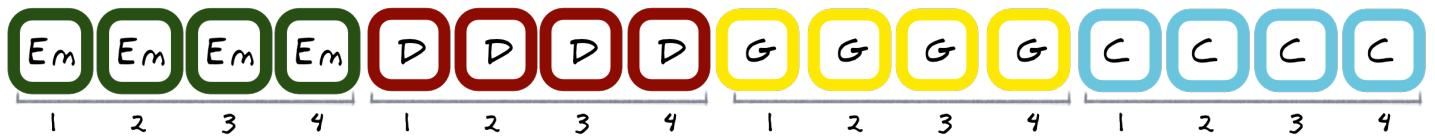


BEAD Guides Chord Flow

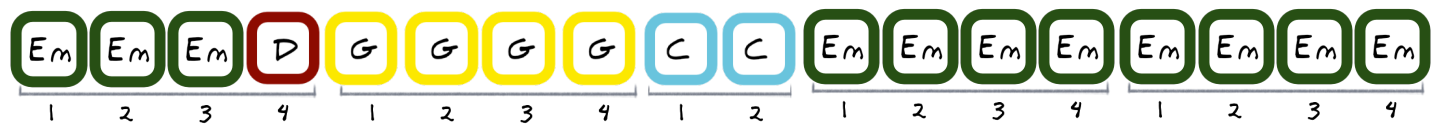
by Timmy Riordan, TimmyRMusic@gmail.com

I Wanna Know What Love Is, by Foreigner, is a classic 80's power ballad. It uses classic power ballad chords. Those chords in the key of G are G and its two neighbors, D and C, as well as the G's relative minor chord, Em. What's interesting, is it's use of time in the verses. I'm going to map it out using the BEAD Guides Chord flow squares, below. Each square will represent one beat.

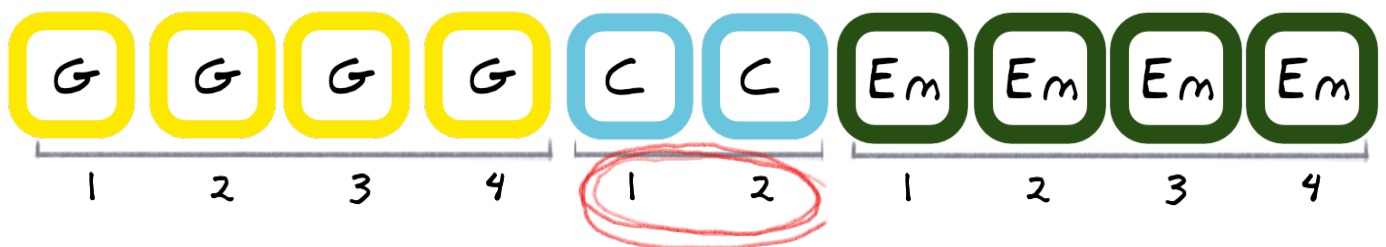
First, here's what those changes might typically look like:



This progression is steady and consistent. It will sound good, and if you have a great melody for it to support, it will support it admirably. There's nothing wrong with it. There's also nothing that makes it stand out. Here's the actual progression from the verse of "I Wanna Know What Love Is:"



That's a bit different isn't it? You can see it simply looking at the spread of colors in the first progression versus the second. Where the first is steady and consistent throughout, this progression is a bit off kilter. There's only a little splash of red and blue which identify the the D and C chords. At the beginning, instead of 8 beats of Em and D split evenly there's only four beats, and D gets only one. Then there's the C chord:



Instead of giving it a nice consistent four beats for itself, or having it share four beats with another chord Foreigner drops two extra beats into the progression for the C chord, making progression more lopsided and unstable.