



**presents**

Playing By Ear  
with Brad Mavin



# Episode 5: Adding the six chord

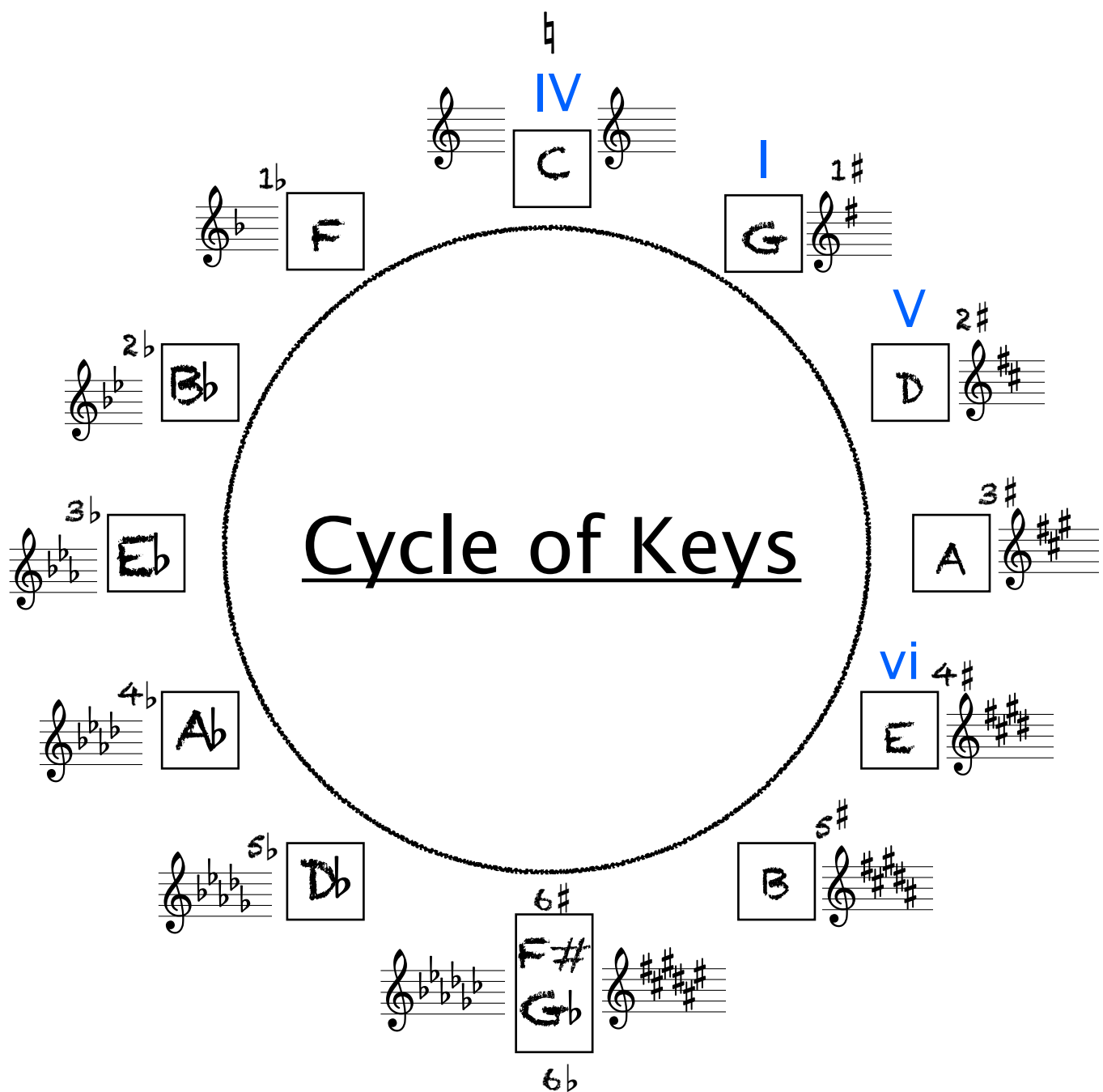
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# How to find the **vi** chord on the cycle of keys.

