

## Tab Free Zone! Visualizing songs with out tabs.

**Step 1:** Listen and plot out the arrangement.

**Example:**

**1st Listen:** Intro, Verse, Chorus, solo 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Solo 2, Verse 3, Chorus, Solo 3, Chorus, Tag

**2nd Listen:** Note the Details. Who does what and when? Fill on each verse? Dominant rhythm instrument? Back up on chorus?

**Step 2:** Count measures and find the form of the verse and chorus. Everything else will likely be derived from those parts.

**Verse:**



**Chorus:**



**Step 3:** Find the **Key** and common chords to match (**I IV V & vi**) **Tip:** last chord in the song is usually the Root Chord.

Get your ears ready to hear! Play and listen to the chords in pairs: **I-IV-I, I-V-I, IV-V-IV, IV-V-IV, I-vi-I**

**Step 4:** Start filling in chords you hear on the chord chart.

Use logic to find the chords don't just try them all.

-The ROOT chord (I) is *often* the first and last chord in the progression.

-The V chord is the “turn around” chord, it’s “leads” to I.

-The IV chord sounds the most different. Like the songs takes a step sideways.

-The vi is the most common minor chord. Hear a minor chord, try this one. Even if it's not right you have narrowed it down to probably ii or iii since those are the only other minor chords in a major key.

**Step 5:** Start *outlining* the melody. {A slow down app is highly recommended!}

1. How many phrases are there? If you found a verse with 8 measures that repeat then you have 4 phrases to work out. If the verse has 16 measures then you have 8 phrases to work out but the themes will repeat themselves.
2. Start by finding the notes that stand out to you. They will be notes in the chord (1,3 or 5). Then look for the 1st, middle and last notes in a phrase.
3. Begin filling in between those notes. Remember the fragments and that the note groups are logical.
4. This approach to learning promotes improvising, embellishing and arranging. Since you see the melody as an outline, you can choose to play different patterns between the “outline” notes.