

Chords as Numbers (4) – Modulating (changing keys)

When talking about modulating, you must look for a pivot chord. A pivot chord is the chord that either temporarily takes you to the new key or takes you to the new key for awhile. A great indicator of the pivot chord is going to be a 7th chord. Not a maj or a m7, but our dominant 7th. There is only one dominant 7th in each key so this is the one that tells us where we're going. For example C – E7 – Am – D7 – G7, the E7 is telling us we're momentarily moving to a tonal center of Am. D7 is telling us that we're temporarily going to G, since the G is a G7 that brings us back to C!

G – E7 – Am – D7
G --- Am ----- G

E – G#7 – C#m – F#7 – B7
E --- C#m ----- B ----- E

F – Fmaj7 – F7 - Bb – Gm – Cm – F7 – Bb
F ----- Bb -----

C – A7 – Dm – G7
C – Dm ----- C

D – Dmaj7 – A7 – Gm – A7 – D
D ----- Dm --- D -----

Eb – Eb7 – Ab – Bb7 – Eb
Eb – Ab ----- Eb -----

A – F#7 – B7 – E7 – A
A – B ---- E ---- A -----

Ab – Ab7 – Db – Bbm7 – Eb7
Ab --- Db ----- Ab -----

B – B7 – E – A – Am – B7 – E
B – E ----- Em --- E -----

C – G7 – C7 – F – Bb – Bbm – F
C ----- F ----- Fm --- F ---