

Rob's Piano Room - Module 10 - PDF
The ii, iii, and vi Chords, with New Chord Progressions

Main points

Up to now we have been using only I IV and V in our chord progressions. In this module we will begin looking at adding ii, iv and vi to our vocabulary

The main use for ii will be as a replacement for IV (for example IV-V-I becomes ii-V-I)

We will use vi to precede iv or ii. As well, we will use vi after V, in order to continue, when I would have been expected. This is known as “deceptive”.

We will use iii to proceed vi

From all of this we will have the following example chord progressions

Note that V can be replaced by V7 in any of the following progressions

I - ii - V - I

I - vi - ii - V - I or I - vi - IV - V - I

I - iii - vi - ii - V - I or I - iii - vi - IV - V - I

I - IV - V - vi - IV - V - I

Here are a few progressions ending in the IV - I cadence

I - V - IV - I

I - vi - IV - I

Let's review our minor chord qualities one more time.

minor dim aug minor major major dim (minor) i V7
 i ii III iv V VI (vii o) i V7

We will still not use vii in our progressions. Note that i and iv are minor, V and VI are major. We can use ii as a diminished triad. III as an augmented triad is awkward, but we can make a modification and play III as a major chord

Exercise

Play the following progressions in the left hand. As you feel comfortable, add chord tone melodies in the right hand, and eventually add passing, neighbour tones, etc. Feel free to modify time signatures, left hand textures, etc as suits you - just use these as a starting place.

Chord progressions using ii, iii, and vi
Modify left hand inversions etc as you see fit
Try in different time signatures.

Chord progression 1: I, ii, V7, I

Chord progression 2: I, vi, ii, V7, I

Chord progression 3: I, vi, IV, V7, I

Chord progression 4: I, iii, vi, ii, V7, I

Chord progression 5: I, iii, vi, IV, V7, I

Chord progression 6: I, IV, V, vi, IV, V7, I

Chord progression 7: I, V, IV, I

Chord progression 8: I, vi, IV, I

Chord progressions in minor using ii, III, and VI
Modify left hand inversions etc as you see fit
Try in different time signatures

i ii ii V7 i

i VI ii V7 i

i VI iv V7 i

i III VI ii V7 i

i III VI iv V7 i

i iv V VI iv V7 i

i V iv i

I VI iv i