

Excerpt from *Money Chords – A Songwriter’s Sourcebook of Popular Chord Progressions*  
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## “E” Only Chord Progressions

“E” Only Chord Progressions, as the name implies, use just one chord for an entire verse and/or chorus of a song. These progressions are not very common with only forty or so hit songs employing this technique since the mid-fifties. Songwriters and performers have used various unique bass lines, guitar riffs, and driving rhythms as well as Chord Quality Substitutions to overcome the inevitable boredom of a single chord verse or chorus. The only other chord commonly used for an entire verse is “C#m” which is discussed in a later chapter of this book.

Below is a chronological listing of songs with verses and/or choruses that employ just one chord followed by a listing of chord progressions by type.

### **Chronological Listing**

<u>Date/Song Title</u>	<u>Chord Progression</u>
<b>1955</b>	
Mabellene (Bb)	V= E (Alt. Bass)
Bo Diddley (G)	V= E
<b>1957</b>	
Raunchy (D)	V=E
<b>1961</b>	
Little Sister (E)	V= E7-E
<b>1964</b>	
California Sun (E)	V= E (Riff)
Who Do You Love (Ab)	V= E
It's All Over Now (G)	V= E

**1965**

Shotgun (Ab)	V= E7
My Generation (G)	V= E-E/D
If I Needed Someone (A)	V= E-E11-E

**1966**

Land of a Thousand Dances (D)	V= E
Over, Under, Sideways, Down (G)	V= E
Working In The Coal Mine	C= E
Stop, Stop, Stop (D)	V= E7
Tomorrow Never Knows (C)	V= E-E11

**1967**

You Got To Me (G)	V= E
Soul Man (G)	V= E (Riff)
Western Union (D)	V= E-Esus (6x)
The Beat Goes On (C)	V= E7 (Bass Line)
It Takes Two	V= E-E7-E

**1968**

Jumpin' Jack Flash (B)	V= E (Riff)
Born On The Bayou (E)	V= E7

**1969**

Proud Mary (D)	V= E
Give Peace A Chance	V= E
New Mother Nature	V= E

Whole Lotta Love (E) V/C= E (Riff)

**1970**

Mama Told Me Not to Come V= E7

No Sugar Tonight (F#) V= E-Esus4/2 (8x)

**1971**

Truckin' V= E5-E6

**1973**

Chevy Van V= E-Esus (7x) E

**1974**

Midnight Rider (D) V= E

Rock On (E) V= E7

Car Wash V= E7

**1975**

Black Friday (E) V= E

Low Rider V= E7

Shining Star V= E7#9

**1978**

Baby Hold On (D) C= E-E+

**1979**

Don't Bring Me Down V= E

**1985**

Born in the USA (A) V/C= E-E/A

**1987**

(I've Had) The Time Of My Life V= E11-E (4x)

**1988**

Wild, Wild West

V= E

**Listing by Progression Type**Chord ProgressionSong Examples**“E” Only Chord Progressions**

E	Maybellene ('55); Bo Diddley ('55); Raunchy ('57); California Sun ('64); Who Do You Love ('64); It's All Over Now ('64); Land Of A Thousand Dances ('66); Over, Under, Sideways, Down ('66); Working In The Coal Mine ('66); You Got To Me ('67); Soul Man ('67); Jumpin' Jack Flash ('68); Proud Mary ('69); Whole Lotta Love ('69); Give Peace A Chance ('69); New Mother Nature ('69); Midnight Rider ('74); Black Friday ('75); Don't Bring Me Down ('79); Wild Wild West ('88)
E7	Shotgun ('65); Stop, Stop, Stop ('66); The Beat Goes On ('67); Born On The Bayou ('68); Mama Told Me Not To Come ('70); Rock On ('74); Car Wash ('74); Low Rider ('75)
E7#9	Shining Star ('75)
E-E/A	Born In The USA ('85)
E-E/D	My Generation ('65)

**Static Bass Lines**

E5-E6	Truckin' ('71)
E-E+	Baby Hold On ('78)
E-Esus	Western Union ('67); Chevy Van ('73)
E-Esus4/2	No Sugar Tonight ('70)
E-E7-E	It Takes Two ('67)
E7-E	Little Sister ('61)
E-E11	Tomorrow Never Knows ('66)
E-E11-E	If I Needed Someone ('65)
E11-E	(I've Had) The Time Of My Life ('87)

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