The Nashville Number System

By Dan Wilt

KEY	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii^{ø}	I
	1	2m	3m	4	5	6m	7^{ø}	1
C	**C**	Dm	Em	**F**	**G**	Am	B^{ø}	C
D	**D**	Em	F#m	**G**	**A**	Bm	C#^{ø}	D
E	**E**	F#m	G#m	**A**	**B**	C#m	D#^{ø}	E
F	**F**	Gm	Am	**Bb**	**C**	Dm	E^{ø}	F
G	**G**	Am	Bm	**C**	**D**	Em	F#^{ø}	G
A	**A**	Bm	C#m	**D**	**E**	F#m	G#^{ø}	A
B	**B**	C#m	D#m	**E**	**F#**	G#m	A#^{ø}	B

Know your **1, 4, 5, 6m** chords by rote and you'll rule the nation.
Know your **1, 2m, 3m, 4, 5, 6m** chords by rote in each key, and you'll rule the earth.
Know your **1, 2m, 3m, 4, 5, 6m, 7^{ø}** chords by rote in each key, and you'll... you know.

Exercises

*** In each key, play the 1, 4, 5 chords in order**, two measures each, over and over till they're in your noggin. Then, add in the 6m chord. Then, add in the 2m chord. Practice.

*** Convert a familiar chord chart into numbers only**, and seek to play by numbers in the most familiar key. Now, play it in a different key, by numbers. Now, play it in 2 more, different keys.

Extra Chord Notation (flats, sharps and chord extensions)

To denote a slash chord, 1/5 means play the 1 chord with a note in the bass.

To denote a 7th or extension chord, 57 (superscript the 7 if you can) means a V7 chord.

To denote a flat or sharp chord, a "b" or "#" changes the chord. Ex. 3b or 3#

Using Roman Numerals is an option, but for clarity, begin with using standard numbers.