

You might wish to consult the voice leading reference charts to extract ideas for use on these progressions. Try all progressions in lots of keys; add decoration & generally strive to make each one interesting, so that they are not a chore. To understand the symbols, 1st it is necessary to talk about FIGURED BASS.

FIGURED BASS

Figured bass is a system of musical shorthand where chords are indicated by the relationship, in close voicing, of all the notes to the bass note. Example: a closed triad in 1st inversion has (from the bass up) the following intervals: a 3rd, and a 6th (whether or not the 3rd + 6th's are major or minor depends on the type of triad). A 2nd inversion closed triad has the intervals of a 4th, and a 6th (from the bass up).

In musical shorthand any 1st inversion (close, open, 4 note) is referred to as a 6 or more commonly, just 6. For instance, a C in 1st inversion is written C<sub>6</sub> (not written as C6 because there is another chord that is written with this larger 6).

Similarly, any 2nd inversion is referred to as a 6/4. For instance, a C in 2nd inversion is written C<sub>6/4</sub> (no problem here about the size of the 6 or 4).

TRY REVERSING I + I when they appear as the last 2 chords of any progression

PROGRESSIONS TO GAIN FAMILIARITY WITH 1ST INVERSIONS

- ① I I<sub>6</sub> IV V I
- ② I IV IV<sub>6</sub> V I
- ③ I IV IV<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> I
- ④ I IV V V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑤ I I<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑥ I<sub>6</sub> I II<sub>6</sub> II V V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑦ I VI II<sub>6</sub> V I
- ⑧ I VI II V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑨ I<sub>6</sub> VI II<sub>6</sub> V I
- ⑩ I I<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> II II<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑪ I I<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑫ III<sub>6</sub> VI II<sub>6</sub> V I
- ⑬ III VI II V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑭ III III<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> II II<sub>6</sub> V (V<sub>6</sub> I)
- ⑮ VI III IV I<sub>6</sub>
- ⑯ VI<sub>6</sub> III IV<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑰ II<sub>6</sub> VI IV<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑱ II VI<sub>6</sub> IV I<sub>6</sub>
- ⑲ VI VI<sub>6</sub> III III<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑳ II II<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑰ I VII<sub>6</sub> I<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> V V VI
- ⑱ I VII<sub>6</sub> I<sub>6</sub> V VI V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑲ I V<sub>6</sub> I VII<sub>6</sub> I<sub>6</sub> II<sub>6</sub> V
- ⑲ I V<sub>6</sub> VI III<sub>6</sub> IV I<sub>6</sub> II V (I)
- ⑲ VII<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> I II<sub>6</sub> III VII<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑲ II I<sub>6</sub> IV III<sub>6</sub> VI V<sub>6</sub> I
- ⑲ IV III<sub>6</sub> VI V<sub>6</sub> I VII<sub>6</sub> I<sub>6</sub>
- ⑲ I<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VI<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> etc
- ⑲ I<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VI<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> etc
- ⑲ I<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> III<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> etc
- ⑲ I VI<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> VI IV<sub>6</sub> etc

- IN 3/4 TIME:
- ① I VI V<sub>6</sub> I I<sub>6</sub> IV V IV<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> I
  - ② I I<sub>6</sub> VI II II<sub>6</sub> V I I IV<sub>6</sub> V
  - ③ I I<sub>6</sub> VI IV IV<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> I II<sub>6</sub> V I
  - ④ I II<sub>6</sub> III IV V V<sub>6</sub> I IV I<sub>6</sub> V
  - ⑤ III III<sub>6</sub> VI II II<sub>6</sub> V I IV<sub>6</sub> V I
  - ⑥ III VI VI<sub>6</sub> II V V<sub>6</sub> I VII<sub>6</sub> I<sub>6</sub> V
  - ⑦ VI VI<sub>6</sub> III IV IV<sub>6</sub> I II<sub>6</sub> II V I
  - ⑧ II II<sub>6</sub> VI IV IV<sub>6</sub> I III VII<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> I

- IN MINOR KEYS:
- ① i Rvii<sup>o</sup> V<sub>6</sub> i i<sub>6</sub> IV V IV<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ② i i<sub>6</sub> VI ii<sup>o</sup> ii<sub>6</sub> V i i IV<sub>6</sub> V
  - ③ III III<sub>6</sub> VI ii<sup>o</sup> ii<sub>6</sub> V i IV<sub>6</sub> V i
  - ④ III VI VI<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> V V<sub>6</sub> i Rvii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> V
  - ⑤ VI V<sub>6</sub> III IV IV<sub>6</sub> i ii<sup>o</sup> ii<sub>6</sub> V i

