

do it again chords steely dan

Do it again chords Steely Dan is a journey into one of the most recognizable and influential songs in their discography. This article delves deep into the harmonic intricacies, the iconic progression, and the masterful arrangement that makes "Do It Again" a timeless classic for guitarists and music enthusiasts alike. We'll explore the fundamental chords, common variations, and how to approach playing this jazz-infused rock masterpiece. Whether you're a seasoned musician looking to dissect its genius or a beginner curious about its structure, this comprehensive guide will illuminate the path to mastering the "Do It Again" chords.

- Introduction to "Do It Again" by Steely Dan
- The Core Chord Progression of "Do It Again"
- Analyzing the Chord Voicings and Substitutions
- Guitar Techniques for Playing "Do It Again"
- Key Elements that Define the "Do It Again" Sound
- Learning "Do It Again" Chords: Tips for Beginners
- "Do It Again" Chords in Different Keys
- The Influence of Jazz on Steely Dan's Chord Choices
- Mastering the "Do It Again" Solo Section Chords
- Conclusion

Understanding the Iconic "Do It Again" Chords

Steely Dan's "Do It Again" stands as a testament to their unparalleled ability to blend sophisticated jazz harmony with accessible pop sensibilities. The song, released in 1972, remains a fan favorite and a staple for guitarists and musicians seeking to explore richer harmonic landscapes. At its heart, the "Do It Again" chords are not overly complex in terms of basic structure, but their application, voicings, and the subtle rhythmic nuances employed by the band elevate them to something truly special. This section will lay the groundwork for understanding the fundamental harmonic language that defines this enduring track.

The beauty of "Do It Again" lies in its deceptively simple yet profoundly effective chord progression. It's a progression that feels both familiar and sophisticated, drawing upon the blues and jazz traditions while firmly establishing its own unique identity. For many aspiring guitarists, learning the "Do It Again" chords is a rite of passage, opening doors to understanding more complex

harmonic concepts and appreciating the depth of Steely Dan's songwriting prowess.

The Core Chord Progression of "Do It Again"

The bedrock of "Do It Again" is built upon a repeating four-chord cycle that forms the song's main harmonic structure. This progression is instantly recognizable and forms the canvas upon which Donald Fagen's distinctive vocals and Walter Becker's intricate guitar work are painted. Understanding this core progression is the first step to unlocking the song's musical DNA.

Verse Progression Breakdown

The verse section of "Do It Again" revolves around a sequence that is both cyclical and driving. While specific voicings can vary, the fundamental changes are consistent. The primary chords utilized in the verses are rooted in a dominant seventh and minor seventh pattern, creating a smooth yet compelling movement.

The core progression often cited for the verses is:

- Gmaj7
- Am7
- D7
- Gm7

This progression has a distinctive sound, often described as having a slightly melancholic yet groovy feel. The Gmaj7 provides a sense of grounding, leading into the relative minor feel of Am7. The D7 acts as a dominant chord, creating tension that resolves, surprisingly, not back to G, but to Gm7, which introduces a modal shift and a sense of departure before the cycle begins anew.

Chorus Progression Analysis

The chorus of "Do It Again" shifts the harmonic focus slightly, introducing a more direct and anthemic feel. While still retaining the core of the song's harmonic language, the chorus chords serve to lift the energy and reinforce the memorable melody.

The chorus typically features a variation or extension of the verse progression. A common interpretation of the chorus chords is:

- Cmaj7
- F7

- Bbmaj7
- Eb7

This sequence, when played in the key of G, often appears as part of a modulation or a related key area. However, when analyzing the song's structure, it's important to recognize that the "Do It Again" chords in the chorus often feel like a natural extension or a departure from the verse's established pattern. Some analyses might place these chords within the context of the G key as IV, bVII, bIII, bVI chords, highlighting Steely Dan's penchant for chromaticism and unexpected harmonic turns.

Analyzing the Chord Voicings and Substitutions

Steely Dan's mastery extends beyond simple chord progressions; their use of specific voicings and subtle substitutions is what truly defines their sound. When discussing the "Do It Again" chords, it's crucial to move beyond just the root names and explore how these chords are voiced on guitar, piano, and other instruments, as well as any harmonic embellishments they might employ.

