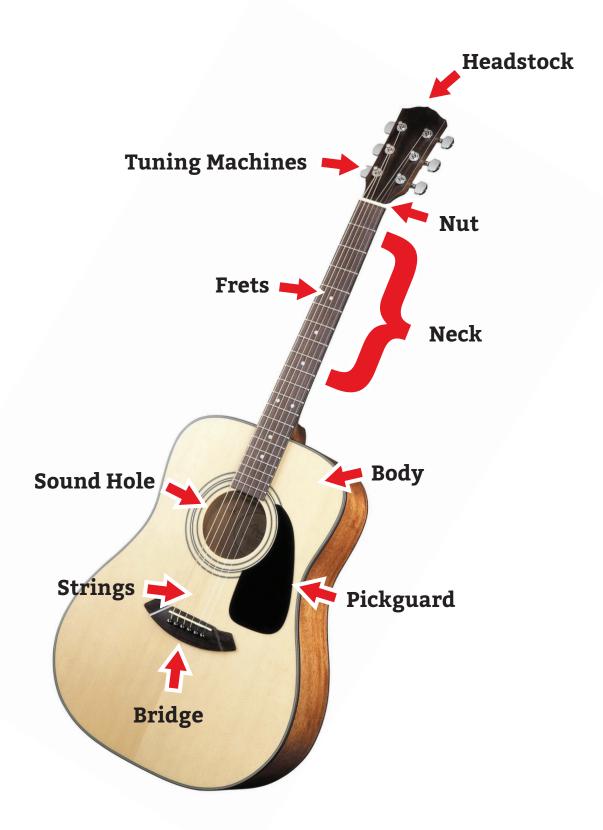


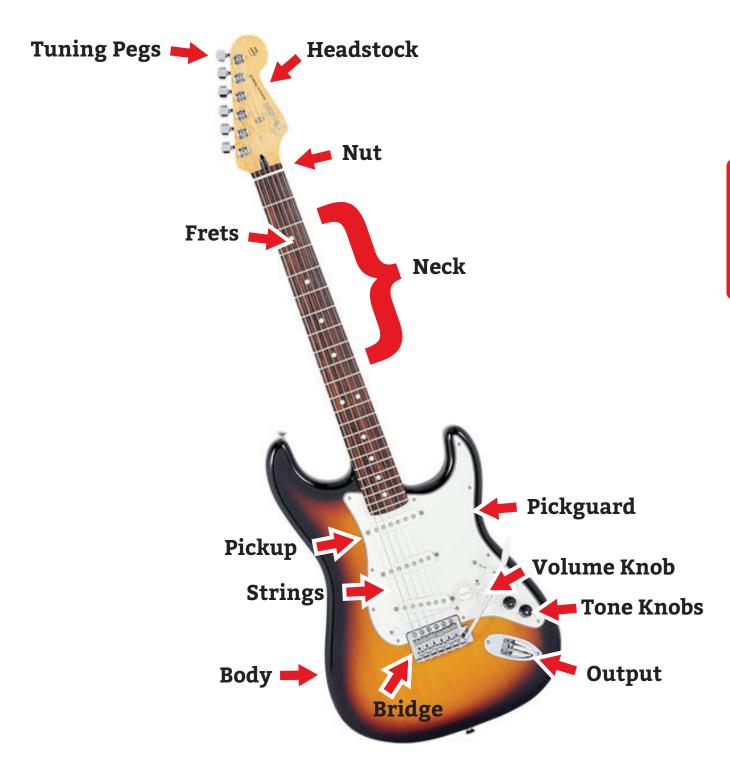


Parts of the Acoustic Guitar



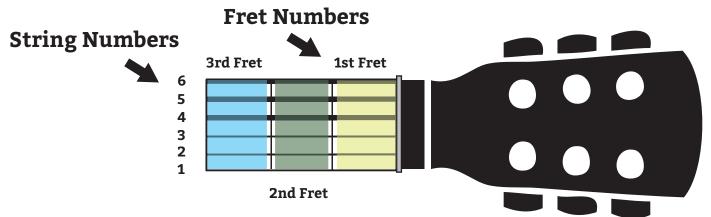


Parts of the Electric Guitar



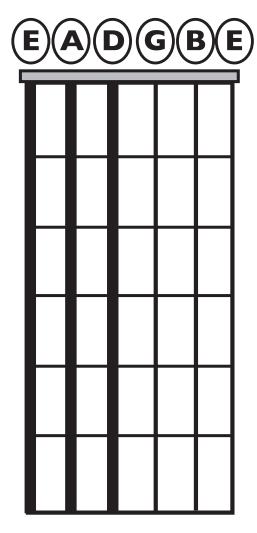


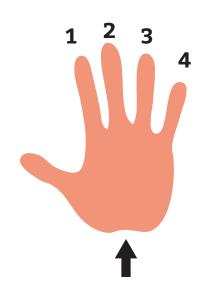
Some of the Basics



String Names

Think of each box as a fret. Put your finger in the first box, and you're playing the first fret.





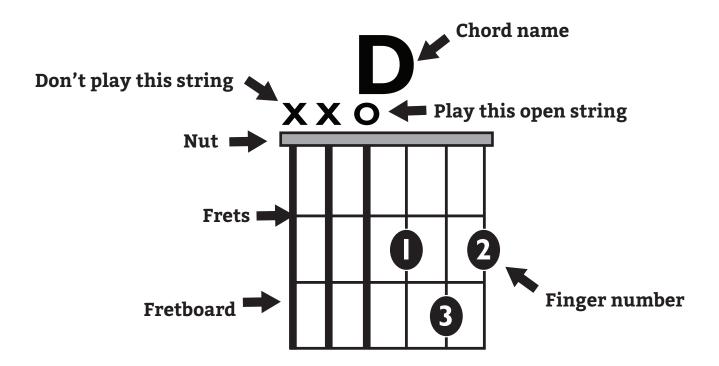
2. Finger Numbers

The thumb doesn't get a number because it sits on the back of the neck (The guitar's neck, not your neck!!!)



Chord Diagrams

A chord diagram is just a drawing of what a chord looks like when you play it on your guitar. Look at the chord diagram and key below.

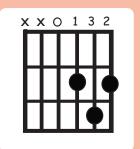


Here are tips for Reading Chord Diagrams:

- 1 The black dots with numbers in them are where you place your fingers. The numbers tell you which finger to use. Play strings that have black dots.
- 2 Any string that has an "O" above it is supposed to be played, even though there is no finger on it.
- 3 Any string that has an "X" above it is NOT supposed to be played.

Note

Lots of song books that you will find in music stores use chord diagrams like this one to the right. The drawing is simpler and there are either no finger numbers, or they are shown above. That's because after awhile people begin to remember chords by their shapes. Once you are familiar with a chord's shape, your fingers will find their places automatically!





Tuning a Guitar... ARGH!

