

How to Transpose Chords

by Glenn Weiser

Degree	Diatonic chords - I, IV, and V are major, II, III, and VI are minor, and VII is diminished.											
I (Key)	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B
II	Dm	Ebm	Em	Fm	F#m	Gm	Abm	Am	Bbm	Bm	Cm	C#m
III	Em	Fm	F#m	Gm	G#m	Am	Bbm	Bm	Cm	C#m	Dm	D#m
IV	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	Cb	C	Db	D	Eb	E
V / V7	G(7)	Ab(7)	A(7)	Bb(7)	B(7)	C(7)	Db(7)	D(7)	Eb(7)	E(7)	F(7)	F#(7)
VI	Am	Bbm	Bm	Cm	C#m	Dm	Ebm	Em	Fm	F#m	Gm	G#m
VII	Bdim	Cdim	C#dim	Ddim	D#dim	Edim	Fdim	F#dim	Gdim	G#dim	Adim	A#dim

Frequently used out-of-key chords - secondary dominants and major triads built on accidentals.

V7 of V	D7	Eb7	E7	F7	F#7	G7	Ab7	A7	Bb7	B7	C7	C#7
V7 of II	A7	Bb7	B7	C7	C#7	D7	Eb7	E7	F7	F#7	G7	G#7
V7 of III	B7	C7	C#7	D7	Eb7	E7	F7	F#7	G7	G#7	A7	Bb7
V7 of VI	E7	F7	F#7	G7	Ab7	A7	Bb7	B7	C7	C#7	D7	Eb7
bIII maj	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D
bVI maj	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Bb	G
bVII maj	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A

How to use this chart:

- 1) Determine the key of the song at hand. This is most reliably indicated by the last chord of the song.
- 2) Find the key of the song in the yellow row, look down that column, and find the chords to the song. Note each chord's position by row, and remember its Roman numerical value (I, II, V, etc).
- 3) Find the key to which you want to transpose the song in the yellow row, and then find the equivalent chords in that column using the Roman numerals. This will then yield the same sequence of chords in the new key.
- 4) The V chord (e.g. G in key of C) is often played as a 7th (e.g. G7 in the key of C), so a parenthetical 7 appears after the chords in the V chord row.

Nashville Number System Pt 1-I, IV and V7 Chords

3-Chord Warmup Exercise

I	IV	V7	I	I	V7	IV	I
C	F	G7	C	C	G7	F	C
D	G	A7	D	D	A7	G	D
E	A	B7	E	E	B7	A	E
F	Bb	C7	F	F	C7	Bb	C
G	C	D7	G	G	D7	C	G
A	D	E7	A	A	E7	D	A

12-Bar Blues (All chords may be also played as sevenths)

I	I/IV	I	I	IV	IV	I	I	V7	IV	I	I
A	A/D	A	A	D	D	A	A	E7	D	A	A
C	C/F	C	C	F	F	C	C	G7	F	C	C
D	D/G	D	D	G	G	D	D	A7	G	D	D
E	E/A	E	E	A	A	E	E	B7	A	E	E
F	F/Bb	F	F	Bb	Bb	F	F	C7	Bb	F	F
G	G/C	G	G	C	C	G	G	D7	C	G	G

Note-In bar 2 of the 12-bar blues, the IV chord is often substituted for the I chord. This is called the “quick change” variation.

Nashville Number System, Pt 2- Major Key Songs with Minor Chords

I Shall Be Released-Bob Dylan

I	I	II	II	III	V7	I	I
C	C	Dm	Dm	Em	G7	C	C
D	D	Em	Em	F#m	A7	D	D
E	E	F#m	F#m	G#m	B7	E	E
F	F	Gm	Gm	Am	C7	F	F
G	G	Am	Am	Bm	D7	G	G
A	A	Bm	Bm	C#m	E7	A	A

500 Miles-Hedy West – Folk Revival Song

I	VI	II	IV	II	IV	V	V7
C	Am	Dm	F	Dm	F	G	G7
D	Bm	Em	G	Em	G	A	A7
E	C#m	F#m	A	F#m	A	B	B7
F	Dm	Gm	Bb	Gm	Bb	C	C7
G	Em	Am	C	Am	C	D	D7
A	F#m	Bm	D	Bm	D	E	E7

I	VI	II	IV	II	V7	I	I
C	Am	Dm	F	Dm	G7	C	C
D	Bm	Em	G	Em	A7	D	D
E	C#m	F#m	A	F#m	B7	E	E
F	Dm	Gm	Bb	Gm	C7	F	F
G	Em	Am	C	Am	D7	G	G
A	F#m	Bm	D	Bm	E7	A	A

Nashville Number System Part 3-Secondary Dominants

Sweet Georgia Brown – Tin Pan Alley Hit, 1925

V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7	V7	V7	I	I	I	V7 of VI
F#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	B7	B7	B7	B7	E7	E7	E7	E7	A	A	A	C#7
A7	A7	A7	A7	D7	D7	D7	D7	G7	G7	G7	G7	C	C	C	E7
B7	B7	B7	B7	E7	E7	E7	E7	A7	A7	A7	A7	D	D	D	F#7
C#7	C#7	C#7	C#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	B7	B7	B7	B7	E	E	E	G#7
D7	D7	D7	D7	G7	G7	G7	G7	C7	C7	C7	C7	F	F	F	A7
E7	E7	E7	E7	A7	A7	A7	A7	D7	D7	D7	D7	G	G	G	B7

