

Back Cycling by Tom Giacabetti

Back cycling is a technique often used by composers and arrangers as a vehicle for Reharmonization.

The technique involves choosing a target chord then cycling back in a series of formula tic progressions.(4th's, 3rd's, diminished cycle, Coltrane progressions,etc.)

By choosing different target chords a great variety of reharmonization can be achieved.
This also requires a lot of trial and error.

The following examples illustrate the use of 4th's to reharmonize the 1st 4 bars of "Polkadots and Moonbeams"

(This example uses guitar voicings, but can be adapted for other instruments)

Feel free to experiment with other intervals and progressions when back cycling.

Once you have come up with a progression you like, let your ear decide what chord quality best suites the music.