Tuning your guitar can be VERY frustrating! The good news is that just because you can't tune doesn't mean you can't start playing. When you are just getting started on guitar, the BEST way to tune it is by using an electronic tuner. This is a machine that will tell you when each string is in tune. You can get an electronic tuner for about \$20. The NEXT BEST way to tune your guitar is to get someone else who already knows how to do it for you. However, here's how to tune your guitar if no one else is around and you have no tuner.

When you press down on the 5th fret of a string, it should sound like the string right next to it. For example, when you press down on the 5th fret on the "E" string, it should sound like the open "A" string just next to it. If they don't sound alike, try adjusting the tuning machine of the "A" string up or down until both strings sound the same.

Next, when you press down on the 5th fret on the "A"string, it should sound like the open "D" string just next to it. Continue across the strings like that, but when you go to tune the "B" string, press down on the 4th fret of the "G" string, NOT the 5th fret.

This drawing shows how to tune. The white circles show where to press and the red lines show which string the fretted note should sound like.

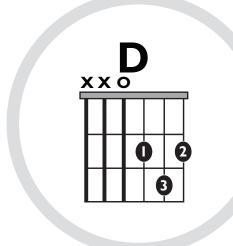
Learning to tune a guitar today is easier than ever, thanks to the internet. Little Kids Rock provides an online tuner through our website at www.LittleKidsRock.org/thehang/tuner and there are lots of other great tools for learning how to do this out there as well. If you search 'how to tune a guitar' on YouTube you can scroll through mountains of video demonstrations. Watch several of them to get a couple of opinions and figure out which way of thinking about tuning appeals to you most. Just by watching videos alone our ears

begin to get a great perspective on how tuning works and sounds.