Common Guitar Voicings for "Do It Again"

On the guitar, playing the "Do It Again" chords with authentic voicings is key to capturing the song's essence. While open chords can be a starting point, Steely Dan often utilized barre chords and more complex inversions that provide a richer sonic texture.

For the verse progression (Gmaj7 - Am7 - D7 - Gm7), typical guitar voicings might include:

- Gmaj7: A common jazz voicing is an E-shape barre chord at the 3rd fret (3x443x) or a C-shape voicing starting on the G string (x-x-543x).
- Am7: A standard A-shape barre chord at the 5th fret (5x555x) or a movable open A voicing (x02010) played higher up the neck, or a more jazzy voicing like (5x555x).
- D7: Often played as a D-shape barre chord at the 5th fret (x-x-7575) or a G-shape voicing (x-x-0212) moved up.
- Gm7: A G-shape barre chord at the 3rd fret (3x333x) or a C-shape voicing starting on the G string (x-x-333x).

These voicings, when played with a clean tone and a steady rhythm, begin to approximate the sophisticated sound of the original recording.

Exploring Chord Substitutions and Embellishments

Steely Dan was known for their sophisticated harmonic language, which often included borrowed chords, secondary dominants, and altered chords. While the core "Do It Again" chords provide the foundation, subtle substitutions can add further depth and jazz flavor.

For instance, the D7 leading into Gm7 could potentially be preceded by an A7 (the dominant of D) or even a more chromatic approach chord. Similarly, the Gm7 might be followed by a C7, leading into Fmaj7, which could then transition back to the Gmaj7, creating a longer, more cyclical progression reminiscent of jazz standards.

Another common technique used by Steely Dan is the incorporation of richer chord qualities, such as major seventh, minor ninth, or dominant ninth chords. Instead of a simple D7, one might encounter a D9 or even a D79. Similarly, the Gm7 could be voiced as a Gm9. These additions, while not always explicitly notated in basic transcriptions of the "Do It Again" chords, are often present in the band's performances and studio productions.

Guitar Techniques for Playing "Do It Again"

To truly capture the essence of "Do It Again," understanding not just the chords but also the techniques employed by Walter Becker is essential. His playing style is characterized by its precision, melodicism, and innovative use of rhythm guitar.

Rhythmic Phrasing and Syncopation

The rhythmic feel of "Do It Again" is as crucial as its harmonic content. Becker's guitar parts are often syncopated, playing in and out of the main beat, which creates a sophisticated groove. This involves not just hitting the chords but also accenting them in specific ways, often anticipating or delaying the downbeats.

Practicing the "Do It Again" chords with a focus on precise rhythmic articulation is key. Try playing the chords on the off-beats or using muted strums to create a percussive effect. This attention to rhythm will bring the chords to life and move you closer to the authentic Steely Dan sound.

Fingerstyle vs. Pick Playing

While many guitarists might initially approach these chords with a pick, Steely Dan's guitar work often suggests a fluid combination of pick and fingerstyle playing, or even a more legato pick approach. This allows for cleaner articulation of individual notes within the chords and the ability to seamlessly transition between strumming and picking melodic fragments.

Experiment with playing the "Do It Again" chords using a thumb pick or by incorporating fingerstyle techniques for certain voicings. This can help you achieve the smooth, almost piano-like clarity that characterizes much of Becker's guitar work. Learning to mute strings effectively with both your

fretting and picking hands is also vital for a clean, articulate sound.

Using Different Pickups and Tones

The guitar tone on "Do It Again" is also distinctive. It's generally a clean, bright tone, often achieved with the bridge pickup on a Fender Stratocaster or Telecaster. The clarity of the tone allows the complex voicings of the "Do It Again" chords to ring out without muddiness. Experimenting with EQ settings, perhaps with a slight boost in the treble and mid-range, can help emulate this sound.

Key Elements that Define the "Do It Again" Sound

Beyond the fundamental chord progressions and guitar techniques, several other elements contribute to the unique sonic identity of "Do It Again." These subtle yet significant details are hallmarks of Steely Dan's meticulous production and arrangement style.

The Role of the Bassline

The bassline in "Do It Again" is intricately woven into the harmonic fabric, often outlining the chord changes in a melodic and walking fashion. It doesn't just provide root notes; it actively participates in the harmonic movement, often employing passing tones and walking bass lines that complement the guitar and keyboard parts. This synergy between the bass and guitar is a hallmark of Steely Dan's arrangements.

