

The Bullseye Cheat Sheet For Working Out Songs By Ear

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This is a simple cheat sheet to help you work out songs by ear.

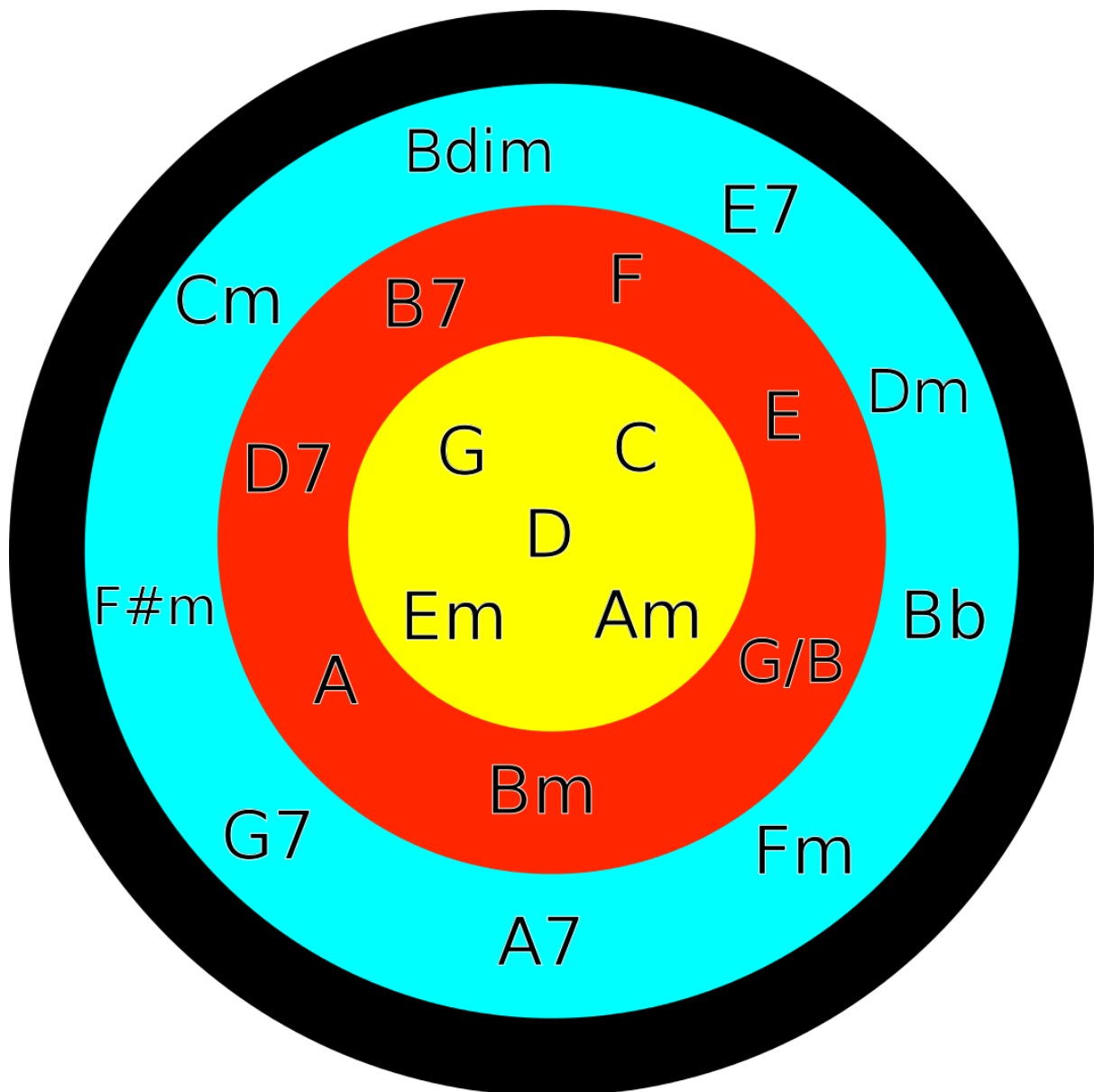
The basic premise of the `Bullseye Cheat Sheet`, is that it will help you to work out all the chords in a song in a systematic and logical way.

You work out the chords to a song by starting in the middle ring (the bullseye).

This is where the most obvious and common chords are.

You try out all the chords in this ring and if the chord is not here, you then try out chords in the outer rings - working your way out one ring at a time until you reach the more unusual and rarer chords.

Generally, the `poppier` and more radio friendly the song is, the more likely the chords in the song will stay closer to the centre ring.



To use the cheat sheet:

- Start in the **yellow inner ring** and work out the **first chord in the song**. It will very likely be one of the chords in this ring.
- If it is, to work out the next chord, simply **stay in this yellow inner ring** and aim to work out the next chord. Keep trying all of the chords in this yellow ring until you hear the correct chord.
- If you don't hear the chord, then try a chord in the **red ring**. Keep trying these chords until you hear it.

- If not, try one of the chords in the **blue ring**.

A few things to consider when using the **`Bullseye Cheat Sheet`**....

- Many songs go back and forth between chords. Therefore, if you can't work out the next chord, it might be one you have already used.
- Pop music often has songs that just stay purely in the red ring (often only using 3-5 chords).
- Mainstream rock, folk, blues, indie and alternative pop songs tend to use the odd chord in the yellow ring as well.
- Alternative musicians and popular artists (such as David Bowie and Radiohead) love to use chords in the blue ring as well.

There are, of course exceptions to this. Some pop music will venture out of the red ring and some alternative music won't be very adventurous.

Also, this cheat sheet is not meant to be exclusive. I estimate it will cover the chords in about 98% of all the songs most people would want to learn.

There may be a few other chords that are not in this cheat sheet. That is unlikely in most cases though. Remember, this is just a guide.

What if the song doesn't start with a chord in the red ring?

Great question. You will need a capo somewhere on the fretboard. You will have to find the capo location so that one of the red ring chords sounds correct.

Then, the rest of the cheat sheet will work.

This is because this cheat sheet is based around chords that use the shapes from the keys of **G Major, C Major and D Major**. Songwriters often write in one key purely, but sometimes they dip in and out of other keys.

The above three keys all work together as keys to 'dip in and out of'. That is why the cheat sheet works.

You could even create your own cheat sheet for other keys such as E Major and A Major. That would require you getting really good at barre chords if you are not already though.

The beauty of this cheat sheet is that it will aid you in working out all the chords to a song with most of them being open chords and it will help you in a logical way.

I hope you enjoyed this short yet very powerful cheat sheet. Next time you work out the chords for a song for yourself, use it!

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