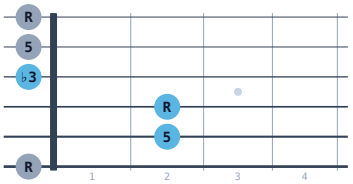
IV · F · E shape



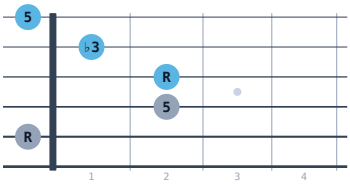
vii° · B° · C shape



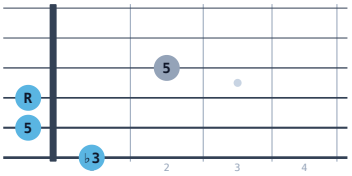
iii · Em · E shape



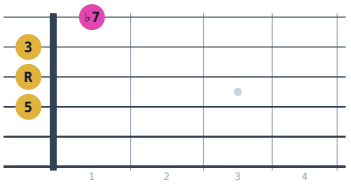
vi · Am · A shape



ii · Dm · E shape



V7 · G7 · A shape



Circle-of-Fifths Progression in every key

Key	I	IV	vii°	iii	vi	ii	V7
C major	C	F	B°	Em	Am	Dm	G7
D♭ major	D♭	G♭	C°	Fm	B♭m	E♭m	A♭7
D major	D	G	C♯°	F♯m	Bm	Em	A7
E♭ major	E♭	A♭	D°	Gm	Cm	Fm	B♭7
E major	E	A	D♯°	G♯m	C♯m	F♯m	B7
F major	F	B♭	E°	Am	Dm	Gm	C7
F♯ major	F♯	B	F°	A♯m	D♯m	G♯m	C♯7
G major	G	C	F♯°	Bm	Em	Am	D7
A♭ major	A♭	D♭	G°	Cm	Fm	B♭m	E♭7
A major	A	D	G♯°	C♯m	F♯m	Bm	E7
B♭ major	B♭	E♭	A°	Dm	Gm	Cm	F7
B major	B	E	A♯°	D♯m	G♯m	C♯m	F♯7

What to play over it

Over the whole progression: C Major · C Major pentatonic

Chord by chord: C: C Major · F: F Lydian · B°: B Locrian · Em: E Phrygian · Am: A Natural minor · Dm: D Dorian · G7: G Mixolydian