- IN MINOR KEYS:
- ① i i<sub>6</sub> IV V i
  - ② i IV IV<sub>6</sub> V i
  - ③ i III<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ④ i IV V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑤ i i<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑥ i i<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑦ i VI II<sub>6</sub> V i
  - ⑧ i i<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> ii<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑨ i i<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑩ i i<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑪ III<sub>6</sub> VI II<sub>6</sub> V i
  - ⑫ III VI<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> V i
  - ⑬ III III<sub>6</sub> VI VI<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> ii<sub>6</sub> V (V<sub>6</sub> i)
  - ⑭ VI III IV<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑮ V<sub>6</sub> III IV<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑯ ii<sup>o</sup> VI IV<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑰ ii<sup>o</sup> VI<sub>6</sub> IV i<sub>6</sub>
  - ⑱ VI V<sub>6</sub> III III<sub>6</sub> IV IV<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑲ i Rvii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> V V VI
  - ⑲ i Rvii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> V Rvii<sup>o</sup> V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑲ i Rvii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> V VI V i
  - ⑲ i V<sub>6</sub> i Rvii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> II<sub>6</sub> V
  - ⑲ i V<sub>6</sub> VI ii<sup>o</sup> V V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑲ i V<sub>6</sub> VI III<sub>6</sub> IV i<sub>6</sub> (ii<sup>o</sup> V (I))
  - ⑲ ii<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub> IV III<sub>6</sub> Rvii<sup>o</sup> V<sub>6</sub> i
  - ⑲ IV III<sub>6</sub> Rvii<sup>o</sup> V<sub>6</sub> i VII<sup>o</sup> i<sub>6</sub>
  - ⑲ i<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VI<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> III<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> V i
  - ⑲ i<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> III<sub>6</sub> II<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> Rvii<sup>o</sup> Rvii<sup>o</sup> i
  - ⑲ i<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> VI<sub>6</sub> V<sub>6</sub> etc.
  - ⑲ i VI<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> VII<sub>6</sub> IV<sub>6</sub> etc.
  - ⑲ i VI<sub>6</sub> ii<sup>o</sup> VII<sub>6</sub> III i<sub>6</sub>

⑳ I VI<sub>6</sub> II VII<sub>6</sub> III I<sub>6</sub> etc

# PROGRESSIONS USING 1<sup>ST</sup> INVERSIONS; FIGURED BASS

(These Represent Only Some of the Possibilities)

## MAJOR

|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| ① | I<br>A              | I <sub>6</sub><br>A | II<br>D               | II<br>E              | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | I <sub>6</sub><br>A | IV<br>D               | II<br>E              | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ② | I<br>A              | II<br>D             | II <sub>6</sub><br>D  | II<br>E              | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | II<br>D             | II <sub>6</sub><br>D  | II<br>E              | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ③ | I<br>A              | II<br>D             | II <sub>6</sub><br>D  | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | II<br>D             | II <sub>6</sub><br>D  | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ④ | I<br>A              | II<br>D             | II<br>E               | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | II<br>D             | II<br>E               | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ⑤ | I<br>A              | I <sub>6</sub><br>A | II<br>D               | II <sub>6</sub><br>D | II<br>E | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ⑥ | I <sub>6</sub><br>A | I<br>A              | ii <sub>6</sub><br>Bm | ii<br>Bm             | II<br>E | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ⑦ | I<br>A              | vi<br>F#m           | ii <sub>6</sub><br>Bm | II<br>E              | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | vi<br>F#m           | ii <sub>6</sub><br>Bm | II<br>E              | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ⑧ | I<br>A              | vi<br>F#m           | ii<br>Bm              | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | vi<br>F#m           | ii<br>Bm              | II <sub>6</sub><br>E | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |
| ⑨ | I <sub>6</sub><br>A | vi<br>F#m           | ii <sub>6</sub><br>Bm | II<br>E              | I<br>A  |                      | I<br>A | vi<br>F#m           | ii <sub>6</sub><br>Bm | II<br>E              | I<br>A |  |
|   |                     |                     |                       |                      |         |                      |        |                     |                       |                      |        |  |

MAJOR

|               |             |            |            |          |            |             |            |           |          |        |  |
|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| ① I<br>A      | I6<br>A     | vi<br>F#m  | vi6<br>F#m | ii<br>Bm | ii6<br>Bm  | IV<br>E     | IV6<br>E   | I<br>A    |          |        |  |
| ② I<br>A      | I6<br>A     | VI<br>F#m  | VI6<br>F#m | III<br>D | III6<br>D  | IV<br>E     | IV6<br>E   | I<br>A    |          |        |  |
| ③ iii6<br>C#m | VI<br>F#m   | ii6<br>Bm  | IV<br>E    | I<br>A   |            | iii6<br>C#m | VI<br>F#m  | ii6<br>Bm | IV<br>E  | I<br>A |  |
| ④ iii<br>C#m  | vi6<br>F#m  | ii<br>Bm   | IV6<br>E   | I<br>A   |            | iii<br>C#m  | vi6<br>F#m | ii<br>Bm  | IV6<br>E | I<br>A |  |
| ⑤ iii<br>C#m  | iii6<br>C#m | VI<br>F#m  | vi6<br>F#m | ii<br>Bm | ii6<br>Bm  | IV<br>E     | IV6<br>E   | I<br>A    |          |        |  |
| ⑥ VI<br>F#m   | iii6<br>C#m | III<br>D   | I6<br>A    |          | VI<br>F#m  | iii6<br>C#m | IV<br>D    | I6<br>A   |          |        |  |
| ⑦ vi6<br>F#m  | iii<br>C#m  | III6<br>D  | I<br>A     |          | vi6<br>F#m | iii<br>C#m  | III6<br>D  | I<br>A    |          |        |  |
| ⑧ ii6<br>Bm   | VI<br>F#m   | III6<br>D  | I<br>A     |          | ii6<br>Bm  | VI<br>F#m   | III6<br>D  | I<br>A    |          |        |  |
| ⑨             | ii<br>Bm    | VI6<br>F#m | III<br>D   | I6<br>A  |            | ii<br>Bm    | VI6<br>F#m | III<br>D  | I6<br>A  |        |  |

