Four-chord Schemas (with variations)

Name: _____

The following tracks use looping chord progressions that are related to one of the four-chord schemas (singer/songwriter, doo-wop, or hopscotch).

- Listen to each track on the Spotify playlist by scanning the QR code or following the link on the textbook chapter.
- Notate the looping chord progression in chord symbols.
- Then, identify which schema this resembles, and identify how it's been varied in the song.
- Describe the effect of the alteration: does it make smoother/leapier voice leading? Does it add chromaticism? Something else?

Worksheet Playlist

The first song is completed for you as an example.

Sia, "Cheap Thrills" (2016), chorus starting at 0:31

Chord symbols: F♯mi – D – A – E/G♯

Schema and variations: Singer/songwriter with V chord inverted

Effect: Smoother bass line between A and F♯mi chords

Static & Ben El Tavori, "Namaste" (2018)

Chord symbols: E♭

Schema and variations: _____

Effect: _____

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Iron Maiden, “Blood Brothers” (2000)

Chord symbols: Emi

Schema and variations:

Effect:

Thomas Rhett, “Life Changes” (2017)

Chord symbols: G

Schema and variations:

Effect:

Beyoncé, “Halo” (2008)

Chord symbols: A

Schema and variations:

Effect:

The Black Eyed Peas, “Let’s Get It Started” (2003)

Chord symbols: Bmi

Schema and variations:

Effect:

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Adele, “Someone Like You” (2011), intro and verse

Chord symbols: A

Schema and variations:

Effect:

Mree, “Against the Current” (2011), intro and verse

Chord symbols: D

Schema and variations:

Effect:

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