I, D use the same two-sharp key signature as I chord, look to the immediate left on the wheel (which moves in fourths counterclockwise) and find the subdominant, G, C minor. This is the major chord progression I-IV-V or I-IV-V. Each major chord also has a relative minor that shares the same scale notes as the major scale, beginning on the relative minor note, so Bm minor has the same two-sharp key signature as D major, Em shares one sharp with G, and F#m shares three sharps with A major.

Use the Universal Key as a template. Move the home or tonic (I) a step to the left. Now G is I, C becomes IV, D is V. Move to the right and A becomes I, D IV and E the new V. Minors move the same way. It’s universal because it’s a template. See Universal Key for sample chord charts of diatonic major, minor and modal progressions.

**Diatonic Chord Families**

- **I**, IV, V and minor chord substitutions:
  - ii for IV
  - iii for V
  - vi for I

**Chord Wheel and circle of fourths and fifths:** This a learning aid every fiddler should have in their fiddle case or notebook (see also Diatonic chord progressions, 19). In addition to using the alphabet chord names, in the Universal Key, major chords are also commonly written using Arabic numbers or Roman numeral caps, with minor chords in lower-case Roman numerals or indicated with a minus sign. These three chords, I, IV and V, and their relative minors, ii, iii, and vi, make up the diatonic family of chords in any key. In this example, using D major as the tonic, home, I or I chord, look to the immediate left on the wheel (which moves in fourths counterclockwise) and find the subdominant, G, C minor.

**Diatonic Chord Family:**

1. C MAJOR [C-E-G] no sharps or flats
2. F MAJOR [F-A-C] one flat - Bb
3. G minor [G-Bb-D]
4. Bb MAJOR [Bb-D-F] 2 flats - Bb, Eb
5. Eb MAJOR [Eb-G-Bb] 3 flats - Bb, Eb, Ab
6. C minor [C-Eb-G]
7. Ab MAJOR [Ab-C-Eb] 4 flats - Bb, Eb, Ab, Db
8. F minor F-Ab-C
9. Db MAJOR [Db-F-Ab] 5 flats - Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb
10. Gb & F# MAJOR Gb-Bb-Db-6 flats or F#-A-C-G#-D major chord progression 1-IV-V or I-IV-V. Each major chord also has a relative minor that shares the same scale notes as the major scale, beginning on the relative minor note, so Bm minor has the same two-sharp key signature as D major, Em shares one sharp with G, and F#m shares three sharps with A major.

**DIATONIC CHORD FAMILIES (circle progressions)**

- I, IV, V and minor chord substitutions:
  - ii for IV
  - iii for V
  - vi for I

**Universal key:** I ii iii IV V vi vii dim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D major</th>
<th>I Em F#m G A Bm C#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- also written I 2- 3- 4 5 6- 7°

- also written I Em F#m G A Bm C#