Find the **I** chord on the cycle diagram.

The **IV** chord will be one step earlier and the **V** chord one step later (moving clockwise).

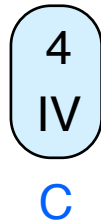
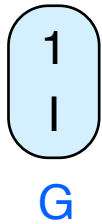
From the **V** chord move two (2) steps clockwise to find the **vi** chord.



# Notes in the chords

What are the Root notes of a chord?

The Root note of a chord is what the chord is actually called.  
If the chord is a G major then the root note is simply a G note.  
If the chord is an E minor then the root note is an E note.



## How to work out the 3rds

A 3rd is added to the root note to build the chord.

A 3rd is simply the third note of the scale: count up three (3) notes from the chord's root.

3rds are very important as they determine the **quality** of the chord: Major or Minor.

For example:

E minor has the root note of E.

The next note in a E minor chord is a 3rd on top of it, G.

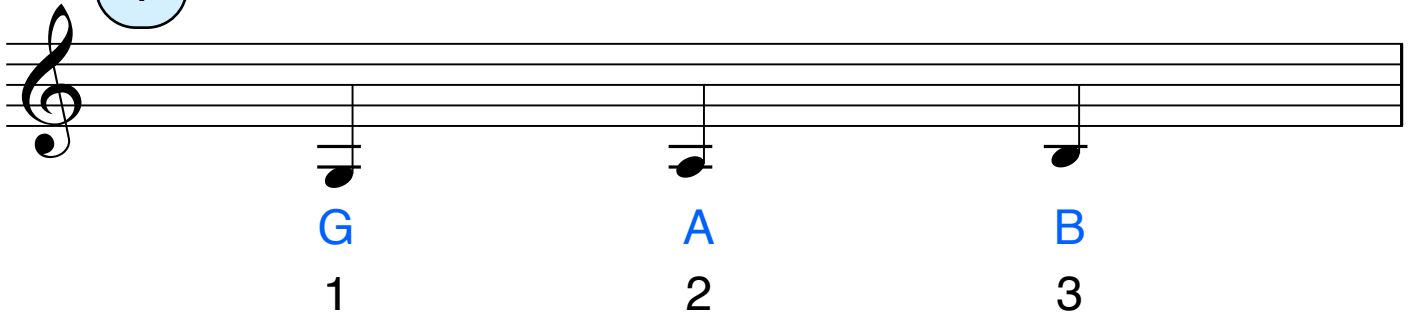
Key/Root  
↓

3rd Note  
↓

1	2	3
G	A	B
C	D	E
D	E	F#
E	F#	G

## G major chord

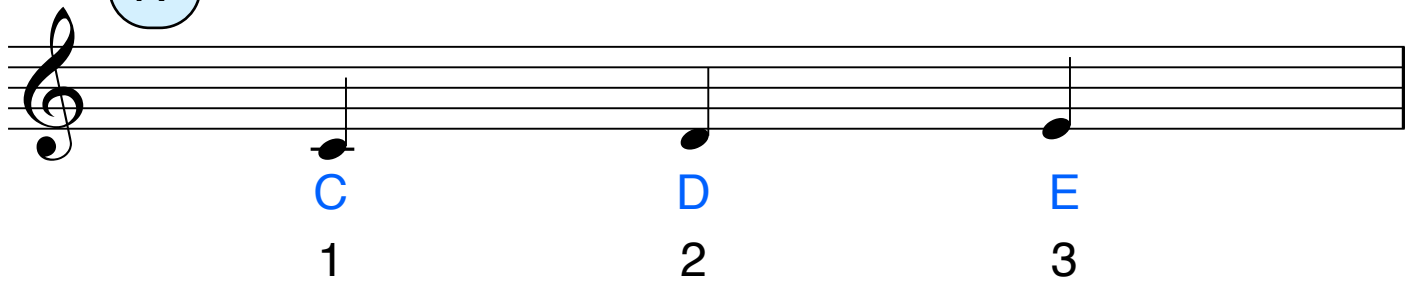
G  
I



A musical staff in treble clef showing the G major chord. The notes G, A, and B are placed on the first, second, and third lines of the staff, respectively. Below each note is a blue letter label (G, A, B) and a black number (1, 2, 3) indicating the finger placement.