I Got a "D", But my Mom is so Proud





Looks like a triangle!

A good first shape to learn is the "D" chord. If you look at the picture below, you'll see it looks ike a triangle. Use the tips below to help you make the shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play only the bottom four strings. Don't play strings with an "x" above them.

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.

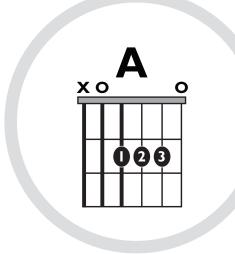


Place fingers close to the frets.





A is for Amplify





Looks like a line!

Use the tips below to help you make the shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play only the bottom five strings. Don't play the top string, the one with the "x".

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.

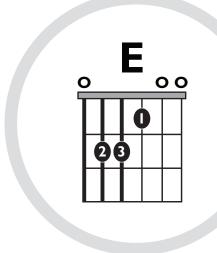


Place fingers close to the frets.





E is for Electric





Looks like a car seat!

Use the tips below to help you make the chord shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play all six strings.

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.

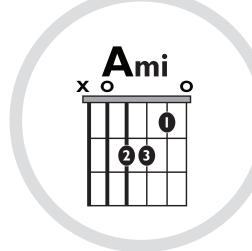


Place fingers close to the frets.





Make it Minor, Make it Sad: Ami Chord





Looks like the E Chord!

The fingering is just like the E chord, but starts one string higher on the fretboad. Use the tips below to help you make the shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play the bottom five strings.

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.

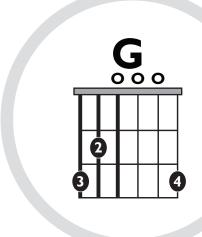


Place fingers close to the frets.





Gee, There are Two Ways to Play G





Stretch!

There are two different ways to finger a "G" chord. The chord diagram below shows one, the photo shows another. Both rock in their own way...try them both and see which one is easier for you. Use the tips below to help you make the shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play all six strings.

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.

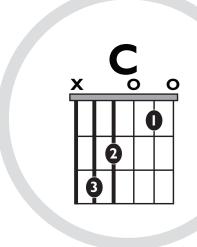


Place fingers close to the frets.





The C Chord





Looks like a line!

Use the tips below to help you make the shape. Strum the chord with a pick, then play one string at a time to check the sound. Play the bottom five strings.

Tips for Chord Fingering



Curve your fingers like cat claws.



Thumb is straight up and down on the back of the neck parallell with the frets



Each finger touches just one string.



Place fingers close to the frets.





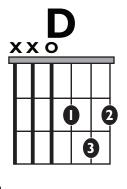
First Chord Progressions

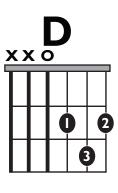
A chord progression is just two or more chords played one after the other. Most pop songs are made up of three to six chords that repeat in some sort of a pattern.

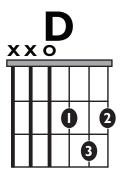
The chord progression below uses just two chord, "D" and "A." that appears at the end of the progression is called a repeat sign. It is there to tell you to start over again from the beginning of the progression.



The bars to the left here are called a measure. Each measure gets four beats which we count as "1, 2, 3, 4." You will see that there are eight measures in this song that get repeated many times.

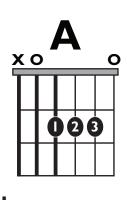


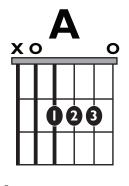


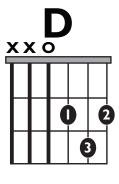








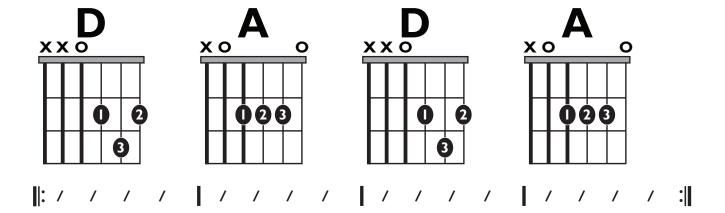




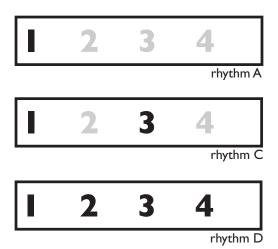


First Chord Progressions

The chord progression below uses the same two chords as the last one ("D" and "A") but this time they are in a different order.

