

The **Nashville Number System** is a method of **transcribing** music by denoting the **scale degree** on which a **chord** is built. It was developed by **Neal Matthews, Jr.** in the late 1950s as a simplified system for **The Jordanares** to use in the studio and further developed by **Charlie McCoy**. It resembles the **Roman numeral** and **figured bass** systems traditionally used to transcribe a **chord progression** since as early as the 1700s.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

In the Nashville numbering system all numbers represent major chords unless otherwise noted. In jazz or swing, where the chords are often more complex it is visually simpler to use Roman Numerals. In this case lower case can be used to indicate minor.

example: Taken from the 3rd line of Ain't No Fun To be Alone in San Antone

G ⁶	G ⁷	C ⁶ (B)	Am ⁷
I ⁶	I ⁷	IV ⁶ (III)	ii ⁷

There are also a number of symbols that can be used to indicate chord quality,

- = **minor** (or lowercase)

⁷ = **dominant 7th**

Δ = **major 7th**

° = **diminished**

Try translating your own using the guide below. For this exercise we will be in the key of G.

G	A	B	C	D	E	F#
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

C ⁶	C ^{#dim}	G ⁶	A ⁷	D ⁷

I ⁶	VI ⁷	II ⁷	V ⁷	I ⁶ #I ^o ii ⁷ V ⁷