



## Lesson Seventeen

Gigajam Guitar School Lesson 17 IGS 145CP

### Introducing 1-4-5 Chord Progressions

#### Lesson Objectives

- Understand and be able to play **1,4,5 chord sequences**.
- Memorize the sound of 1,4,5 chord sequence.
- Work through various progression exercises.

#### Groundwork for Lead Guitar Playing

In the following lessons we will be laying the foundations for learning how to play lead guitar solos.

A key factor in playing solos is understanding the chord sequence over which the solos are played.

In the first few lead guitar lessons we will be playing over what is termed a **1-4-5 chord sequence**. This lesson is designed to introduce this sequence of chords to you, then help you understand how to play the sequence and then develop your ear for hearing the chord sequence.

#### 1-4-5 Chord Progression.

The full explanation of a 1-4-5 chord sequence is examined and explained in greater detail in our technique store.

For the time being though, all you need to know is that the numbers refer to the sequential number in a **key** where the chords appear.

Again, all you need to be aware of is that there are 7 notes in a scale; namely A,B,C, D,E,F,G and consequently 7 chords. We will be using the 1st, 4th and 5th chords for our rhythm guitar part-hence the term 1-4-5.

The three chords which we will use will be A, D and E. It doesn't matter whether these chords are major, minor or indeed 5 chords. As long as these are the 3 chords. Look at our table below and you will see the notes in the key of A. Therefore, A is the 1 chord then D and E are 4 and 5 respectively. Again, it doesn't matter which type of chords they are.

Table 1. 1-4-5 Sequence

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#

#### Getting used to the sound of the 1-4-5 chord progression. (Using minor chords)

Play the following exercise using Barre Chords only. In the following exercise, Am is played at fret 5, Dm at fret 5 and Em at fret 7.

In our first exercise, Am will root from the 6th string with Dm and Em rooting from the 5th string. At the moment we are merely learning the sound so there is only a simple rhythm to follow. We will focus more on rhythm in the next lesson.

So for our first exercise make good use of the multimedia files and then play along when confident.

### Exercise 1

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1 Am Dm 4 Am

7 Dm 8 Em Dm Am 12 Em

### Developing your understanding of the sound of 1-4-5 (Using 7 chords)

Now that we have played the minor sequence, let's now play the sequence using 7 chords, changing between A7, D7 and E7.

### Exercise 2

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1 A7 D7 4 A7

7 D7 8 E7 D7 A7 12 E7

### Developing your understanding of the sound of 1-4-5 (Using minor 7 chords)

Now that we have played the minor and 7 sequence, let's now play the sequence using minor 7 chords, changing between Am7, Dm7 and Em7.

### Exercise 3

lesson017.igs145cp.03



1 Am7 Dm7 4 Am7

7 Dm7 8 Em7 Dm7 Am7 12 Em7

The 1-4-5 holds true as long as you do not mix the chord types, i.e. major with minors etc. The bars in which the chords change can vary, i.e. sometimes the 4 chord is played at bar two, reverting to the 1 chord at bar 3 and sometimes the first four bars stay on the 1 chord.

In the examples below we have maintained the same chord sequence, to help with familiarity.

## Developing 1-4-5 in G (Using minor chords)

Let's try the same sequence in a different key. This time we will be in G starting with minor chords.

### Exercise 4

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## Developing 1-4-5 in G (Using 7 chords)

Now that we have played the minor sequence, let's now play the sequence using 7 chords, changing between G7, C7 and D7.

### Exercise 5

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## Developing 1-4-5 in G (Using minor 7 chords)

Now that we have played the minor and 7 sequence in G, let's now play the sequence using minor 7 chords, changing between Gm7, Cm7 and Dm7.

### Exercise 6

lesson017.igs145cp.06



1 Gm7 Cm7 4 Gm7

7 Cm7 8 Dm7 Cm7 Gm7 12 Dm7

## Developing 1-4-5 in F#m

The following sequence is in F#m. By now you should be able to see the pattern of the sequence and hear where the chords change.

### Exercise 7

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1 F#m Bm 4 F#m

7 Bm 8 C#m Bm F#m 12 C#m

## Developing 1-4-5 in Bbm

We are using one final exercise for this lesson to cement your knowledge and understanding of the 1-4-5 sequence. The final sequence is in Bbm.

Try playing all of the previous sequences from memory. You are aiming to be able to play this sequence in any key. Once you have been given the opening chord the other chords should all fall into place.

### Exercise 8

lesson017.igs145cp.08



1 Bbm 4 Ebm 7 Bbm

7 Ebm 8 Fm 9 Ebm 10 Bbm 11 Fm 12

## Further Practice and Development Work (1-4-5 from the 5th String)

We have put a lot of work into developing the sound of the 1-4-5 progression and increasing your familiarity with its sound.

All of these exercises have been chosen rooting the chord from the 6th string using Barre Chords. To take it to the next step you need to learn the sequences with the 1 chord on the 5th string and the 4 and 5 chords on the 6th string.