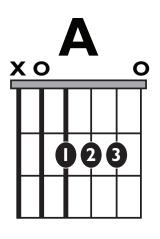


Try this Chord Progression with the following rhythms.





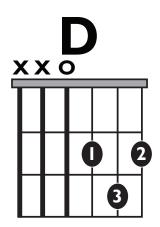
The Key of A





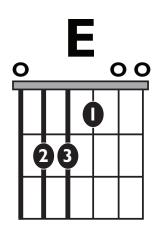
Curve your fingers like cat claws.

Thumb looks like a fret on the back of the neck.





Each finger touches just one string.

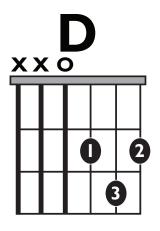


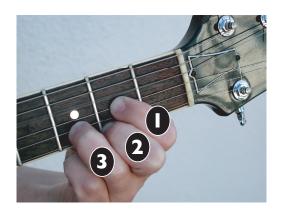


Place fingers close to the frets.



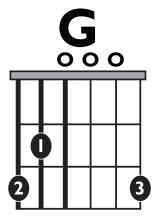
The Key of D





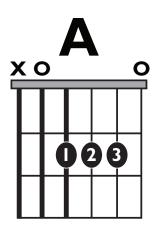
Curve your fingers like cat claws.

Thumb looks like a fret on the back of the neck.





Each finger touches just one string.

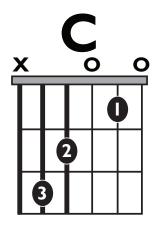




Place fingers close to the frets.



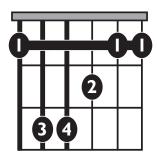
The Key of C





Curve your fingers like cat claws.

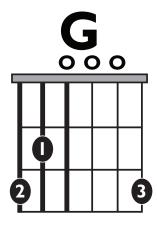
F

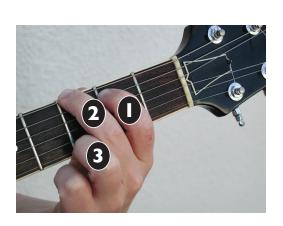




Thumb looks like a fret on the back of the neck.

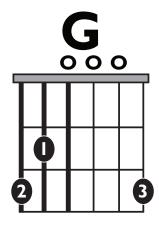
Place fingers close to the frets.





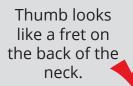


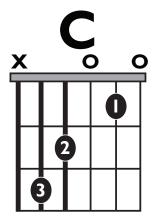
The Key of G





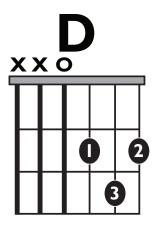
Curve your fingers like cat claws.

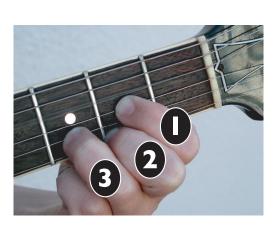






Each finger touches just one string.



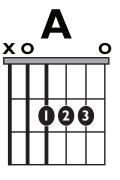


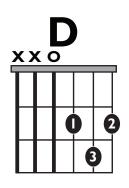
Place fingers close to the frets.

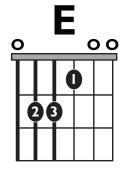


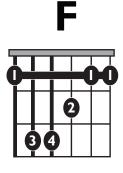
15 Rockin' Chords

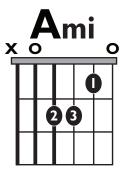
You have already learned six of the chords below. try learning the rest of these...you will be surprised by how much of the music you listen to will be within your reach once you have these chords mastered.

