

Introduction by Carl Verheyen

"Many of us picked up the guitar after being inspired by a band, an album or sometimes just a song. After a lot of listening to our favourite players and a lot of practising we found we could actually play with a certain degree of proficiency. The only problem with this self-taught approach is that eventually one hits a brick wall. Without a fundamental knowledge of harmony and chord scale theory, a player is only capable of the simplest form of improvising. Once the harmony gets a little more complex with key changes and modulations, the self taught guitarist is stranded, unable to navigate through the "keys of the moment."

The songwriter, too, is at a great disadvantage without the tools needed to musically move between keys for the chorus or verses. A standard is a standard because its harmony works and stands the test of time. The great songwriters through the ages, from Lennon and McCartney to Brian Wilson, Paul Simon, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter and many others have possessed a deep understanding of harmony. Their songs have survived over the decades and are being performed somewhere in the world right now. It's an amazing revelation when you find out where chords come from, how they relate to each other and how to create and play over harmonically rich progressions. It's a long overdue book you hold in your hands.

Guy has made this important information available to guitarists in a simple format for guitarists of all levels to understand. I'm quite sure that at some point as you work through this book, the clouds will part, a beam of light will shine down upon you and you will shout A-HA! Now I get it! Good luck with your music"

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