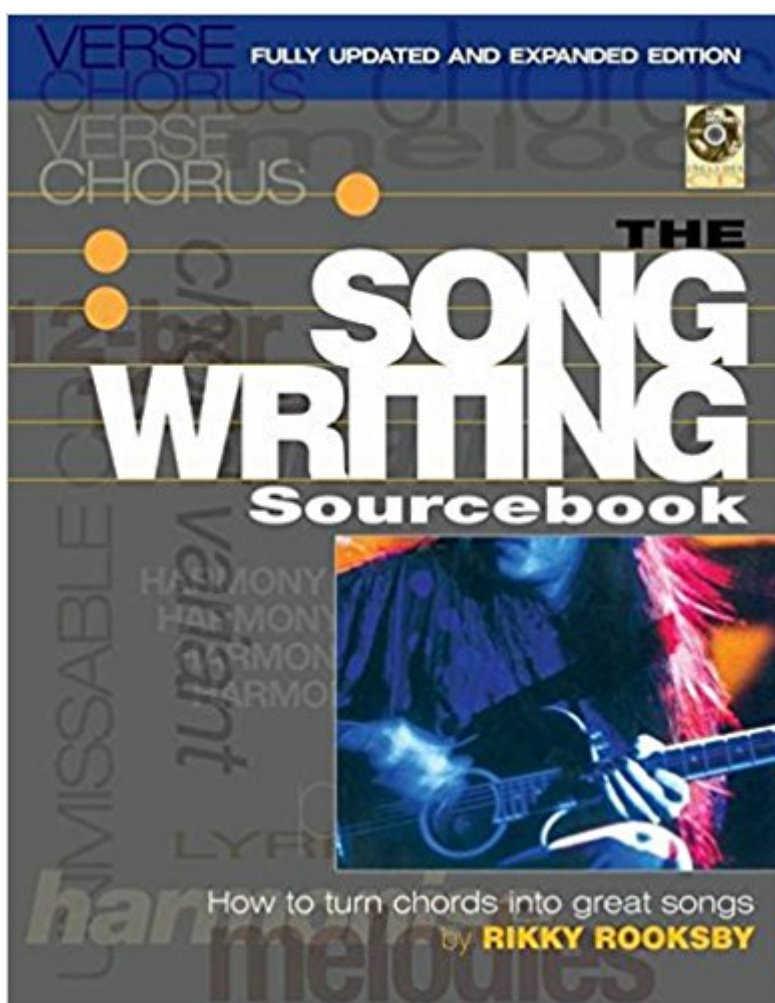


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# The Songwriting Sourcebook: How To Turn Chords Into Great Songs (Fully Updated And Expanded Edition) (Fastforward)



## Synopsis

(Reference). Originally published in 2003, and now revised and updated, The Songwriting Sourcebook is the third entry in Rikky Rooksby's bestselling How to Write Songs series. This easy-to-use book will help you write better songs by explaining the art of writing effective chord sequences. It shows:

- \* How three and four chords can lay the foundation for a simple song, and how to move on to progressions using five and six chords
- \* How to give your chord sequences additional color by adding chords that are not strictly in key, including blues chords
- \* How to write chord sequences for songs in minor keys as well as major keys, and how to take progressions into new territories by changing key
- \* How to fine-tune the color of your chords by understanding the emotional potential of sevenths, sixths and ninths

All examples come with easy-to-read guitar chord boxes, and the accompanying 20-track audio CD features original recordings that illustrate some of the points made in the book.

## Book Information

Series: Fastforward

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## Customer Reviews

Rikky Rooksby is a composer, songwriter, guitar teacher and writer. He is the author of Backbeat's best-selling How To Write Songs series, and many other books about popular music

Wonderful book. My only complaint is that the CD doesn't contain all the examples in the book. It has full song samples but they aren't presented and analyzed until the very end of the book. I know I

know, you can play along through the whole book with your instrument, however I feel like that does not have the same effect as hearing the music AS A LISTENER of the music rather than as a PERFORMER of the music. In my opinion, there's a BIG difference. For example, Rikki shows us the power of surprise by creating an expectation (i.e. repeatable / predictable chord progression) and then breaking the expectation by switching up the progression. Well, if you are sight reading the chords and you are EXPECTING the unexpected chord change because you see it (or know about it ahead of time), it does not have the same impact as someone that is a casual listener with no insider information about what's coming up next. Personally, if the examples were on a CD and you could listen to them BEFORE sight reading them it would drive home the effect of the tricks he presents. Also, for guitarists some of the examples discuss how to use a bass guitar notes along with your guitar chords to create a different character to the progression. Well, it's kind of difficult to hear the effect of the bass guitar when you don't have a bass player jamming with you. Again, if these examples were simply demonstrated on the CD, it would make life a lot easier. Don't get me wrong, the CD is still very valuable. I just feel like it could have included all the examples. But, other than that small gripe, the book is awesome. Also, I highly recommend NOT buying the Kindle Version. I found the print too small to play along with. I actually bought a paper copy after being frustrated with the Kindle version. Granted, I was viewing the kindle version through my Android which may have contributed to the difficulty I was having. Plus, you don't get the CD with the Kindle version.

I'm happy with this book, "the Songwriting Sourcebook: How to Turn Chords into Great Songs). It delivers what it promises. I admit, for myself, that some of it was (and may be, for others) a bit over the top--as far as music theory. But music theory isn't always easy and that's the challenge you meet, if you want to become a better and more professional musician. Mr. Rooksby does a good job of covering all "bases" in songwriting---with the countless array of chords available for today's musicians. I especially enjoyed listening to the CD arrangements he offers on his CD (that comes with the book. The chords on the CD are listed in the back of the book--and explained very well also). I'm proud to have this book as a serious musician and would recommend it to anyone who wants to have fun arranging or writing songs--and especially for those musicians who are serious about their craft.

I really like this book as I am taking songwriting classes and this helps bring out a lot of ideas to use in songs and to spur on creativity. I like the examples in the CD that accompanies the book. Great

resource book for a songwriter that helps clear up writers block with chords that inspire moods

Nicely presented, plenty of examples and explanations for chord formulas and song progressions.  
Plus a CD.

Incredibly useful, not sure why the author has a problem with VII though.

I checked this out from my library to take notes on it and be all thrifty, but I figured out that there was way too much valuable information in it. Worth the money, for sure.

I've been composing music for quite a while (20 years). As a self taught musician, I've studied many compositions by classic song writers such as Lennon/McCartney and others. So I had a fairly good idea of song structure. But I also had songs that just didn't seem to work, and didn't know why. Within reading just a couple of chapters I began to see places where I could have improved the songs and saved them from mediocrity. The book is wonderfully laid out, and will be a very good resource for anyone trying to improve their songwriting skills.

I enjoy this book. The author has dissected popular song chord progressions, giving the base for easy composition. Worth the money if you are a song writer.

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