

KD's Handy Dandy Easy Music Method

This is a very basic lesson in how to do chords. Take a look at the scales on the opposite page and use this page to make chords and transpose.

To make a major chord:

Play the 1st, 3rd and 5th note of the scale (1, 3, 5).

Examples: C = C, E, G F = F, A, C B \flat = B \flat , D, F, etc.

To make a minor chord:

Play the major chord (1, 3, 5), then play the 1st note, take the 3rd down a half a step, then play the 5th (1, flat 3, 5).

Examples: Cminor = C, E \flat , G Fmin = F, A \flat , C B \flat min = B \flat , D \flat , F, etc.

To transpose:

All you need to do is substitute the transposed chords in the key you want with the chords of the original key. You first need to figure out what key you are in. You can do that by looking at the key signature and seeing how many sharps or flats there are, or by having someone just help you determine what key the song is in. Sometimes the key might even be the first and/or last chord of the song. Next you have to figure out what key you want to go to. Try moving the first chord down a step and see if that feels better to sing or play.

Then all you do is take each of the original chords, look at the chart that I have included here, and switch them for the transposed chords. It's very important to remember to take *all* the various numbers that might come after each chord (7ths, major, minor, any other numbers, or suspended chords).

Example #1:	Original chords in the key of C:	C, Am7, F, G7
	Transposed chords in the key of G:	G, Em7, C, D7
Example #2:	Original chords in the key of A:	A, C \sharp min7, F \sharp min7, Esus
	Transposed chords in the key of F:	F, Am7, Dm7, Csus

The main thing that I think is important is there are no accidents. If you hit a 'wrong' note (one that might not be in the chord or in the scale) and it sounds good to you, then explore it. Many of my songs have been written by hitting a 'wrong' note and I just had fun with it and made up a whole new song. So in other words let yourself play and have fun and surrender to the magic of music!

Sharps

Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Sharps
C =	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	0
G =	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G	1
D =	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	2
A =	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	3
E =	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E	4
B =	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B	5

Flats

Key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Flats
F =	F	G	A	B \flat	C	D	E	F	1
B \flat =	B \flat	C	D	E \flat	F	G	A	B \flat	2
E \flat =	E \flat	F	G	A \flat	B \flat	C	D	E \flat	3
A \flat =	A \flat	B \flat	C	D \flat	E \flat	F	G	A \flat	4
D \flat =	D \flat	E \flat	F	G \flat	A \flat	B \flat	C	D \flat	5