

How To Format A Song Chart

(by Trevor de Clercq)

General Layout

- Include the title and artist of the song, centered at the top of the page.
- Indicate the key and meter in the top left and right portions of the page, respectively
- Divide the song into labeled sections, using a horizontal line between each new section.
- Indicate instrumentation or texture changes, whenever appropriate.
- Notate any key, meter, or tempo changes, whenever appropriate.
- Use two columns for the song form; keep the song to a single page, whenever possible.

Chord Notation

- Use Arabic (“Nashville”) numbers, not Roman numerals, to indicate the root of the chord.
- Indicate chord quality and any chord extensions using standard pop notation.
- One plain Nashville number equals one bar of music.
- Organize the chords into phrases, typically 4 bars per phrase.
- Indicate inverted chords with a fraction, such that the number above the dash represents the chord and the number below the dash represents the scale degree of the bass.

IN) 6- 4 $\frac{1}{5}$ 6-

- Indicate multiple chords in a bar that equally divide the bar via an underline.

VR) 1 3- 6- 3- 4

- Indicate multiple chords in a bar that do not equally divide the bar via an underline as well as dots to represent the number of beats for each chord.

VR) 5 5 $\overset{\cdot\cdot\cdot}{1}$ $\overset{\cdot}{4}$ 1

- Indicate held chords via a diamond around the chord number, with ties for chords longer than a bar.

CH) 5 $\diamond 1$ 6- $\diamond 4$ — $\diamond 4$

- Notate bars that are not standard lengths via parentheses, with dots for each beat.

PC) 6- 5 ($\overset{\cdot\cdot}{1}$) 4 5

- Indicate eighth-note anticipations to the beat via a forward or backward caret (a “push”), depending on whether the chord is occurring before (<) or after (>) the beat.

LN) 4 $1 < 5$ 4 $6- 5 >$

- Indicate stops in the music via a caret (or “hat”).

TAG) 3- 3- $\hat{4}$

Bibliography

Matthews, Neal Jr. 1984. *The Nashville Number System: An Aid to Playing by Ear*. Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corporation.

Riley, Jim. 2010. *Song Charting Made Easy: A Play-Along Guide to the Nashville Number System*. Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corporation.

Snodgrass, Jennifer. 2015. *Contemporary Musicianship: Analysis and the Artist*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Williams, Chas. 2012. *The Nashville Number System*, 7th ed. Nashville, TN: Chas Williams.

CRAZY

Beckett

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>INTRO</u> | | | | |
| = (A) | <u>1 1 4</u> | 4 | <u>43-</u> | <u>2-5⁶</u> |
| | 5 | 6 | 2- | 2- |
| | <u>1 1 7^b</u> | <u>53^{b0}</u> | <u>11^{#0}</u> | <u>2-5⁶</u> |
| | 5 | 6 | 2- | 2- |
| = BRIDGE | <u>4</u> | 5 | <u>12-⁷</u> | <u>3^{b0}/₃</u> |
| | 2 | <u>44^{#0}</u> | 1 | <u>1711[#]</u> |
| = (B) | <u>1 1 7^b</u> | 2 | 5 | <u>55⁺⁵</u> |
| | <u>43-</u> | 6 | 2- | 2- |
| | <u>43-</u> | <u>2-2^{b0}</u> | <u>2-5⁶</u> | <u>16</u> |
| <u>MOD 1</u> = (C) | <u>1 1 7^b</u> | 6 | 2- | 2- |
| | <u>43-</u> | <u>2-2^{b0}</u> | <u>RET. (2-5)</u> | |
| = ENDING | <u>1</u> | <u>RET. 4 4 4</u> | (1) | |

Chart by: Barry Beckett
 From: Chas Williams (2001), The Nashville
 Number System, 6th edition.

KEY OF B^b

4/4 ♩ = 72
4 SHUFFLE

CRAZY

(PATSY CLINE)

IN) W/PIANO LEAD-IN
1 4 4 3- 2- 5

VR) 1̣̣̣ b7̣̣̣ 6⁷ 2- 2-
5 5 b3^{o7} 1 #1^o 2- 5

VR) 1̣̣̣ b7̣̣̣ 6⁷ 2- 2-
5 5⁷ 1 2-⁷ b3^{o7} 1/3⁷

BR) 4 4 #4^{o7} 1 1 7 1 #1
2⁷ 2⁷ 5⁷ 5⁷

VR) 1̣̣̣ b7̣̣̣ 6⁷ 2- 2-
4 3- 2- #1^o 2- 5 1 #5⁷

→ MOD. UP A HALF STEP

VR) 1̣̣̣ b7̣̣̣ 6⁷ 2- 2-
4 3- 2- #1^o 2- 5
1 4⁷ 1

KEY OF D

4/4 @ ♩ = 70

GORILLA (BRUNO MARS)

SYNTH & PERC ONLY

IN) 6- 6-

BASS IN

VR) 6- $\frac{6-}{5}$ 4 Δ 7 b6 b7

6- $\frac{6-}{5}$ 4 Δ 7 b6 b7

PCH) 3- 6- 2 2-

FULL BAND

CH) 1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

SPARSE

VR) 6- $\frac{6-}{5}$ 4 Δ 7 b6 b7

6- $\frac{6-}{5}$ 4 Δ 7 b6 b7

PCH) 3- 6- 2 2-

FULL BAND

CH) 1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

BR) 3- $\frac{6-}{5}$

3- $\frac{6-}{5}$

FULL BAND

CH) 1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7

SYNTHS ONLY

OUT) 1 b7² 4 4 b6 b7