## C major chord

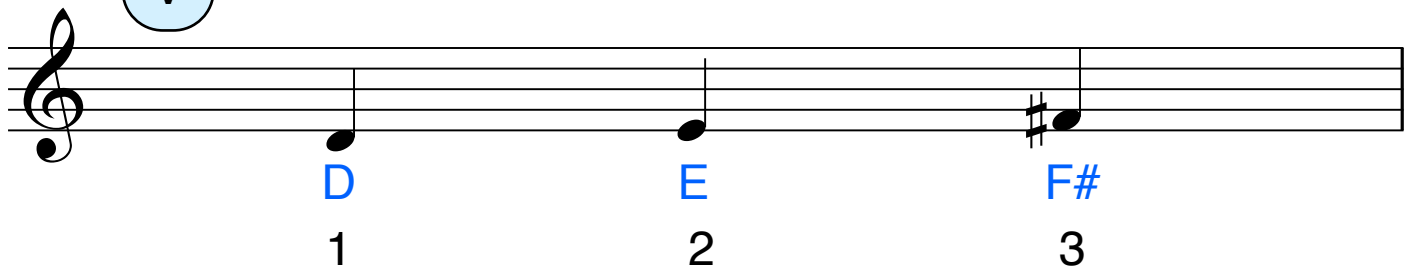
C  
IV



A musical staff in treble clef showing the C major chord. The notes C, D, and E are placed on the first, second, and third lines of the staff, respectively. Below each note is a blue letter label (C, D, E) and a black number (1, 2, 3) indicating the finger placement.

## D major chord

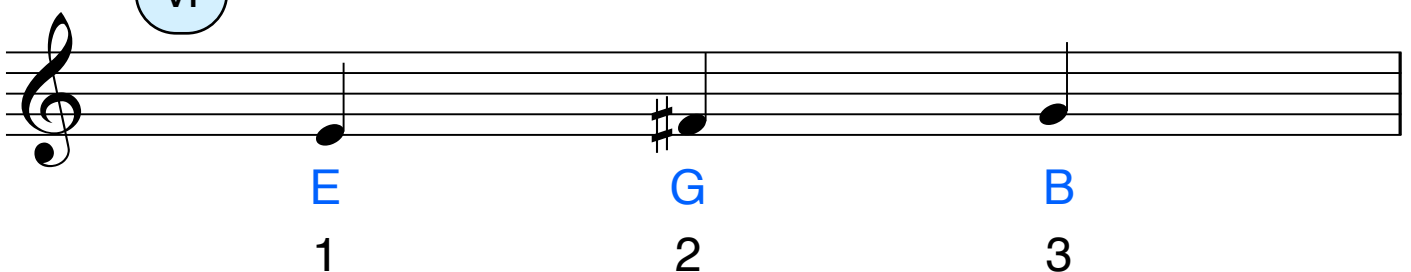
D  
V



A musical staff in treble clef showing the D major chord. The notes D, E, and F# are placed on the second, third, and fourth lines of the staff, respectively. Below each note is a blue letter label (D, E, F#) and a black number (1, 2, 3) indicating the finger placement.

## E minor chord

Em  
vi



A musical staff in treble clef showing the E minor chord. The notes E, G, and B are placed on the first, second, and third lines of the staff, respectively. Below each note is a blue letter label (E, G, B) and a black number (1, 2, 3) indicating the finger placement.

# How to work out the 5ths

A **5th interval** is added to complete the chord.

The 5th of each chord is found by counting up five (5) notes from the chord's root.

Simple chords are made up of three notes and are often called **triads**.

Chords are created from intervals of 3rds.

**For example:**

E minor has the root note of E.

The next note is a 3rd on top of it: G.

After G we then add another 3rd: B.

