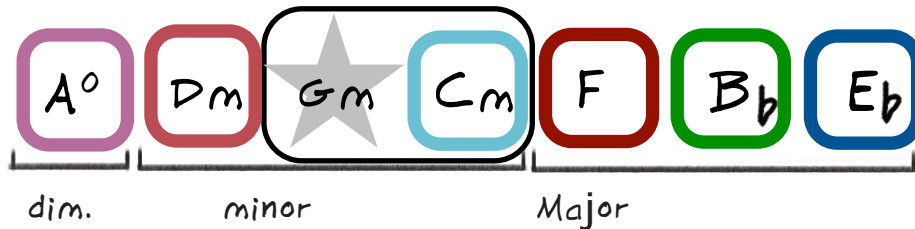


BEAD Guides Chord Flow

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LaBelle's "Lady Marmalade" is a groove machine focused on Gm7 C vamp. It is text book BEAD Guides Chord Flow, focused on a keys central chord, Gm, and its right neighbor, C.



It moves between Gm's neighbors, C and Dm, pausing and building up a bit of tension...



before returning to Gm and the vamp.



This could get repetitive after a bit of time, even with groove and funk to spare, but take a listen to the horn section bridge, (starting around 1:36) What's going on??

First, the vamp chords are subbed out for their related major chords. The Bb will lead to Eb. When we arrive at Eb, there's a shift, it feels like a new home. From Eb the progression moves to G major chord (its simply being switched in for Gm), then back to Eb, then it moves down one fret to D major, which sets us up for the return to the vamp.



It's worth noting, after the bridge, that D major is used at the end of verse, amping up the tension on the words, "more, more, more..."