

Desert Bluegrass Association Workshop

Transposing keys and chords

In our workshop, we use the Nashville Numbering System.

The I (one) chord is the chord based on the first note of the scale

In the key of G, this is a G chord.

The chord is the first, third and fifth note of the scale. (notes G B D)

The IV (4) chord is based on the 4th note of the scale,
in the key of G, this is C (notes C E G)

Likewise, the V (5) chord is based on the 5th note of the scale,
in the key of G, this is D. (notes D F# A)

Sometimes there is a 6 chord, and this one is almost always minor, in bluegrass.

This chart can help you, when the song is in other keys, not G.

Transposing chords and keys:

The key	1 chord	4 chord	5 chord	6 chord (minor)
G	G	C	D	Em
D	D	G	A	Bm
A	A	D	E	F#m
E	E	A	B	C#m
B	B	E	F#	G#m
C	C	F	G	Am