Key/Root



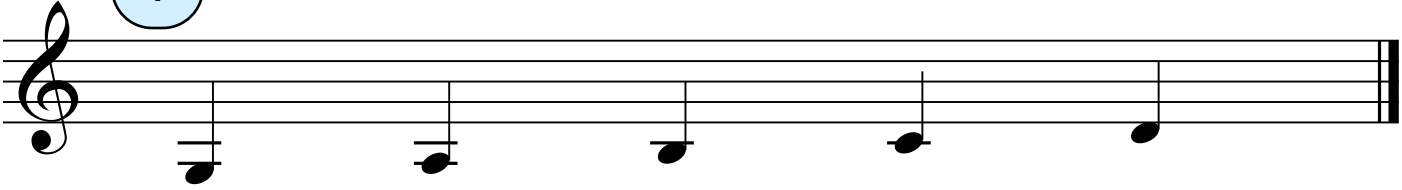
5th Note



1	2	3	4	5
G	A	B	C	D
C	D	E	F#	G
D	E	F#	G	A
E	F#	G	A	B

G  
I

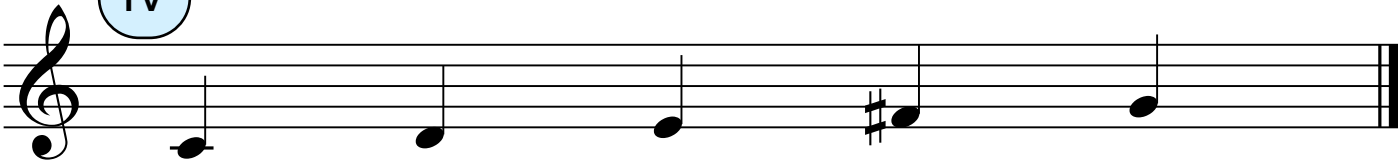
### G major chord



G 1      A 2      B 3      C 4      D 5

C  
IV

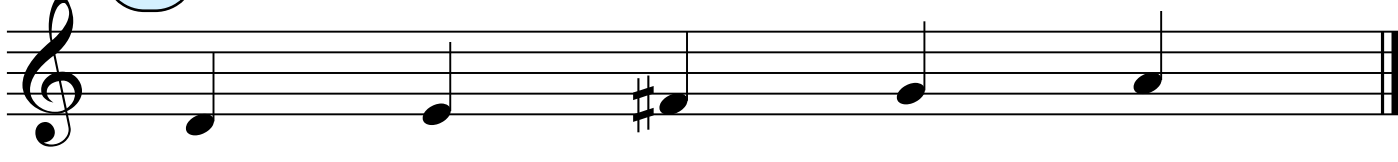
### C major chord



C 1      D 2      E 3      F# 4      G 5

D  
V

### D major chord



D 1      E 2      F# 3      G 4      A 5

Em  
vi

### E minor chord



E 1      F# 2      G 3      A 4      B 5

# Example: Chords in the G major Scale

Here is a little bit of theory to help you understand where the chords come from.

If you are not familiar with theory concepts then this lesson will help you.

In my opinion when it comes to learning music theory is really important.

Not knowing how chords are constructed, or not knowing the notes on your instrument is like speaking a language without knowing what you are saying.

Below is the G major scale. The 6th chord is highlighted in yellow.

## The G Major Scale

G A B C D E F# G

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

I ii iii IV V vi vii<sup>0</sup> I

The A major scale is shown below in the diagrams.

When playing these scales on guitar use one finger per fret.

The diagrams have been marked with blue numbers on the left side.

These numbers indicate the left hand fingers.

So the scale should start with your middle finger on the 3rd fret low "E" string.

