

The Bridge

Songwriting Challenge



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Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv0pXKMSBUI>

Bridge - a.k.a. the Middle 8

- The bridge is something that happens only once in a song
- It introduces a new chord progression, usually 8 measures
- In addition to introducing a new chord progression bridges often introduce a new rhythm and even new instruments as well.

Easy - The Commodores - Breaking down a classic bridge

- Verse/Chorus progression

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
Ab Cm | Bbm7 Bbm7/Eb |

- Bridge progression

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
Gbmaj7 Fm7 | Ebm Gb Db | Gbmaj7 Fm7 | Ebm Gb Db |

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & |
Gbmaj7 Db | Ebm Bbm | Cb Gb | Cb Gb |

- As you can see there is a dramatic change in the chord progression
- The 8th measure is 6/4, a different time signature
- There are up to 3 chords a measure
- Chords are not just changing on the 1 and 3, but also on the 4 and the off beat after 2
- The bridge introduces new chords to the song
- It also works great to set up the guitar solo

Link to the song to listen - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XcTyEKSnyg>

- Bridge is at 2:17

What do you need to do?

- Write an 8 measure bridge
- Must be a new chord progression
- Must be a new rhythm, meaning new strum or new fingerpicking pattern
- How much you change it is up to you.