Keyboard Harmonies and Melodies

While this article focuses on the "Do It Again" chords for guitar, it's impossible to ignore the crucial role of keyboards in the song's arrangement. Donald Fagen's Rhodes piano or Wurlitzer electric piano parts often double the guitar voicings, add sophisticated jazz voicings, or provide counter-melodies and fills that enhance the overall harmonic richness.

The Percussive Element

The drumming in "Do It Again" is also understated yet incredibly effective. The subtle use of hi-hat patterns and the ghost notes on the snare drum contribute to the song's tight, precise groove. This percussive foundation allows the intricate harmonic and melodic elements to shine through without being overwhelmed.

Learning "Do It Again" Chords: Tips for Beginners

Approaching a Steely Dan song like "Do It Again" can seem daunting for beginners, but by breaking it down into manageable steps, anyone can start to learn its distinctive chords and feel. The key is

patience and a focus on foundational understanding.

Start with Basic Chord Shapes

Before diving into complex jazz voicings, it's beneficial to learn the basic major seventh, minor seventh, and dominant seventh chord shapes. Understanding how to form these fundamental chords will make learning the specific "Do It Again" voicings much easier.

- Learn the Gmaj7 shape (e.g., 320003).
- Learn the Am7 shape (e.g., x02010).
- Learn the D7 shape (e.g., xx0212).
- Learn the Gm7 shape (e.g., 353333).

Once these basic shapes are comfortable, you can begin to explore the more sophisticated voicings mentioned earlier.

Practice Chord Transitions Slowly

The smooth, seamless transitions between chords are a hallmark of Steely Dan's music. When practicing the "Do It Again" chords, focus on making each change as clean and efficient as possible. Slow down the tempo significantly and concentrate on minimizing unnecessary finger movement.

Listen Actively to the Original Recording

One of the best ways to learn is by immersing yourself in the original recording. Pay close attention to the rhythm guitar parts, the bassline, and the keyboard voicings. Try to discern the nuances of the chord changes and how they are played. Active listening will provide invaluable insights into the feel and articulation of the "Do It Again" chords.

Utilize Transcriptions and Tutorials

Many excellent guitar transcriptions and video tutorials are available online that break down the "Do It Again" chords and techniques. While these resources are invaluable, remember to use them as guides rather than strict rules, and always try to cross-reference them with your own listening of the original song.

"Do It Again" Chords in Different Keys

While the original recording of "Do It Again" is in the key of G, understanding how to transpose the

chord progression can be incredibly useful for musicians. The ability to play the song in different keys opens up possibilities for jam sessions, collaborations, and personal exploration.

Transposing the Verse Progression

To transpose the verse progression (Gmaj7 - Am7 - D7 - Gm7) to a different key, you simply move each chord up or down by the same interval. For example, to play it in the key of C:

- Gmaj7 becomes Cmaj7
- Am7 becomes Dm7
- D7 becomes G7
- Gm7 becomes Cm7

This principle applies to any key. The relative relationships between the chords remain the same, preserving the characteristic sound of the progression.

Transposing the Chorus Progression

Similarly, the chorus progression can be transposed. If the chorus is considered a move to a related area, its transposition will follow the same logic. For instance, if the chorus in G is analyzed as Cmaj7 - F7 - Bbmaj7 - Eb7, transposing this to C would yield:

- Cmaj7 becomes Fmaj7
- F7 becomes Bb7
- Bbmaj7 becomes Ebmaj7
- Eb7 becomes Ab7

Understanding these transpositions allows for a deeper understanding of how key centers interact and how harmonic progressions can be adapted to suit different vocal ranges or instrumental preferences.

The Influence of Jazz on Steely Dan's Chord Choices

Steely Dan, famously comprised of Donald Fagen and Walter Becker, were deeply steeped in jazz history. This profound influence is palpable in their songwriting, and "Do It Again" serves as a prime example of how they incorporated jazz harmony into a rock framework. Their approach was not simply to copy jazz progressions but to distill their essence and integrate them into their unique aesthetic.

Jazz Harmony Fundamentals

Jazz harmony often features extended chords (ninth, eleventh, thirteenth), altered dominants, secondary dominants, and sophisticated substitutions. These elements create a richer, more colorful soundscape compared to traditional diatonic harmony. The "Do It Again" chords, with their prominent use of major sevenths, minor sevenths, and dominant sevenths, directly reflect these jazz sensibilities.