V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of II	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7 of V	V7 of V	VI	V7 of VI	VI	V7 of VI	I	V7 of II/ V7 of VI	V7 of V / V7	I
F#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	B7	B7	B7	B7	F#m	C#7	F#m	C#7	A	C#7 / F#7	B7/E7	A
A7	A7	A7	A7	D7	D7	D7	D7	Am	E7	Am	E7	C	E7 / A7	D7/G7	C
B7	B7	B7	B7	E7	E7	E7	E7	Bm	F#7	Bm	F#7	D	F#7 / B7	E7/A7	D
C#7	C#7	C#7	C#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	F#7	C#m	G#7	C#m	G#7	E	G#7 / C#7	F#7/B7	E
D7	D7	D7	D7	G7	G7	G7	G7	Dm	A7	Dm	A7	F	A7 / D7	G7/C7	F
E7	E7	E7	E7	A7	A7	A7	A7	Em	B7	Em	B7	G	B7 / E7	A7/D7	G

Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out-Bessie Smith

I / V7 of VI	V7 of II	II / V7 of II	II	IV / V7 of III	I-V7 of VI V7 of II	V7 of V	V7
A / C#7	F#7	Bm / F#7	Bm	D / G#7	A -C#7- F#7-F#7	B7	E7
C / E7	A7	Dm / A7	Dm	F / B7	C-E7-A7- A7	D7	G7
D / F#7	B7	Em / B7	Em	G / C#7	D-F#7 B7-B7	E7	A7
E / G#7	C#7	F#m / C#7	F#m	A / D#7	E-G#7 C#7-C#7	F#7	B7
F / A7	D7	Gm / D7	Gm	Bb / E7	F-A7 D7-D7	G7	C7
G / B7	E7	Am / E7	Am	C / F#7	G-B7 E7-E7	A7	D7

I / V7 of VI	V7 of II	II / V7 of II	II	IV / V7 of III	I-V7 of VI V7 of II	V7 of V	V7 / I
A / C#7	F#7	Bm / F#7	Bm	D / G#7	A -C#7- F#7-F#7	B7	E7 / A
C / E7	A7	Dm / A7	Dm	F / B7	C-E7-A7- A7	D7	G7/C
D / F#7	B7	Em / B7	Em	G / C#7	D-F#7 B7-B7	E7	A7 / D
E / G#7	C#7	F#m / C#7	F#m	A / D#7	E-G#7 C#7-C#7	F#7	B7 / E
F / A7	D7	Gm / D7	Gm	Bb / E7	F-A7 D7-D7	G7	C7 / F
G / B7	E7	Am / E7	Am	C / F#7	G-B7 E7-E7	A7	D7 / G

Nashville Number System, Part 4-Out of Key Chords: bIII Major, bVI Major, VII Major, IV Minor

Morning Dew -The Grateful Dead

I	bVII / IV	I	I	I	bVII / IV	I	I
A	G / D	A	A	A	G / D	A	A
C	Bb / F	C	C	C	Bb / F	C	C
D	C / G	D	D	D	C / G	D	D
E	D / A	E	E	E	D / A	E	E
F	Eb / Bb	F	F	F	Eb / Bb	F	F
G	F / C	G	G	G	F / C	G	G

bIII	bVII / II	I	I	bIII	bVII / II	I	I
C	G / Bm	A	A	C	G / Bm	A	A
Eb	Bb / Dm	C	C	Eb	Bb / Dm	C	C
F	C / Em	D	D	F	C / Em	D	D
G	D / F#m	E	E	G	D / F#m	E	E
Ab	Eb / Gm	F	F	Ab	Eb / Gm	F	F
Bb	F / Am	G	G	Bb	F / Am	G	G

It's My Party – Leslie Gore-Brill Building Pop Hit

I	I aug	IV	IV minor	I / VI	II / V7	I / IV	I / V7
A	A+ -	D	Dm	A / F#m	Bm / E7	A / D	A / E7
C	C+	F	Fm	C / Am	Dm / G7	C / F	C / G7
D	D+	G	Gm	D / Bm	Em / A7	D / G	D / A7
E	E+	A	Am	E / C#m	F#m / B7	E / A	E / B7
F	F+	Bb	Bbm	F / Dm/	Gm / C7	F / Bb	F / C7
G	G+	C	Cm	G / Em	Am / D7	G / C	G / D7

I	bIII	I	IV	bVI	I	V7 of V	V7
A	C	A	D	F	A	B7	E7
C	Eb	C	F	Ab	C	D7	G7
D	F	D	G	Bb	D	E7	A7
E	G	E	A	C	E	F#7	B7
F	Ab	F	Bb	Db	F	G7	C7
G	Bb	G	C	Eb	G	A7	D7