

Killer Queen Glossary



Dynamics Rhythm Tonality Structure Melody Instrumentation
Texture Harmony

Keyword	Definition/ Explanation
Tenor	A high male vocal range
Falsetto	When a Male vocalist uses the high end of his register (Also known as head voice)
Portamento	A vocal slide that is more subtle than a glissando
Distortion	A guitar effect from deliberately using too much gain. Sounds crunchy!
Wah Wah	A guitar effect where the player can change the sound using a foot pedal
Phase Shifter	A switch on some guitars that shifts the different pick ups in and out of phase with each other
Panning	A music technology device where different instruments are shifted to the left or right of the stereo mix.
Vocables	When a singer sings nonsensical syllables not words, like 'Ba Ba Ba, Ba Barbaran'
Conjunct	When a melody moves stepwise (to the notes either side of it)
Unusual Phrase Lengths	When a melody has a phrase length (the number of bars it lasts for) that isn't a nice round multiple of 2
Anacrusis	When a melody starts before beat 1 of a bar
Verse Chorus Form	A form common with pop music, verse-chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus.
Homophonic	Chordal texture, where all the parts are playing the same chords in a similar rhythm
Melody Dominated Homophony	When there is a clear melody line with a chordal accompaniment.
Imitation	Where one part copies another shortly after it
Layering	Bringing in one instrument after another and building up the texture
Three Part Texture	A texture where there are three separate things (Melodies) going on
Antiphonal	Where groups answer each other from different positions then join together
Moderato	Tempo Marking – playing at moderate speed
Syncopation	Emphasising the off beat.
Triplets	Playing three notes in the space of two of the same value.
Compound Quadruple Metre	Essentially a 12/8 time signature. Compound, the metre is divided into 3s and is counted in quavers, and quadruple, there are 4 of these groups of 3.

Chord Inversions	Root position, 1 st inversion, 2 nd inversion etc. Changing the lowest note in the chord so for C major, C –E- G having a C lowest is Root position, having an E as the lowest note is 1 st inversion.
Pedal Note	A long held or repeated note played on the tonic or dominant (first or fifth note of scale)
7th Chords	Basic triad with the 7 th added.
Dissonance	Notes that clash!
Perfect Cadence in Eb Major	V – I (5 th chord of the scale to the first)
Parallel Harmonies	Same interval over a melody.
Circle of 5ths	Chord progression that moves down a 5 th each time.