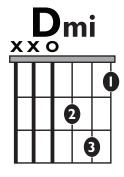


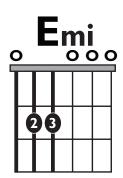


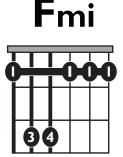


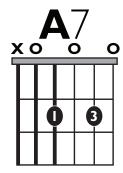


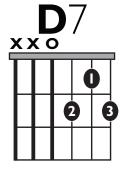


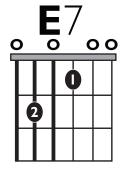


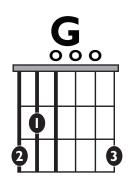


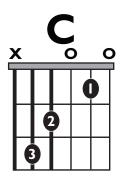


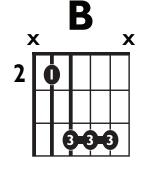


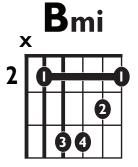








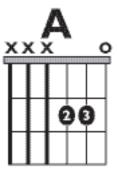


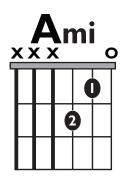


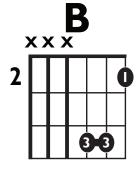


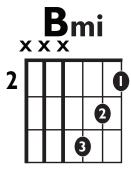
Easy Chords Using Three Strings

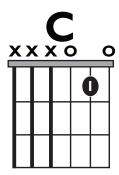
These chords are extremely easy for beginners to play, and sound almost as good as their six string counterparts. Practice these before tackling the full chord fingerings.

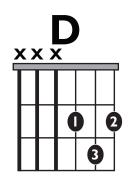


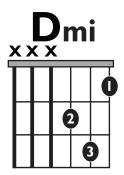


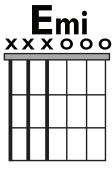


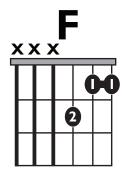




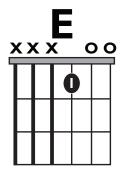








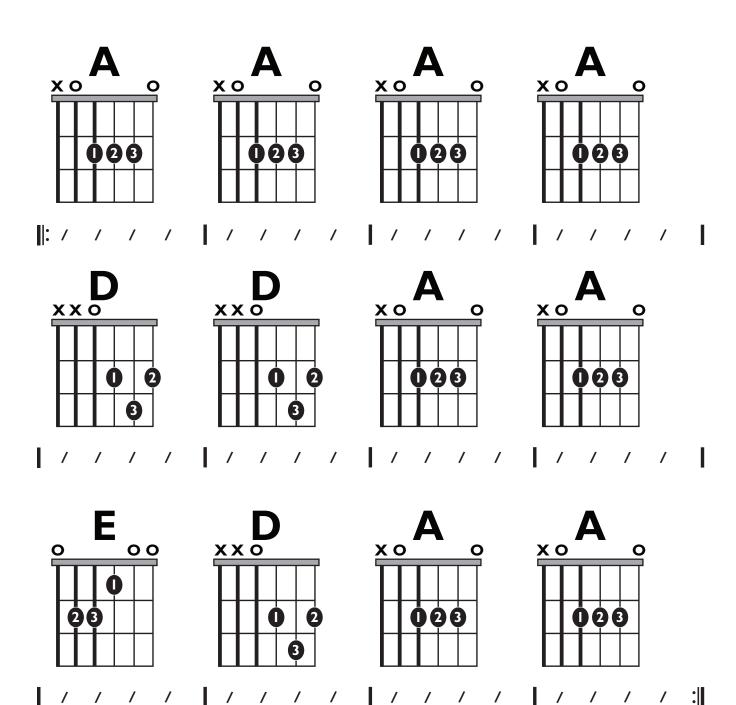






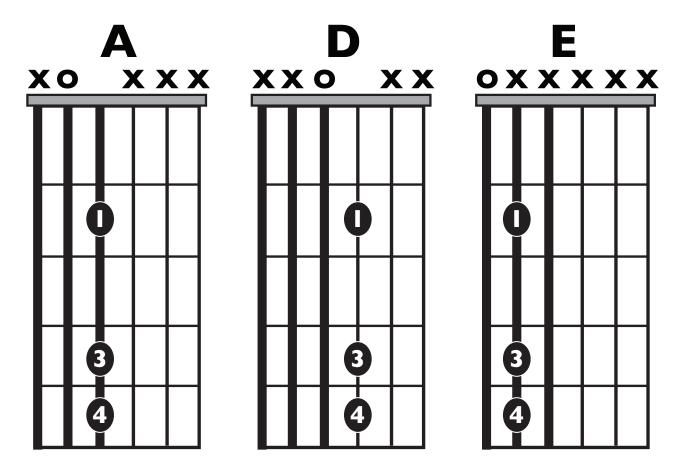
Blues in A

The chord progression below uses three chords, the "A," "D," and "E" chords. This is one of the most famous progressions in the world and it appears in blues, rock, country, hip-hop, reggae...everywhere! This particular arrangement is a blues. People call it the "twelve bar blues" because it has 12 measures.



