

# Country & Western Styles Chart

	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Key Instruments</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Contributing Technology</b>	<b>Key Concepts</b>
	pre-1920's	Fiddle, banjo, guitar, gutbucket	The Carter Family, Jimmie Rodgers, Roy Acuff (30's-70's)	Phonograph, Radio	Carry-over from 19th century folk music. Centered in Appalachian mountains. Acoustic instruments provided portability for traveling musicians. Aug. 1927 - both Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers discovered. Grand Ole Opry in Nashville gave broad exposure to C&W.
<b>Cowboy</b>	Mid 1930's	Guitar, fiddle, string bass, banjo	Gene Autry, "Tex" Ritter, Roy Rogers Patsy Montana	Movies	Early Cowboy singers made their appearances in western movies. From the silver screen, they gained popularity. Lyrics of the songs were based on clean-cut all-American life: a girl back home, a horse, and the lonesome prairie. Vocals less nasal than early country singers.
<b>Western Swing</b>	Late 1930's (return: 80's)	Electric & steel guitars, drums, trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, accordion	Bob Wills / Asleep at the Wheel (80's)	Radio	Cowboy meets jazz swing! The feel of the cowboy song with a heavy, more dance-able beat and jazz instrumentation borrowed from the swing bands of the era. Piano, drums, clarinet or trumpet join the guitar, fiddle, steel guitar, and stand-up bass for this musical hybrid.
<b>Bluegrass</b>	Mid 1940's	Guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle	Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs		The logical successor to the early hillbilly music of the mountain country singers. Emphasis placed on virtuoso (fast and accurate) instrumentalists. Often considered some of the fastest (primarily instrumental) music in America.
<b>Honky Tonk</b>	Late 1940's	Piano, fiddle Electric Guitar, Steel guitar	Lefty Frizzell, Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams, Kitty Wells	Juke Box	Honky tonks were the blue collar bars of the '40s. The music fit the lifestyle of the crowd: loud, raucous, with an emphasis on drinking, carousing, fighting, and feeling miserable over unrequited love. When live performers weren't available, jukeboxes gave the working man the luxury of choice. "Slowed down" western swing; emphasis on steel guitar, piano & fiddle; nasal vocals, sliding into pitches.
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<b>Nashville "Pop"</b>	Mid 1950's	Strings, Guitar, Brass, Winds Piano	Chet Atkins, Patsy Cline	Advanced Recording Techniques (eg reverberation)	Developed as attempt to "crossover" to pop market to make country more commercially successful. Included use of strings, soft guitar, mellow "pad" as harmony backup. Singers were countrified ballad singers. Helped develop sophisticated recording techniques such as reverberation and overdubs.
<b>Bakersfield</b>	Early 1960's	Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums	Buck Owens, Merle Haggard	Electrified Instruments (Amplifiers)	Centered in Bakersfield, CA. Provided more power with use of solid body electric guitar & heavier drum beat to the honky-tonk sound, therefore, more "drive" to the music. Shows influence of early rock 'n' roll and rockabilly on country & western music.
<b>Austin "Outlaw"</b>	Late 1960's	Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums	Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson Kris Kristopherson		Emphasis on "bad boy", "renegade", and "outlaw" image. Singers emphasized rough look and "trouble with the law" lyrics. Honky-tonk or "Bakersfield" with an edge: music much more gritty lyrics reflected bitterness and unfairness of life. Heavy influence of '70s rock guitar & drums.
<b>Rockabilly</b>	Early 1950's	Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums	Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley	"Single" 45 rpm records	Hybrid combination of country (honky-tonk), rhythm & blues and a little gospel. Most early rockabilly artists came from the country side of the tracks, but were greatly influenced by music of African-Americans. Rockabilly was some of first music designed specifically for the new demographic group called "the teenager".