

Four-Chord Schemas

Keyboard style voice-leading realizations

1. Doo Wop

Doo Wop Variant

via chord substitution (sub. ii for IV)*

C A m F G C A m D m G

C: I vi IV V I vi ii V

2. Axis, or Singer-Songwriter

Four variants via chord rotation*

On vi

A m F C G F G C A m

C: vi IV I V IV V I vi

On IV

On I

C G A m F G A m F C

C: I V vi IV V vi IV I

On V

3. Hopscotch

F G A m C

C: IV V vi I

* - Schema *variants* may be created by chord *substitution* or chord *rotation*

Reference

Lavengood, Megan and Bryn Hughes. 2023. "Four-Chord Schemas." In Mark Gotham, et al., *Open Music Theory*, v2.
Available online at: <<https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/chapter/4-chord-schemas/>>