

# TRANSPOSITION

To transpose means to change the music to another key. There are several ways of doing this but I think that the "numerical" system shown here works most flawlessly. Keep in mind that all keys (scales) are much the same except they start from different levels in pitch.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

The notes in any scale can be thought of as numerical degrees of that that key. Notice that in this Bb Major scale, all Bb notes are called no:1. All C's are no:2 etc.

#1 #2 b3 #4 #5 b6 #6 b7

Any accidentally altered note would then be referred to as being that numerical degree either sharpened or flatted. (not sharpened or flattened)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Here is an E Major scale analyzed in a numerical manner.

b1 b2 b3 #4 b5 #6 b6 b7

Any alteration by accidentals of the E Major scale would result in this. Notice that the C double sharp is not the doubly sharpened 6th but simply the #6. In the original key, C# is the normal 6th degree.

3 3 #2 4 3 2 5 1 5 4 3

Here is a short musical passage in Bb, numerically analyzed. To transpose this into the key of E, all you must do is choose the corresponding notes from the E major scale.

3 3 #2 4 3 2 5 1 5 4 3

You do have a choice of either moving the entire song to a lower pitch level in the new key,

or

3 3 #2 4 3 2 5 1 5 4 3

moving the whole song to a higher level.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The beauty of using a music writing program on a computer is that you can do the whole transposition process with a few mouse clicks. Serious students might delve into purchasing such a program. There are a variety of them on the market, some more affordable than others.