MAJOR

|    |             |             |            |             |            |             |           |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 19 | vi<br>F#m   | vi6<br>F#m  | iii<br>C#m | iii6<br>C#m | IV<br>D    | IV6<br>D    | I<br>A    |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | ii<br>Bm    | ii6<br>Bm   | vi<br>F#m  | vi6<br>F#m  | IV<br>D    | IV6<br>D    | I<br>A    |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | I<br>A      | vii6<br>G#o | I6<br>A    | IV6<br>D    | II<br>E    | IV6<br>E    | VI<br>F#m |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | I<br>A      | vii6<br>G#o | I6<br>A    | II<br>E     | VI<br>F#m  | IV6<br>E    | I<br>A    |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | I<br>A      | IV6<br>E    | I<br>A     | vii6<br>G#o | I6<br>A    | ii6<br>Bm   | II<br>E   | I<br>A  |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | I<br>A      | IV6<br>E    | VI<br>F#m  | iii6<br>C#m | II<br>D    | I6<br>A     | ii<br>Bm  | II<br>E | I<br>A |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | vii6<br>G#o | IV6<br>D    | II<br>E    | ii6<br>Bm   | iii<br>C#m | vii6<br>G#o | I<br>A    |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | ii<br>Bm    | I6<br>A     | II<br>D    | iii6<br>C#m | VI<br>F#m  | IV6<br>E    | I<br>A    |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27 | IV<br>D     | iii6<br>C#m | VI<br>F#m  | IV6<br>E    | I<br>A     | vii6<br>G#o | I6<br>A   |         |        |  |  |  |  |  |

# PROGRESSIONS USING 1ST INVERSIONS; FIGURED BASS

## MINOR

① *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *iv* *II* *i* *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *iv* *II* *i*

② *i* *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *i* *i* *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *i*

③ *i* *II*<sub>6</sub> *II*<sub>6</sub> *II*<sub>6</sub> *i* *i* *II*<sub>6</sub> *II*<sub>6</sub> *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

④ *i* *iv* *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i* *i* *iv* *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

⑤ *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i* *i* *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

⑥ *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i* *i* *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

⑦ *i* *II* *ii*<sub>6</sub> *II* *i* *i* *II* *ii*<sub>6</sub> *II* *i*

⑧ *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *ii*<sub>6</sub> *ii*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i* *i* *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

⑨ *i* *i*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *iv* *iv*<sub>6</sub> *II* *II*<sub>6</sub> *i*

MINOR

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ⑩ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑪ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑫ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑬ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑭ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑮ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑯ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑰ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ⑱ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

MINOR

Handwritten guitar chord diagrams for the first inversion progression of a minor scale. The diagrams are arranged in rows, numbered 19 through 27. Each diagram shows a 6-string guitar fretboard with dots indicating finger positions. Above each diagram is a chord name and a fingering number. The chords are: i Am, Rvii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, iv<sup>6</sup> Dm, II E, II<sup>6</sup> E, III F, i Am, Rvii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, II E, Rvii<sup>6</sup> F#o, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, i Am, Rvii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, II E, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, i Am, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, Rvii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, ii<sup>6</sup> Bm, II E, i Am, i Am, ii<sup>6</sup> Em, III F, ii<sup>6</sup> B<sup>o</sup>, II E, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, i Am, ii<sup>6</sup> Em, IV Dm, III<sup>6</sup> C, iv<sup>6</sup> Dm, i<sup>6</sup> Am, ii<sup>6</sup> B<sup>o</sup>, II E, I A, i Am, i<sup>6</sup> Am, iv<sup>6</sup> Dm, III<sup>6</sup> C, Rvii<sup>6</sup> F#o, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, i Am, ii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, i Am, i<sup>6</sup> Am, iv<sup>6</sup> Dm, III<sup>6</sup> C, Rvii<sup>6</sup> F#o, II<sup>6</sup> E, i Am, ii<sup>6</sup> G#o, i<sup>6</sup> Am, i Am, i<sup>6</sup> Am, iv<sup>6</sup> Dm, III<sup>6</sup> C, ii<sup>6</sup> B<sup>o</sup>, II E, i Am.