

**Lao Romanization Table
2012 version**

Earlier versions: [1997](#)

Lao

Consonants (see Note 1)

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization When Initial</i>	<i>Romanization When Final</i>
ກ	k	k
ຂ	kh	(k)
ຄ	kh	(k)
ງ	ng	ng
ຈ	ch	(t)
ສ	s	(t)
ຊ	s	(t)
ຢ	ny (see Note 2)	-
ດ	d	t
ຕ	t	(t)
ຖ	th	(t)
ທ	th	(t)
ນ	n	n
ບ	b	p
ປ	p	(p)
ຜ	ph	(p)
ຝ	f	(p)
ພ	ph	(p)
ຟ	f	(p)
ມ	m	m
ຍ	y	-
ຮ	r	(n)
ລ	l (see Note 3)	(n)
ວ	v (see Note 4)	-
ຫ	h (see Note 5)	-
ອ	' (ayn) (See Note 6)	-
ຮ	h	-

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Obsolete Consonants

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
ຸ	s
ຸ	t
ຸ	t
ຸ	tsa
ຸ	l

Vowels (see Note 7)

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
ອ, ອັ	a	ອາ, ອັອ	ɔ
ອາ	ā	ອ່, ອອ	ō
ື	i	ເືີ, ເືີ	œ
ື	ī	ເືີ	œ̄
ື	u	ເື້, ື້	ia
ື	ū	ເື້, ື້	īa
ຸ	u	ເືອ, ເືອ	u'a
ຸ, ຸ	ū	ເືອ	ū'a
ເອ, ເອັ	e	ເອ, ເອ	ua
ເອ	ē	ເອ, ເອ	ūa
ເອ, ເອັ	æ	ເອ, ເອ, ເອ	ai
ເອ	ǣ	ເອ, ເອ	āi
ເອ, ເອ	o	ເອ	ao
ເອ	ō	ເອ	am

Special Symbols

<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Romanization</i>
ຸ	...
ງ	(syllable repeated)
ຸ ຸ ຸ	la

Notes

1. Some consonants do not occur as finals, except in loan-words. The romanization for these consonants is enclosed in parentheses in the table.

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2. In final position, ຍ follows as vowel, closing the diphthong, and is romanized as *i*. See the vowel table (*ai* and *āi*). In non-initial position, ຍ is often written in a secondary form, ງ. See the vowel table (*ia* and *īa*).
3. The combining form of ວ is ວ̣. It is not romanized except when subscript to ຫ, thus: ຫຼິສຕາງນ (khitsatīan), ຫຼາຍ (lāi).
4. In initial position, ວ is romanized as *v*, thus: ວັດ (vat).
When medial ວ is followed by a vowel, it forms a cluster with the initial consonant, and is romanized as *w*, thus: ຂວາ (khwā), ຄຂວງ (khwæng).
When medial ວ is followed by a final consonant, it is romanized *ūa*, thus: ບວກ (būak), ດ້ວຍ (dūai).
When ວ is in final position following a vowel, it is romanized as *o*, thus: ນາວ (nāo), ຄກ້ວ (kæo). See also the vowel table (*ua* and *ūa*). The forms ືວ and ື້ວ are romanized as *iu* and *īu*, and the forms ົງວ and ົ້ງວ are romanized as *īeo*.
5. ຫ is not romanized before ຍ (*ny*), ນ (*n*), ມ (*m*), ຮ (*r*), ລ (*l*), and ວ (*v*), thus: ຫຍ້າ (nyā). ຫນ and ຫມ are often written as ligatures, thus: ຫນ (*n*) and ຫມ (*m*).
6. ອ is used in initial position for syllables beginning with a vowel, thus: ອີກ (īk). When not in initial position, ອ is a vowel. See the vowel table (o, ō, u'a, ūa).
7. In the vowel columns, ອ shows the position of the consonant relative to the vowel. In all cases the romanization of the vowel is intended to follow the romanization of the consonant even though parts of the vernacular representation of the vowel may be written before the consonant.
8. The numerals are: ອ (0), ໑ (1), ໒ (2), ໓ (3), ໔ (4), ໕ (5), ໖ (6), ໗ (7), ໘ (8), and ໙ (9).
9. In Lao, words are not written separately. In romanization, however, the shortest written form which can stand alone as a word is treated as such. This applies also to Pali and Sanskrit loan-words. Other loan-words have the same division as the original language. Tonal marks (◌́, ◌̀, ◌̂, ◌̄) are not romanized.
10. When the pronunciation requires one consonant to serve a double function, at the end of one syllable and at the beginning of the next syllable, it is romanized twice according to the respective values, thus: ຫຼິສຕາງນ (khitsatīan).