

Jamming with I, IV, V

Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

1, 4, 5, 1...What are they talking about?

The Nashville numbering system is a way of explaining the chords to another player. In every key, there is a tonic or key chord, a subdominant and dominant chord. These 3 chords are the basis for many songs. The autoharp is perfectly set up so we can learn many songs quickly in this setup.

Simple 2 and 3 chord songs

Many tunes have simple 2 or 3 chord structures. Here is a chart that will help you understand what folks are saying when they call out numbers for a song. It's called the Nashville numbering system.

CHORD CHART FOR THE MOST COMMON KEYS

KEY	I	IV	V	iim	iiim	vim	vi
C	C	F	G	Dm	Em	Am	B
D	D	G	A	Em	F#m	Bm	C#
E	E	A	B	F#m	G#m	C#m	D#
F	F	Bb	C	Gm	Am	Dm	E
G	G	C	D	Am	Bm	Em	F#
A	A	D	E	Bm	C#m	F#m	G#
Bb	Bb	Eb	F	Cm	Dm	Gm	A
Em	Em	Am	Bmin	F#	G	C	D
Am	Am	Dm	Emin	B	C	F	G
Bm	Bm	Em	F#m	C#	D	G	A
Dm	Dm	Gm	Am	E	G	Bb	C

Saint Anne's Reel

A

D	D	G	D
---	---	---	---

A

I	I	IV	I
---	---	----	---

D	D	G/A	D
---	---	-----	---

I	I	IV/V	I
---	---	------	---

B

D	Em	A	D
---	----	---	---

B

I	IIIm	V	I
---	------	---	---

D	Em	A	D
---	----	---	---

I	IIIm	V	I
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The musical notation consists of four staves of music in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D (over D4), G (over G4), D (over D4).
- Staff 2: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D (over D4), G (over G4), A (over A4), D (over D4).
- Staff 3: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D (over D4), Em (over E4), A (over A4), D (over D4).
- Staff 4: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D (over D4), Em (over E4), A (over A4), D (over D4).

Coleman's March

Traditional

D D G D G D / G D G D A D G

D A G D A (A7) 1 D 2 D

D A G / A G A G D / G D / A

G D A (A7) 1 D 2 D

G / D / A D A / D G D A D / / / A D D G D G

a) |:D-G -|D -|A -|DA|GD|A -|D -:|

b) |D -|A -|G -|D -|DA|GD|A -|D -:||

Arranged by Steve Akerman and Mimi Geibel

Learn a Tune: Macpherson's Lament

D A D G
 D D / / A D A D A D A / G D / A D G A G
 D A D G A
 D / / A D A D A D A / G D / A G / A D G
 D Bm Em A D G
 D / Em Bm Em Bm Bm Em A D G D / A D G /
 D Bm Em A D G A
 D / Em Bm Em Bm Bm Em A / G D / A G / A

a) |:D-A-D-G-D-A-DG|A-:|

b) |:Db|eA|D-G-|Db|eA|DG|A-:|

Redwing/Union Maid

Mills & Chattaway/Woody Guthrie

G C G
 C G / / / / / / / C / / / G /
 C G 1. A D 2. D G
 C / G D C G / D G / A G D G D / C D D G D / G / D
 C G D
 C / / D C G / / C D / /
 1. D G 2. D G
 D / C D G / / / D D C G D G

a) |G-|CG|CG|AD|G-|CG|CG|DG|

b) |C-|G-|D-|G-|C-|G-|D-|G-|

Chinese Breakdown

Arranged by Steve Akerman and Mimi Geibel

The musical score consists of six staves of music in a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The chords and rhythmic patterns are as follows:

- Staff 1:** Chords: D, A. Rhythm: D / / G D / / / / G D A / / / G A / / G
- Staff 2:** Chord: D. Rhythm: A / G A D / D / G D / / A D / A D
- Staff 3:** Chords: G, A, D. Rhythm: G / A D A D A D A G A / G A D /
- Staff 4:** Chords: A, G. Rhythm: D / / A D / / / / A D A / / G A / G A G /
- Staff 5:** Chords: A, D. Rhythm: A / G A D / D / / A D / / A D / A D
- Staff 6:** Chords: G, A, D. Rhythm: G A D A D A D A G A / G A D

