

Diatonic Chords: Transposing

To play a song in a new key, (1) find out what key the song is in, (2) find the numbers that go with the chords in that song. Pick a new key and play the chords that go with the numbers from the song. For example: in the key of "C major", a song that has C (1), F(4), and A minor (6) could be played in the key of "D" by playing the same numbers: 1, 4, and 6. Those chords would be D, G, and B minor.

	Major							Natural Minor (Major with lowered 3, 6, & 7)						
#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chord Quality*	M	m (-)	m (-)	M	M	m (-)	o	m (-)	o	M	m (-)	M	M	M
7th Quality**	$\Delta 7$	-7	-7	$\Delta 7$	7	-7	\emptyset	-7	\emptyset	$\Delta 7$	-7	7	$\Delta 7$	7
Key of C	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b
Key of D ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b	F ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^{bb}	C ^b
Key of D	D	E	F [#]	G	A	B	C [#]	D	E	F	G	A	B ^b	C
Key of E ^b	E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C	D	E ^b	F	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C ^b	D ^b
Key of E	E	F [#]	G [#]	A	B	C [#]	D [#]	E	F [#]	G	A	B	C	D
Key of F	F	G	A	B ^b	C	D	E	F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b
Key of G ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F	G ^b	A ^b	B ^{bb}	C ^b	D ^b	E ^{bb}	F ^b
Key of G	G	A	B	C	D	E	F [#]	G	A	B ^b	C	D	E ^b	F
Key of A ^b	A ^b	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b	F	G	A ^b	B ^b	C ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F ^b	G ^b
Key of A	A	B	C [#]	D	E	F [#]	G [#]	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Key of B ^b	B ^b	C	D	E ^b	F	G	A	B ^b	C	D ^b	E ^b	F	G ^b	A ^b
Key of B	B	C [#]	D [#]	E	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]	B	C [#]	D	E	F [#]	G	A

* "m" or "-" means "minor". In a major key, chord numbers 2, 3, and 6 are minor. "M" means "major". In a major key, chord numbers 1, 4, and 5 are major. "o" means diminished. In a major key, only chord number 7 is diminished. For more help with these chord types, see the triads section.

** 7th chords are the same as triads, but they have a fourth note on them. For example, a "G" chord would use notes G, B, and D. A "G7" chord would have G, B, D, and F. The " Δ " symbol means "major 7" and the symbol " \emptyset " means half diminished. For more help with 7th chords, see the 7th chords section.