### #1 G Major Scale One Octave

	6	5	4	3	2	1
	E	A	D	G	B	E
1		B	D			
3rd fret	G	C				
3			F#			
4	A	D	G			

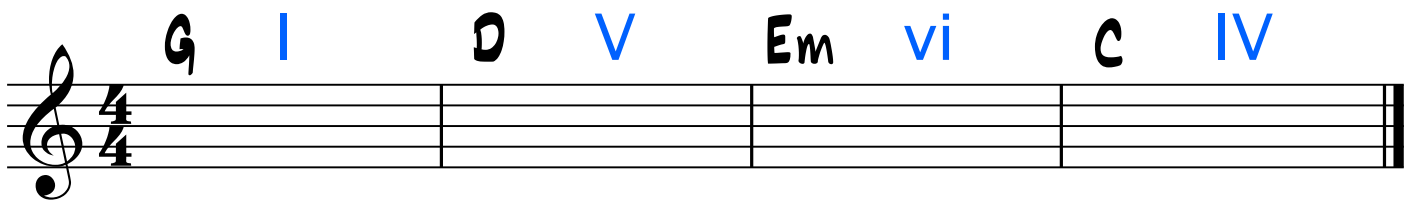
### #2 G Major Scale Two Octaves

	6	5	4	3	2	1
	E	A	D	G	B	E
1		B	E	A		F#
3rd fret	G	C			D	G
3			F#	B		
4	A	D	G	C	E	

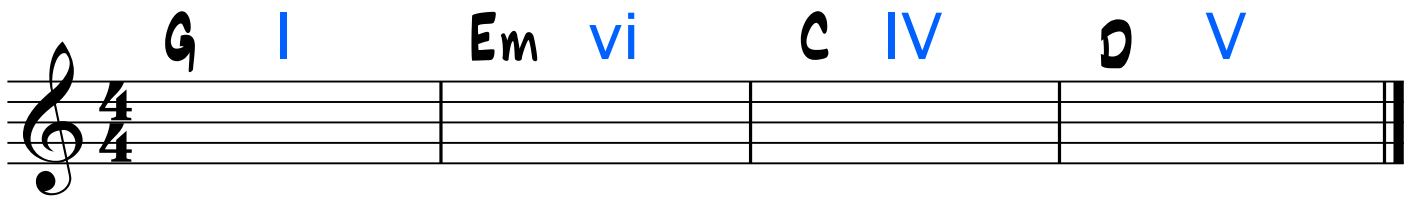
# The Chord Progressions

The chords progressions below are to be played in all keys.


Not only will this improve your ear it will also improve your knowledge of your instrument.



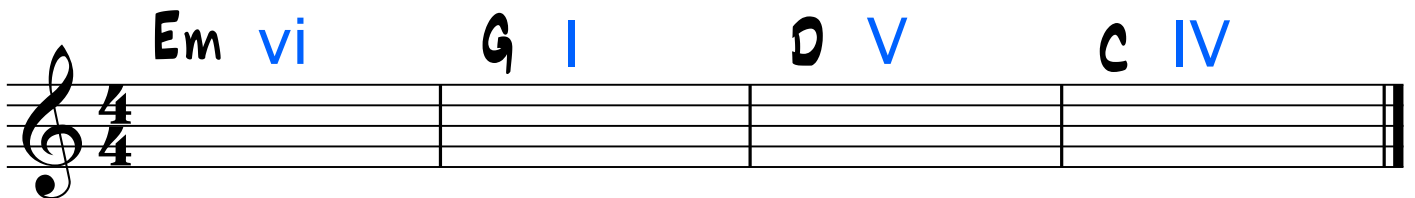
Staff 1: 4/4 time signature. Chord progression: G I D V Em vi C IV



Staff 2: 4/4 time signature. Chord progression: G I Em vi C IV D V



Staff 3: 4/4 time signature. Chord progression: Em vi C IV G I D V



Staff 4: 4/4 time signature. Chord progression: Em vi G I D V C IV



# The Exercises

Here are the examples used in the video. They are written in standard notation (better than tab!) so that every instrument can make sense of it.

- Example #1 is ascending triad and resolving to the 3rd of the chord
- Example #2 is ascending triad and resolving back to the Root note.
- Example #3 is the first 3 notes of the chord scale.
- Example #4 is the first 5 notes of the chord scale.

Remember to **play them slowly** at first to get them under your fingers and **always sing along** to what you are playing.

#1

G D Em C

#2

G D Em C

#3

G D Em C

#4

G D Em C