Application in "Do It Again"

The progression Gmaj7 - Am7 - D7 - Gm7, for example, has a distinctly jazzy feel due to the inclusion of major seventh and minor seventh chords. The surprise move to Gm7 from D7 is a characteristic modal interchange or borrowed chord, common in jazz to add harmonic interest and color. This departure from a strictly diatonic resolution is what gives the song its sophisticated edge.

Furthermore, the band's meticulous attention to chord voicings on piano and guitar often involved inversions and voicings commonly found in jazz comping. These choices create a smoother voice leading and a richer harmonic texture, moving beyond simple root position chords.

Mastering the "Do It Again" Solo Section Chords

The solo section in "Do It Again" is another area where the sophisticated harmony of the song is highlighted. While often featuring improvisational solos, the underlying chord progression provides a framework for melodic exploration that is both challenging and rewarding to play along with.

Solo Section Harmonic Structure

The solo section generally follows the same core chord progression as the verse, allowing soloists to navigate familiar harmonic territory. This consistency provides a stable foundation for creative improvisation.

- The solo section typically cycles through Gmaj7 - Am7 - D7 - Gm7.

The challenge and beauty lie in improvising melodies over these changes, using scales and arpeggios that complement the dominant seventh, minor seventh, and major seventh qualities. For guitarists, this means understanding which scales work best over each chord, such as G major or G Lydian over Gmaj7, A Dorian or A Phrygian over Am7, D Mixolydian over D7, and G Dorian or G Phrygian over Gm7.

Improvisational Approaches

When soloing over the "Do It Again" chords, musicians often focus on:

- Arpeggio playing: Outlining the notes of each chord.
- Scale runs: Utilizing scales that fit the harmonic context of each chord.
- Melodic phrasing: Creating memorable melodic lines that respond to the underlying harmony.
- Rhythmic variation: Playing with different rhythmic patterns and syncopation to create a compelling solo.

By internalizing the "Do It Again" chords, aspiring soloists gain the confidence and understanding needed to navigate these harmonic changes expressively.

In conclusion, the "Do It Again" chords are more than just a sequence of notes; they represent a masterful blend of jazz sophistication and rock accessibility. Understanding their progression, voicings, and the techniques used to play them unlocks a deeper appreciation for Steely Dan's artistry and provides valuable insights for any musician looking to expand their harmonic vocabulary.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main chords used in Steely Dan's 'Do It Again'?

The core progression of 'Do It Again' heavily features the ii-V-I in D major (Em7-A7-Dmaj7) and its relative minor, ii-V-i in B minor (Cm7b5-F7-Bm7). Other common chords include Dmaj7, Gmaj7, Em7, A7, Bm7, F7, Cm7b5, and Dm7. The song also incorporates a Cmaj7 for color.

Can you break down the intro chord progression of 'Do It Again'?

The iconic intro of 'Do It Again' often starts with Dmaj7, moving to Gmaj7, then Em7, and finally A7, creating a smooth jazz-influenced movement that establishes the key of D major. This is followed by a minor key flavor.

What makes the chord voicings in 'Do It Again' so distinctive?

Steely Dan is known for their sophisticated chord voicings. In 'Do It Again,' they often use extensions like 7ths, 9ths, and even 11ths, along with alterations and inversions. This creates richer, more complex harmonic textures that are characteristic of their sound.

Are there any common substitutions or variations of the chords in 'Do It Again' that players use?

Guitarists and keyboardists often experiment with substitutions. For example, a D6 or Dmaj9 could be used instead of Dmaj7. The A7 chord might sometimes be substituted with an A9 or even an A7b9 to add a bluesier or more jazzy feel. Minor ninths are also common.

What is the role of the minor key section's chords in 'Do It Again'?

The song shifts to a B minor feel for the verses. The progression here typically involves Bm7, Cm7b5 (often called a half-diminished chord), and F7, which creates a classic minor ii-V-i cadence. This adds a darker, more introspective mood before returning to the major key.

How can I accurately play the guitar chords for 'Do It Again'?

Accurate playing requires understanding the jazzier voicings. Focus on clean playing of 7th and 9th chords. Many players use barre chords with added extensions or employ specific jazz guitar voicings. Listening closely to the original recording to capture the feel and precise note placement is crucial.

