

How to quickly change a song from one key to another key (Transposing).

A song's key may be changed to suit your voice. If you find it difficult to sing a song because the music is too high or too low, changing the key will make the song fit your voice better. Another reason you may want to change keys is that the chords used in one key may be difficult to play while chords in another key may make playing the song easier.

To change keys, first find the root chord of the song's key, usually the first and/or the last chord in the song.

Let's use "Mull of Kintyre" in the key of "G" as an example:

[G] Mull of Kin [G7] tyre, oh [C] mist rolling in from the [G] sea
my de [G7] sire is [C] always to be here , oh [D] Mull of Kin [G] tyre.

First list the 7 notes of the "G" diatonic scale (1st chord in the song)

G scale	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#

then add the notes of the scale you wish to change to.

G scale	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#
C scale	C	D	E	F	G	A	B

Now back to the song. To change the chords to the key of "C", simply change all chords within the song to the new chord below the original chords in the song. Do not change the chord quality (see below).

Original

[G] Mull of Kin [G7] tyre, oh [C] mist rolling in from the [G] sea
my de [G7] sire is [C] always to be here , oh [D] Mull of Kin [G] tyre.

New

[C] Mull of Kin [C7] tyre, oh [F] mist rolling in from the [C] sea
my de [C7] sire is [F] always to be here , oh [G] Mull of Kin [C] tyre.

Note: Do not change the chord "*quality*". The chord quality is the ending of the chord, examples: G7, Dsus4, Fadd7. The Z, sus4 and the add7 are known as the quality of the chord. These do not change when transposing, change only the chord name.

Changing to the "D" scale.

Original

[G] Mull of Kin [G7] tyre, oh [C] mist rolling in from the [G] sea
my de [G7] sire is [C] always to be here , oh [D] Mull of Kin [G] tyre.

G scale	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#
D scale	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#

To change the chords to the key of "D", simply change all chords within the song to the new chord below the original. Remember, don't change the chord quality, that part remains the same.

New

[D] Mull of Kin [D7] tyre, oh [G] mist rolling in from the [D] sea
my de [D7] sire is [G] always to be here , oh [A] Mull of Kin [D] tyre.

Below is a quick reference of the Major Keys, their chords and note names

Key	Root	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii ^o
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F# ^o
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C# ^o
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G# ^o
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D# ^o
B	B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	A# ^o
F#	F#	G#m	A#m	B	C#	D#m	E# ^o
Db	Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Ab	Bbm	C ^o
Ab	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb	Fm	G ^o
Eb	Eb	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bb	Cm	D ^o
Bb	Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F	Gm	A ^o
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	E ^o