Lao

Consonants (See Note 1)

Vernacular	Romanization When Initial		Romanization When Final
ກ	k		k
ຂ	kh		(k)
ຄ	kh		(k)
ງ	ng		ng
ຈ	ch		(t)
ສ	s		(t)
ຊ	s		(t)
ຍ	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
ຢ	y		-
ຣ	r		(n)
ລ	l	(See Note 3)	(n)
ວ	v	(See Note 4)	-
ຫ	h	(See Note 5)	-
ອ	ʻ (ayn)	(See Note 6)	-
ຮ	h		-

Obsolete Consonants

Vernacular	Romanization
ຊ	s
ໄ	t
ຨ	t
ໄຼ	tsa
ໄ	l

Vowels (See Note 7)

Vernacular	Romanization	Vernacular	Romanization
◌ະ, ◌ັ	a	ເ◌າະ, ◌ັອ	ǫ
◌າ	ā	◌໋, ◌ອ	ǭ
◌ິ	i	ເ◌ິະ, ເ◌ິ	œ
◌ີ	ī	ເ◌ີ	ōœ
◌ຶ	ư	ເ◌ັຽະ, ◌ັຽ	ia
◌ື	ū̆	ເ◌ັຽ, ◌ຽ	ĭa
◌ຸ	u	ເ◌ືອະ, ເ◌ືອ	ưa
◌ູ, ◌ູ	ū	ເ◌ືອ	ū̆a
ເ◌ະ, ເ◌ັ	e	◌ົວະ, ◌ົວ	ua
ເ◌	ē	◌ົວ, ◌ວ	ūa
ແ◌ະ, ແ◌ັ	æ	ໄ◌, ໃ◌, ◌ັຍ	ai
ແ◌	ǣ	◌າຍ, ◌າຽ	āi
ໂ◌ະ, ◌ົ	o	ເ◌ົາ	ao
ໂ◌	ō	◌ຳ	am

Special Symbols

Vernacular	Romanization
ໆ	...
ຯ	(syllable repeated)
ໆລໆ	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.

2. In final position, ◌ follows as vowel, closing the diphthong, and is romanized as *i*. See the vowel table (*ai* and *āi*). In non-initial position, ◌ is often written in a secondary form, ຽ. See the vowel table (*ia* and *ĭa*).

3. The combining-form of ລ is ຼ . It is not romanized except when subscript to ຫ , thus: ຄຼິສຕຽນ (*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*), ແຂວງ (*khwǣng*).

   When medial ວ is followed by a final consonant, it is romanized as *ūa*, thus: ບວກ (*būak*), ດ໌ວຍ (*dūai*).

   When ວ is in final position following a vowel, it is romanized as *o*, thus: ນາວ (*nāo*), ແກ້ວ (*kǣo*). See also the vowel table (*ua* and *ūa*). The forms ◌ິວ and ◌ີວ are romanized as *iu* and *īu*, and the forms ◌ຽວ and ເ◌ັຽວ are romanized as *īeo*.

5. ຫ is not romanized before ຍ (*ny*), ນ (*n*), ມ (*m*), ຣ (*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 ອ຺ກ (' *īk*). When not in initial position, ອ is a vowel. See the vowel table (ǫ, ǭ, ưa, ūa).

7. In the vowel columns, □ 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: ໐ (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: ຄຼິສຕຽນ (*khitsatīan*).

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

Special Characters	*Name*	*USMARC hexadecimal code*
Æ	digraph AE (upper case)	A5
Œ	digraph OE (upper case)	A6
U̓	U-hook (upper case)	AC
ʻ	ayn	B0
æ	digraph ae(lower case)	B5
œ	digraph oe (lower case)	B6
u̓	u-hook (lower case)	BD

Character Modifiers	*Name*	*USMARC hexadecimal code*
ō	macron	E5
ọ	right cedilla	F8