

# ALL CHORD SETS IN ALL KEYS

WITH THE ROMAN  
NUMERAL SYSTEM

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# WHAT IS THE ROMAN NUMERAL SYSTEM?

Chords are what build a song. All the chords needed to build a song are found within a scale:

C Scale:  
C D E F G A B

Chords:  
C, D minor, E minor, F, G, A minor, B diminished

(we'll ignore that last one. It's weird and no one uses it)

On a chord sheet, the chords used are simply rewritten as Roman numerals:

C Dm Em F G Am  
1 2 3 4 5 6  
I ii iii IV V vi

Notice: the major chords are written as capitals and the minor chords are written as lower case.

For example:

I IV I  
Jesus loves me, this I know

# HOW DOES IT HELP?

The Roman Numeral System is being used by more and more worship teams today for several reasons:

- Transposing songs into different keys no longer requires someone running to the back and printing a dozen new chord sheets. It can be done with a simple hand gesture and then the entire team can shift keys on the fly without prior notice. If they are familiar with the scale of the key, they will automatically know what chords to play for "I vi V IV"
- It is easier for the team to memorize chords, eliminating the need for music stands and chord sheets. Some still use music stands, but the RNS makes them optional instead of required. It's much easier to simply memorize "I IV V" than every chord combination known to man!
- It saves on paper. Once the chord sheet is written, it can be used every time regardless of what key it is played in. There's no more need to shuffle through a massive pile of chord sheets for the one written in F
- It is easier for the team to follow along during spontaneous worship. Spontaneous worship can be truly spontaneous when all the worship leader needs to do is signal "I V vi IV in A" and then the team nods.
- I've found that using the RNS has changed my concept of music. I have a much better understanding of how it really works. I'm so glad I learned it!

# COMMON KEYS

These are usually some of the easiest keys to play in for guitar (often the lead instrument). They are also usually the easiest keys for the congregation to sing in. So, for convenience, I'll list them out first:

## Key of C

C Dm Em F G Am  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of G

G Am Bm C D Em  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of D

D Em F#m G A Bm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of E

E F#m G#m A B C#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of A

A Bm C#m D E F#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

# THE FLATS

These happen to be all black note "flat" keys. They are usually the second most common keys to play in.

## Key of Bb

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of Eb

Eb Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of Ab

Ab Bbm Cm Db Eb Fm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of F

F Gm Am Bb C Dm  
I ii iii IV V vi

# THE DIFFICULT KEYS

These are usually avoided, being harder keys to play in for everyone involved. I personally LOVE F# though. I think its the most beautiful key ever!

## Key of F#

F# G#m A#m B C# D#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of C#

C# D#m Fm F# G# A#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of B

B C#m D#m E F# G#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

# A COUPLE TIPS

1. Some chords mentioned above may look unfamiliar. That's because some notes (mostly black notes) go by two names. It doesn't really matter which name is used in the worship team world. I used the technically correct version according to music theory, but feel free to switch them out so something more familiar. To help save some time and headache figuring them out, here they are:

- C# = Db
- D# = Eb
- F# = Gb
- G# = Ab
- A# = Bb

2. If you're overwhelmed at memorizing all the scales, I totally get it! That's how I felt when I first started out learning to play with the RNS. Here's how I made it easier on myself:

- 1) What key are they playing in? Let's say it's A
  - 2) Find the A chord
  - 3) Play A suspended (the middle note moved up one)
  - 4) BAM! Those notes are the I IV and V chords you need to be playing. From there, the vi is just the next note up.
- You can play almost every song just knowing those 4 chords.

## Key of C

C Dm Em F G Am  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of C#

C# D#m Fm F# G# A#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of D

D Em F#m G A Bm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of Eb

Eb Fm Gm Ab Bb Cm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of E

E F#m G#m A B C#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of F

F Gm Am Bb C Dm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of F#

F# G#m A#m B C# D#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of G

G Am Bm C D Em  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of Ab

Ab Bbm Cm Dbm Ed Fm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of A

A Bm C#m D E F#m  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of Bb

Bb Cm Dm Eb F Gm  
I ii iii IV V vi

## Key of B

B C#m D#m E F# G#m  
I ii iii IV V vi