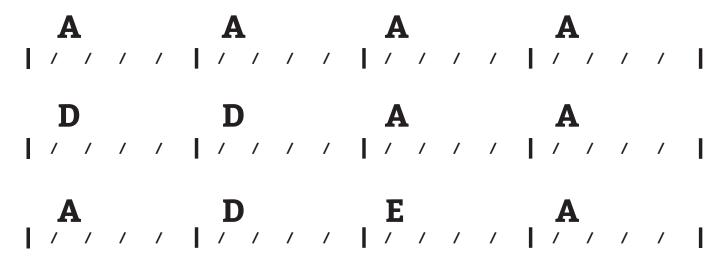


Another Way to Play 12 Bar Blues in A



Again, the "A" is played on the 4th and 5th strings. The "D" is played on the 3rd and 4th strings. The "E" is played on the 1st and 2nd strings. Be careful to only play both strings at the same time.

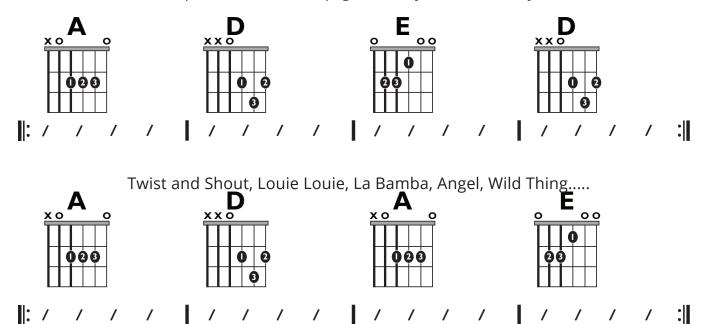
Say it while you play it, "11 33 44 33 11 33 44 33"





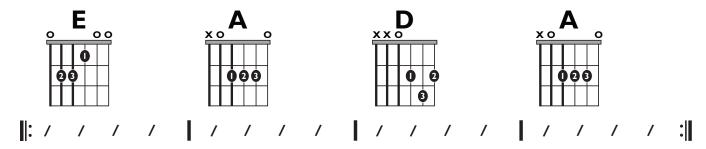
The Key of A and E

Some super famous chord prgression "jams" in the key of A!

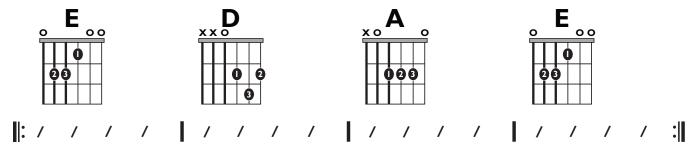


The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Brown Eyed Girl, Free Fallin'......

Re-arranging these same chords puts us in the key of E with another couple of famous chord



What I Like About You, R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A., On the Darkside.....



Hey Jude (ending), You and I, Sweet Home Alabama.....



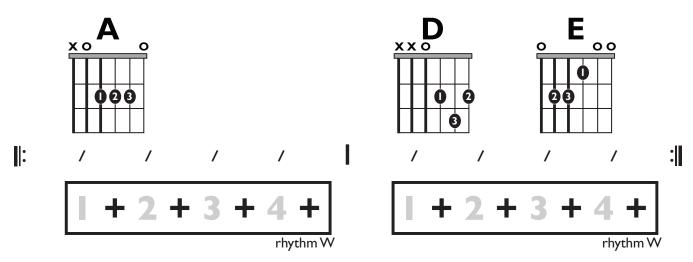
Reggae in A

Reggae music has a very syncopated feel. Most of the emphasis is on the "up" beats. That is the opposite of rock where most of the emphasis is on the downbeats. Look at this rhythm:

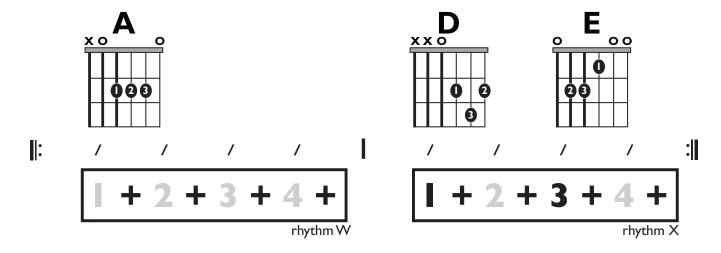
1st rhythm:

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Notice that all the strums are upstrokes. If you mute the strings after each upstroke, it will have a real reggae feel. Here's the progression with the rhythm written below. Be sure to squeeze both the "D" and "E" chords into the second measure.



