



The Rockstar Song Template

Vault

Part 1: Rock Song Structures (The Blueprint)

Most songs are built from a few key sections. Understanding their purpose is the first step to crafting a compelling song.

- **Verse:** This is where you tell the story. The lyrics change with each verse, but the music usually stays the same.
- **Chorus:** This is the main event—the big, catchy, memorable part of the song. The lyrics and music are almost always identical each time it appears. It contains the core message or hook.
- **Bridge:** This section provides a change of pace. It introduces a new musical and lyrical idea, offering a fresh perspective before returning to the familiar chorus. It's the "plot twist."
- **Pre-Chorus:** A short section that builds tension and anticipation leading into the chorus.
- **Solo:** The instrumental showcase, usually for the lead guitar. It often plays over the chord progression of the verse or chorus.
- **Intro/Outro:** The beginning and end of your song. The intro sets the mood, and the outro provides a satisfying conclusion.

Common Song Structures

Here are the most common and effective structures. (V=Verse, C=Chorus, B=Bridge, S=Solo)

1. VCVC (The Simple Banger)

- Structure: Verse 1 -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Chorus -> Outro
- Best for: Punk, Garage Rock, Pop-Rock

2. VCVCBC (The Modern Classic)

- Structure: Verse 1 -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Chorus -> Bridge -> Chorus -> Outro
- Best for: Alternative, Modern Rock, Pop

3. VCVCBCS (The Arena Rocker)

- Structure: Verse 1 -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Chorus -> Solo -> Bridge -> Chorus -> Outro
- Best for: Classic Rock, Hard Rock, Metal

Part 2: Rock Chord Progressions (The Harmony)

Chord progressions are the emotional engine of your song. We'll use Roman numerals so you can apply these to any key.

- **I:** The "home" chord (Major)
- **ii:** Minor
- **iii:** Minor
- **IV:** Major
- **V:** Major
- **vi:** The "relative minor" (Minor)
- **vii°:** Diminished (less common in rock)

The "Can't-Miss" Progressions

1. I - V - vi - IV (The Pop Powerhouse Progression)

- Feel: Uplifting, anthemic, versatile. The most common progression in modern music for a reason.

- Key of G: G - D - Em - C
 - Key of C: C - G - Am - F
2. **I - IV - V (The Rock 'n' Roll Backbone)**
- Feel: Simple, driving, classic. The foundation of early rock and roll and punk.
 - Key of E: E - A - B
 - Key of A: A - D - E
3. **vi - IV - I - V (The Emotional Edge Progression)**
- Feel: Melancholy, dramatic, emotional. Starts on the minor chord for a darker feel.
 - Key of C: Am - F - C - G
 - Key of G: Em - C - G - D
4. **I - vi - IV - V (The Retro Heartwarmer Progression)**
- Feel: Nostalgic, classic, feel-good.
 - Key of C: C - Am - F - G
 - Key of G: G - Em - C - D
5. **The 12-Bar Blues**
- Feel: The foundation. Groovy, raw, and essential.
 - Structure (in Key of A): A(I) x4 bars | D(IV) x2 bars | A(I) x2 bars | E(V) x1 bar | D(IV) x1 bar | A(I) x1 bar | E(V) x1 bar

Part 3: Ready-to-Use Songwriting Templates

These templates provide plug-and-play frameworks to kickstart your songwriting. Customize lyrics, melodies, and dynamics to make them your own.

1. Template 1: The 90s Alternative Rock Hit

- Goal: Create a song with a quiet/loud dynamic that builds into an explosive chorus.
- Structure: Intro -> Verse 1 -> Pre-Chorus -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Pre-Chorus -> Chorus -> Bridge -> Solo -> Chorus -> Outro
- Verse Progression: vi - IV - I - V (e.g., Am - F - C - G) - Play it clean and sparse.

- Chorus Progression: I - V - vi - IV (e.g., C - G - Am - F) - Hit the distortion and play with power.

2. **Template 2: The Garage Rock Anthem**

- Goal: A high-energy, riff-driven song that is instantly catchy.
- Structure: Riff Intro -> Verse 1 -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Chorus -> Bridge -> Chorus x2 -> Outro
- Verse Progression: I - IV - V (e.g., A5 - D5 - E5) - Use fast, driving power chords.
- Chorus Progression: vi - IV - I - V (e.g., F#m - D - A - E) - Make it a big, open-chord sing-along.

3. **Template 3: The Punk Rock Blitz**

- Goal: A short, fast, and aggressive song with no filler.
- Structure: Intro (4 fast bars) -> V1 -> C -> V2 -> C -> Bridge -> C -> End
- Progression (for the whole song): I - IV - V (e.g., G5 - C5 - D5) or vi - IV - I - V (e.g., Em - C - G - D). The key is speed and simplicity.
- Dynamics: Play everything fast, loud, and with downstrokes. The bridge is often just a breakdown with bass and drums for 4 bars before the final chorus.

4. **Template 4: The Acoustic Ballad**

- Goal: An emotional, stripped-down song that focuses on the lyrics and melody.
- Structure: Intro -> V1 -> V2 -> C -> V3 -> C -> Bridge -> C -> Outro
- Progression: I - V - vi - IV (e.g., G - D - Em - C). Use variations like Cadd9 for C, and Dsus4 for D to add flavor.
- Dynamics: Focus on fingerpicking or gentle strumming for verses. Build intensity in the chorus by strumming harder. The bridge could introduce a new chord like the iii (Bm in the key of G) for a different color.

5. **Template 5: The Gritty Blues Rock Jam**

- Goal: A riff-based song with a strong groove and space for improvisation.
- Structure: Main Riff -> Verse 1 (over riff) -> Chorus -> Verse 2 -> Chorus -> Solo (12 or 24 bars) -> Chorus -> Outro (jam on riff)
- Progression: Based on the 12-Bar Blues (see above). The main riff should be built on the I chord (e.g., E), and the chorus could move to the IV (A) and V (B) chords for a lift.

- Dynamics: It's all about the feel. Start with a memorable guitar riff. The verses are sung over this riff. The chorus gets bigger and the solo is the centerpiece.