a) | D | D | D | A | A | A |
 - | A | D | D | D | D |
 - | G | A | A | A | D |

b) | D | D | D | A | A | G |
 - | A | D | D | D | D |
 - | G | A | A | A | D |

CHORD CHART FOR THE MOST COMMON KEYS

IV	V	!im	!iim	vim	vii	Rel. Minor
G	G	Em	Em	Am	B	Am
A	A	Em	F#m	Bm	C#	Bm
B	B	F#m	G#m	C#m	D#	C#m
A	C	Gm	Am	Dm	E	Dm
Bb	D	Am	Bm	Em	F#	Em
C	D	Am	Bm	Em	F#	Em
D	E	Bm	C#m	F#m	G#	Fm
Eb	F	Cm	Dm	Gm	A	Gm
Dm	Em	B	C	F	G	C
Em	F#m	C#	D	G	A	D
Gm	Am	E	G	Bb	C	F

Fiddle Tune Jam Chord Charts

Angeline the Baker

DA|D-|DA|G-|DA|D - |DG|D-:||
D- |G-|D- |G-|DG|DG|DG|D-:||

The Ash Grove 3/4 time

G--|e--|C--|D--|G--|C--|D--|G--:||
G--|e--|a--|D--|G--|G--|D--|D7--||
G--|e--|C--|D--|G--|C--|D--|G--||

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine

D-| -- |GD |A-|D-|--|GDA|D-|--||
D-|G- |GD|A-|D-|--|GDA|D-|--||

Coleman's March

D-|G-|D-|A-|DA|GD|A|D:||
D-|A-|G-|D-|DA|GD|A-|D-||

Farewell to Whiskey

G-|e-|G-|b-|CG|CD|G-|--:||
G-|CD|G-|e-|CG|CD|G-|--:||

Fisher's Hornpipe

DG|DG|DG|DA7|DG|DG|DA7|D-:||
A7-|D-|A7-|E7A7|G-|D-|GA7|D-:||

Flowers of Edinburgh

G-|--|D-|-C|G-|-C|GD|GC:||
G-|D-|C-|e-|G-|C-|D-|G-:||

Forked Deer

D-|GA|D-|GA|D-|GA|DG|AD:||
A-| - | - |D|A-| - |DG|AD:||

Hewlett 3/4 time

D--|A--|b--|G--|D--|-G-|D-A|D--:||
D--|f#--|D--|b-- |e-- | --- |G-- | D--||
D--|A--|b-- |G--|D--|G--|D-A|D--||

Liberty

D-|--|G-|--|D-|--|A-|D-:||
D-|--|--|A-|D-|--|GA|D-:||

Needlecase

D-|G-|D-|G-|D-|G-|A-|-D:||

Sara Armstrong's Tune

DG|D-|AD|A - |DG|D-|A-|D-:||
D - |e-|GA|D-|D- |e-|GA|D-:||

Soldier's Joy

D-| - | --|A-|D-| - |DA|D-:||
D-|A-|D-|A-|D-|A-|DA|D-:||

Star of the County Down 3/4 time

e--|C--|G--|D--|e--|C-- |D--|---|
e--|C--|G--|D--|e--|C-D|e--|---||
G--| --- |D--| ---|e--|C-- |D--|---
e-- |C--|G--|D--|e--|C-D|e---|---:||

Westphalia Waltz 3/4 time

G-- |---|b--|D--|G--|---|D--|D7--| -- | --- |
D---|---|---|1D7A7D7|G--|---:|2D7--|G--|---:||
G--|b-- |e--|G-- |--- |--- |a--|D7--|a--|C--|
a-- |D7--|---|D7--|G--|---:||

Whiskey Before Breakfast

D-|--|GD|AD:||
D-|--|e-|--|-A|GD|GD|AD:||
D-|--|--|G-|G-|A-|--|D-:||

CHORD CHART FOR THE MOST COMMON KEYS

IV	V	!im	!im	!im	vii	Rel. Minor
F	G	Dm	Em	Am	B	Am
G	A	Em	F#m	Bm	C#	Bm
A	B	F#m	G#m	C#m	D#	C#m
Bb	C	Gm	Am	Dm	E	Dm
C	D	Am	Bm	Em	F#	Em
D	E	Bm	C#m	F#m	G#	Fm
Eb	F	Cm	Dm	Gm	A	Gm
Dm	Em	B	C	F	G	C
Em	F#m	C#	D	G	A	D
Gm	Am	E	G	Bb	C	F