

Sequences



A sequence is a pattern of notes repeated at a higher or lower pitch. Sequences can work very nicely in melodies provided each pattern is based on a **chord**.

The first part of the sequence needs to be a pattern that will 'transpose' easily to another starting note. **Make sure your sequence begins and ends on a chord note.**

For example:

I II

When you transpose your pattern, check that the leading note is not exposed:

I II

Aarrggh! This leading note does not lead to the tonic!

A sequence does not always have to be based on chords I-II. Here are some great alternatives (all in C major):

I VI I IV VI IV

Tips for good sequences:

- ★ Make sure the first pattern begins and ends on a chord note
- ★ Do not leap up or down a 7th from one pattern to the next
- ★ Check that the leading note is not exposed in either pattern
- ★ Create a nice shape for your first pattern - avoid scale passages

Compose two sequences in D major based on these chord numbers:

I IV VI IV