CHORD NOTATION SYSTEM EXPLAINED

First, you must have the melody in your head. Almost all songs are structured in rows of 4 measures. The system allows you to see the blueprint of the song in an easy-to-remember format and grasp the structure as a whole. An autoharp arrangement can be written with the accompaniment above and the chords used to play the melody below (the lyrics, if any).

In Common (4/4) time, each measure is given 4 beats.
If the measure is split between two chords, you play 2 beats on each.

Measure	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Rhythm Chord	C	C G	C	C G
Lyric	Yan– kee Doo-dle	came to town a-	rid- in' on a	po- ny
Melody Chords	**C / C / G / C**	**C / C / G /G G**	**C / C / G / C**	**C / C / G / G**
Melody Beat	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 (4) +	1 2 3 4	1 (2) 3 (4)
Stroke*	↕ ↕ ↕ ↕	↕ ↕ ↕ ↑ ↓	↕ ↕ ↕ ↕	↕ ↑ ↕ ↑

[Note: I do realize that this tune is generally written in cut time, and that our British cousins are snickering over its origins: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yankee_Doodle]

For the melody line, each measure is divided into four sections separated by a slash, the duration next to a slash being equal to a quarter note, example: C / C / G / C
Likewise, in Waltz (3/4) time, the measure is divided into three beats, ex: G / F / C

If a melody note is a half-note, it is designated by a tie underneath. Thus, two half-notes:
C / C / Am / Am in 4/4

C / C / Am in 3/4

If the measure contains eighth-notes, they are placed in the space of a quarter-note.
CC / GC / CC / FF counts as "one-and-two-and-three-and-four-and"
C / CG / F / C counts as "one-two-and-three-four"
C / C / G /G G counts as "one-two-three-four-and" (see measure 2 above)

You don't need the cells, rhythm chords, or lyrics. An arrangement can be written just as chords:

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

C / C / C / C F / F / C / C Dm / Dm / C / C G7 / G7 / C / C

C / C / F / F C / C / G / G C / C / F / F C / C / G7 / G7

C / C / C / C F / F / C / C Dm / Dm / C / C G7 / G7 / C / C

This is NOT the "Nashville Number System" but is sort of a derivative of it.