Are there simplified chord versions of 'Do It Again' available for beginners?

Yes, simplified versions of 'Do It Again' chords exist. These versions often use basic major and minor triads or simpler 7th chord shapes that are easier for beginners to grasp. While they capture the essence, they won't have the full harmonic richness of the original arrangement.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to "Do It Again" chords by Steely Dan, each beginning with "I":

1. *I, Chord Weaver: Decoding the "Do It Again" Mystery*

This book delves into the intricate harmonic language of Steely Dan, specifically focusing on the groundbreaking chord progressions found in "Do It Again." It breaks down the sophisticated jazz influences and the unique voicings that create the song's signature sound. Readers will gain a deeper appreciation for the band's compositional genius and learn practical applications for incorporating these sophisticated chords into their own music.

2. *I, Harmonic Architect: Building Steely Dan's "Do It Again" Sound*

Explore the structural brilliance behind "Do It Again" through the lens of harmonic architecture. This title examines the masterful use of extended chords, chromaticism, and unexpected resolutions that define the song. It offers insights into how Donald Fagen and Walter Becker crafted such an enduring and complex musical landscape, providing a roadmap for aspiring musicians seeking to emulate that level of sophistication.

3. *I, Rhythm Navigator: Syncopation in "Do It Again"*

Beyond the chords, this book investigates the vital role of rhythm and syncopation in making "Do It Again" so compelling. It dissects the interplay between the instruments and how rhythmic figures enhance the harmonic movement. Discover how the precise placement of notes and the sophisticated grooves contribute to the song's undeniable swagger and infectious energy.

4. *I, Melodic Alchemist: Crafting Hooks from "Do It Again" Chords*

This title focuses on the melodic genius that intertwines with the chordal framework of "Do It Again." It analyzes how the vocal melodies and instrumental solos are expertly crafted to

complement the complex harmonic progressions. Learn how simple melodic ideas can be elevated through their relationship with sophisticated chords, creating memorable and lasting hooks.

5. *I, Steely Dan's Sonic Palette: "Do It Again" and Beyond*

This comprehensive exploration examines the unique sonic textures and production techniques that characterized Steely Dan's early work, with "Do It Again" as a central case study. It delves into the studio wizardry and meticulous attention to detail that shaped their sound. Understand how the arrangement, instrumentation, and recording process contributed to the enduring appeal of their music.

6. *I, Chordal Explorer: Unraveling "Do It Again" with Steely Dan Analysis*

Embark on a journey to dissect the harmonic intricacies of "Do It Again" with a focus on analytical techniques applied to Steely Dan's catalog. This book provides clear explanations of jazz harmony, modal interchange, and sophisticated chord substitutions as they appear in the song. It's designed for musicians who want a deep dive into the theoretical underpinnings of their favorite Steely Dan tracks.

7. *I, Studio Sorcerer: The Making of "Do It Again" and its Harmonic Magic*

This title offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and recording sessions for "Do It Again," highlighting the crucial role of its innovative chord choices. It explores the collaboration between musicians and producers in bringing the song to life. Gain an insider's perspective on how specific chord voicings and instrumental arrangements were meticulously chosen to create the song's iconic sound.

8. *I, Lydian Listener: Discovering Modal Color in "Do It Again"*

This book focuses on the modal elements and harmonic color present in "Do It Again," particularly the use of Lydian scales and related modes. It examines how these scales contribute to the song's dreamy yet sophisticated atmosphere. Understand the theoretical concepts that unlock the unique sonic qualities of this beloved Steely Dan classic and how to apply them.

9. *I, Chord Progression Guru: Mastering "Do It Again" for Guitarists*

This specialized guide is tailored for guitarists seeking to master the intricate chord progressions of "Do It Again." It provides detailed transcriptions, fingering suggestions, and explanations of how to execute the complex voicings effectively. Learn to play this iconic song with accuracy and gain a deeper understanding of its harmonic architecture from a guitarist's perspective.

[Do It Again Chords Steely Dan](#)

Do It Again Chords Steely Dan

Related Articles

- [dominican republic and haiti relationship](#)
- [dividing mixed numbers and fractions worksheet](#)
- [dora the explorer doctor dora](#)

[Back to Home](#)