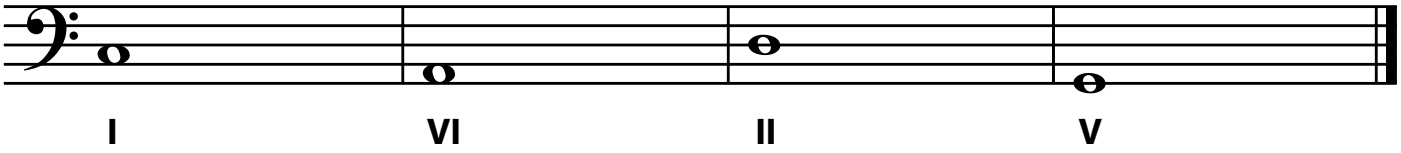
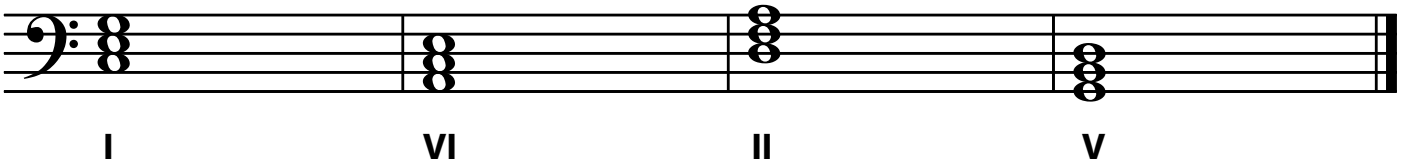
MusIQ Club Level 7: Chord Progression
I VI II V

The chord progression I VI II V is a variation on the I VI IV V progression we have already learned. This variation works well because the IV chord and the II chord share two of the same notes. The **I, IV, and V chords** are the **primary** chords in any key, which makes the **II, III, and VI chords** the **secondary** chords. These three secondary chords are minor, while the primary chords are all major. Composers will often substitute a primary chord with the secondary chord that it shares 2 notes with when they want a slightly different sound.

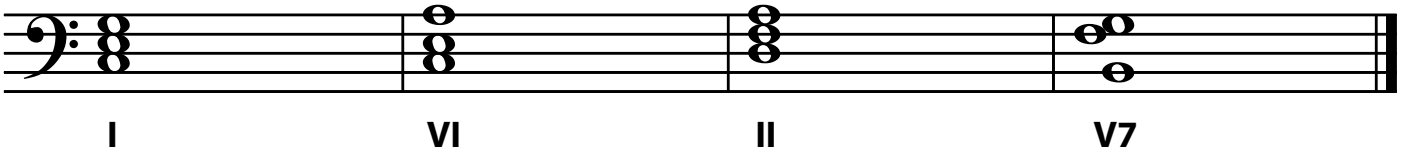
Here is the I VI II V bass line in C Major:



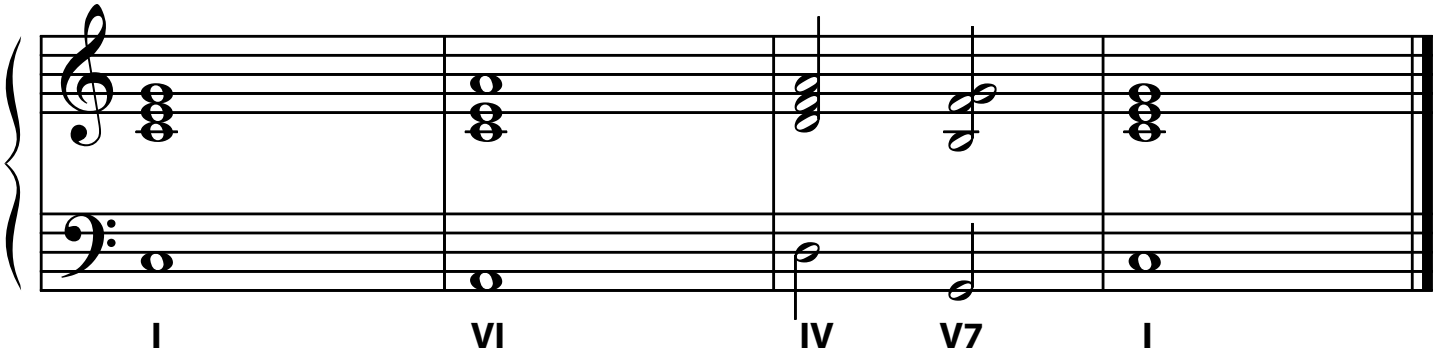
Here is the I VI II V progression again, but in root position triads.
Notice the II chord is minor:



Here is the I VI II V progression but in more convenient inversions, making it easier to play. The V chord has been changed to a V7 as well:



Usually for the last phrase of the piece, the II and V(7) chords will be combined into one measure so the phrase can end on the I chord:



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