

## How To Create Original Chord Patterns in Garageband

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A simple way to create original chord patterns in Garageband (using chordal Smart Instruments including the Smart Guitar, Smart Strings, Smart Bass, and Smart Keyboard) is to use *chord substitutions* to modify the four common chord patterns (as described in the iPad Music Creation Workshop handout) This means replacing one or more chords in a chord pattern with a different but related (and similar sounding) chord.

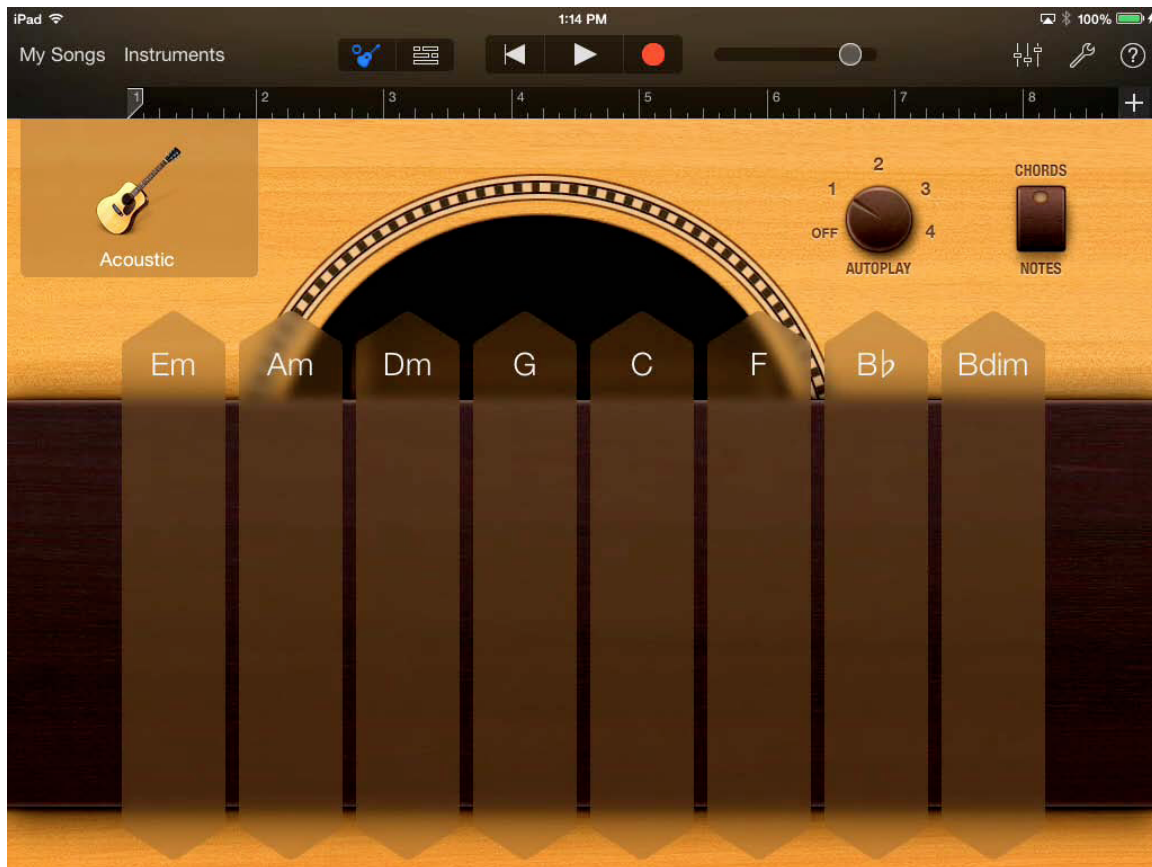
### **Substitute Chords in C Major**

In the key of C Major (the default musical key in Garageband), the three major chords (C, F, and G) can be *substituted* or interchanged with the following chords (and vice versa) which are available on the various chordal Smart Instruments (including the Smart Guitar):

C = Am or Em

F = Dm or A-

G = Em, Bdim, or Bb



Take for example, the “I IV V I” chord pattern:

| C | F | G | C | [four beats or one measure per chord in this case]

The “C” chord can be replaced by an “Am” in both instances to create the following chord pattern:

| Am | F | G | Am |

This minor chord pattern is similar to the chord pattern found in songs such as “All Along the Watchtower” by Bob Dylan and the guitar solo to “Stairway to Heaven” by Led Zeppelin. By changing one chord with another in an existing chord pattern, we have created a new chord pattern with a vastly different musical character than the original.

### **Adding Substitute Chords to an Existing Chord Pattern**

Substitute chords can also be added immediately before or after the original chords. Let’s take the “I IV V I” chord pattern again as an example and add a substitute chord after the original chord in the first three measure (two beats per chord in the new chord pattern):

| C | F | G | C | [original “I IV V I” pattern]

| C Am | F D- | G Bb | C | [modified “I IV V I” pattern with added substitute chords]

### **Deriving Common Chord Patterns from One Another**

Many of the most common chord patterns in music are actually derived from other common chord patterns using chordal substitution and/or adding substitute chords. For example, the third of the four common chord patterns (“Rhythm Changes”) can be derived from the “I IV V I” chord pattern by adding “Am” after the C and replacing the “F” with its substitute “Dm”:

| C | F | G | C | [original “I IV V I”]

| C Am | D- | G | C |  
[“Rhythm Changes” derived by substitution and added chord substitutes]

### **Further Applications of Chord Substitutions**

Extended musical compositions can be created by choosing one chord pattern (either a common chord pattern or a completely original pattern) and creating variations of it by substituting chords, adding in substitute chords, and changing the duration of individual chords or the entire chord pattern. Songs will often use variations of a chord pattern for different sections of the song to give it a sense of both unity and variety, that elusive and paradoxical quality that makes music sound both familiar and fresh to our ears. Students can also experiment using different chordal Smart Instruments to play different variations of chord patterns within a song to emphasize and reflect the change in harmony in terms of different instrumentation and musical texture.