

# Scale, Chord, and Transposition Chart

The chart below can be used to determine major scales for all the keys, key signatures, chords in major keys, and as a transposition guide. Each key is shown with its major scale and identified by the number of accidentals (sharps or flats) it contains. (See the “#/b” column.) With this information you can look at any key signature and determine the key. *Scales* are listed horizontally with Arabic numerals, *chords* with Roman numerals. To read a scale simply ignore the chord markings (“m” for minor or “°” for diminished). To determine chords, read horizontally as shown. For example, the *scale* for the key of B<sup>b</sup> (2 flats) is:

B<sup>b</sup>    C    D    E<sup>b</sup>    F    G    A    B<sup>b</sup>  
 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8  
*do re me fa so la ti do*

The *chords* for the same key are:

B<sup>b</sup>    Cm    Dm    E<sup>b</sup>    F    Gm    A°    B<sup>b</sup>  
 I    ii    iii    IV    V    vi    vii    I

This information can help you transpose from one key to another. Here’s how: Let’s say you know a song in the key of D but want to be able to play it in the key of G, where it’s best for your voice. You need to find the key of G chords. The key of D chords, which you already know, are D, G, and A. From the chart, key of D line, you can see that the D is the I chord, the G is the IV, and the A is the V. To transpose these chords to the key of G, just follow up or down in their respective columns (I, ii, iii, etc.) to the new key. This will tell you to substitute G chords for all the D chords, Cs for all the Gs, and Ds for all the As. Like numbers are always substituted, I to I, ii to ii, vii° to vii°, etc. Major chords will still be majors in the new key, minors will still be minors.

You can also transpose note by note with the chart. Continuing with the above example, let’s say the first note of the tune in the key of D is an F#. Find the key of D line in the chart, read over horizontally until you come to the F#, which happens to be in the “3” column. Stay in the “3” column and follow down to the key of G line, presto, you see that the first note of our tune in the key of G is B.

| Key            | #/b  | Scale | 1 ( <i>do</i> ) | 2 ( <i>re</i> )  | 3 ( <i>me</i> )  | 4 ( <i>fa</i> ) | 5 ( <i>so</i> ) | 6 ( <i>la</i> )  | 7 ( <i>ti</i> )  | 8 ( <i>do</i> ) |
|----------------|------|-------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                |      | Chord | I               | ii               | iii              | IV              | V               | vi               | vii°             | I               |
| C              | none |       | C               | Dm               | Em               | F               | G               | Am               | B°               | C               |
| F              | 1-b  |       | F               | Gm               | Am               | B <sup>b</sup>  | C               | Dm               | E°               | F               |
| B <sup>b</sup> | 2-b  |       | B <sup>b</sup>  | Cm               | Dm               | E <sup>b</sup>  | F               | Gm               | A°               | B <sup>b</sup>  |
| E <sup>b</sup> | 3-b  |       | E <sup>b</sup>  | Fm               | Gm               | A <sup>b</sup>  | B <sup>b</sup>  | Cm               | D°               | E <sup>b</sup>  |
| A <sup>b</sup> | 4-b  |       | A <sup>b</sup>  | B <sup>b</sup> m | Cm               | D <sup>b</sup>  | E <sup>b</sup>  | Fm               | G°               | A <sup>b</sup>  |
| D <sup>b</sup> | 5-b  |       | D <sup>b</sup>  | E <sup>b</sup> m | Fm               | G <sup>b</sup>  | A <sup>b</sup>  | B <sup>b</sup> m | C°               | D <sup>b</sup>  |
| G <sup>b</sup> | 6-b  |       | G <sup>b</sup>  | A <sup>b</sup> m | B <sup>b</sup> m | C <sup>b</sup>  | D <sup>b</sup>  | E <sup>b</sup> m | F°               | G <sup>b</sup>  |
| C <sup>b</sup> | 7-b  |       | C <sup>b</sup>  | D <sup>b</sup> m | E <sup>b</sup> m | F <sup>b</sup>  | G <sup>b</sup>  | A <sup>b</sup> m | B <sup>b</sup> ° | C <sup>b</sup>  |
| C#             | 7-#  |       | C#              | D#m              | E#m              | F#              | G#              | A#m              | B#°              | C#              |
| F#             | 6-#  |       | F#              | G#m              | A#m              | B#              | C#              | D#m              | E#°              | F#              |
| B              | 5-#  |       | B               | C#m              | D#m              | E               | F#              | G#m              | A#°              | B               |
| E              | 4-#  |       | E               | F#m              | G#m              | A               | B               | C#m              | D#°              | E               |
| A              | 3-#  |       | A               | Bm               | C#m              | D               | E               | F#m              | G#°              | A               |
| D              | 2-#  |       | D               | Em               | F#m              | G               | A               | Bm               | C#°              | D               |
| G              | 1-#  |       | G               | Am               | Bm               | C               | D               | Em               | F#°              | G               |