

Guide for Using the Chord Transposing Tool for Major Keys

The *Chord Transposing Tool for Major Keys* is organized similar to the *Note Transposing Tool for Major Keys*, except that the chord tool helps you to analyze and transpose chords progression instead of notes. You can also use this tool to identify other chords that are common in a specific key, which is especially helpful for songwriting.

Step 1. Familiarize yourself with the *Chord Transposing Tool for Major Keys* layout.

- Rows run from left to right across the page, and columns run from top to bottom.
- The first four rows (labeled “Chords”) applies to all of the major keys.
- The next fifteen rows show key name, key signature, and notes for individual major keys.
- Uppercase Roman numerals represent major chords and lowercase represent minor chords.

Step 2. Identifying the diatonic chords (triads) in a key.

- Select a major key from the “Key Names and Signatures” section.
- Going across the row for the major key you selected, identify the notes (gray columns) from left to right. For each note in the key, follow the gray column to “Diatonic Chords (Triads)” Use the associated note name in place of the Roman numeral. Add an “m” following the note name for minor chords (shown as a lowercase Roman numeral).

Step 3. Identify the diatonic seventh chords in a key.

- Follow step 2 above to select a key and choose a note in the selected key.
- For the chosen note, follow the gray column to “Diatonic Seventh Chords” As in step 2, substitute the note name for the Roman numeral. Then, add an “m” for minor chords. Last, add the additional numbers or letter shown after the Roman numeral.

Step 4. Identify the secondary dominant chords in a key.

- Follow step 2 above to select a key and choose a note in the selected key.
- For the chosen note, follow the gray column to “Secondary Dominant Chords” As in step 2, substitute the note name for the Roman numeral. Then, add a “7”.

Step 5. Identify the diatonic seventh borrowed chords in a key.

- Follow step 2 above to select a key and choose a note in the selected key. For the chosen note, follow the gray column to “Borrowed Chords.” Just as in step 2, substitute the note name for the Roman numeral. Then, add an “m” for minor chords.

Play & Do...

- Select a piece of music that you would like to play in another key.
- First *analyze* the progression as follows. Determine what key you are starting in by looking at the key signature. If you only have chord symbols, then the first chord is likely to denote the key. If the first chord is a major chord, then this is the correct tool. If the first chord is a minor chord, use the *Chord Transposing Tool for Minor Keys*. Choose a chord from the original key. For example, if you are starting in the key of C, then the I chord in the key of C is C major. Repeat this process for the rest of the progression in the original key.
- Next, *transpose* the progression to a new key. Choose a different key and play the I chord from the new key. For example, if you choose the key of G then the I chord is the G major chord. Repeat this process for the rest of the chords from the original key to create a transposed chord progression in the new key of G major.

CHORD TRANSPOSING TOOL FOR MAJOR KEYS

C H O R D S	Diatonic Chords (Triads)	I		ii		iii	IV		V		vi		vii(b5)	I
	Diatonic Seventh Chords													
	Secondary Dominant Chords													
	Borrowed Chords													
K E Y N A M E S A N D S I G N A T U R E S	C ^b major	C ^b		D ^b		E ^b	F ^b		G ^b		A ^b		B ^b	C ^b
	G ^b major	G ^b		A ^b		B ^b	C ^b		D ^b		E ^b		F	G ^b
	D ^b major													D ^b
	A ^b major													A ^b
	E ^b major													E ^b
	B ^b major													B ^b
	F major													F
	C major													C
	G major													G
	D major													D
	A major													A
	E major	E		F [#]		G [#]	A		B		C [#]		D [#]	E
	B major	B		C [#]		D [#]	E		F [#]		G [#]		A [#]	B
	F [#] major	F [#]		G [#]		A [#]	B		C [#]		D [#]		E [#]	F [#]
	C [#] major	C [#]		D [#]		E [#]	F [#]		G [#]		A [#]		B [#]	C [#]