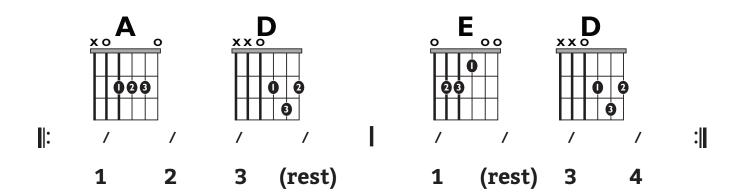
The next rhythm is trickier. This strum pattern uses both "down" and "up" rhythms. Give it a try, keeping in mind that the arm swings "down" on the numbers, and "up" on the +. If the number is grey, your arm still swings down, but doesn't strum the strings. Getting good at this turn the arm into a sideways metronome, helping keep time with the steady up and down!





Rock in A

Below you will see a very popular chord progression. You will hear this progression in many very popular tunes. Notice that each measure has two different chords. All strumming for this one involves downstrokes. The final thing to notice are the rests. Don't strum any chord where you see "(rest)."

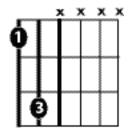




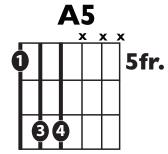
I Got the Power!

Below you'll find two very cool chords. They are called power chords and everybody from Jimi Hendrix to Nirvana has used them. They are barre chords. That means that wherever you play them, they will sound good.

Starting on the "Low E String" (String #6)



Starting on the "A String" (String #5)



Use the length of your fingers to mute.

Try these on an electric guitar!

Curve your fingers like cat claws.

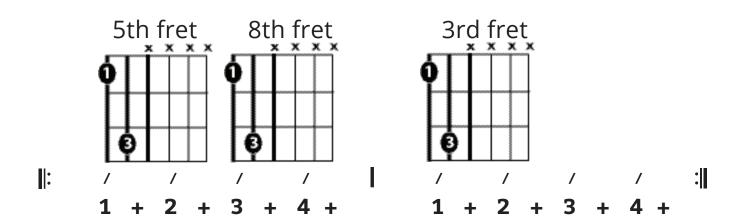
Place fingers close to the frets.



Power Chord Progression

Power chord progressions are heard in many different styles of music including heavy metal, rock, rap and punk. The cool thing about them is that once you master one power chord, you can move it up and down the neck to make different chords.

In the progression played during the video, a new kind of rhythm is played. It's called a sixteenth note rhythm because each measure has 16 different beats in it. To count it we say "one-e-and-a-two-e-and-a-three-e-and-a-four-e-and-a." This rhythm is played using all down strokes. It also sounds cool if you mute the strings slightly.



Say out loud

"1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +"

while playing all

down strokes with the

pic every time

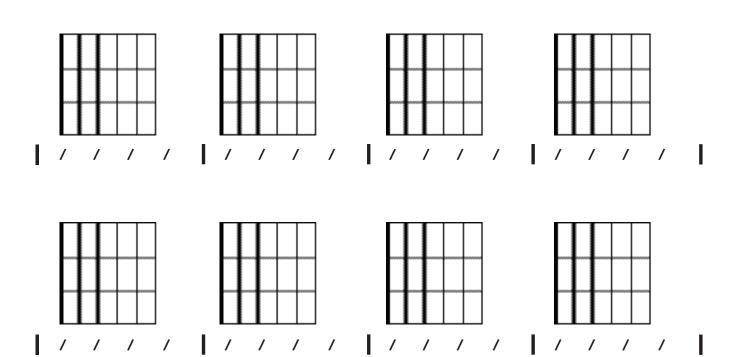


Power Chord Scramble

When you scramble an egg, you don't worry too much about what part goes where. You just stir it up!

Well, this song writing exercise is similar. Pick ONE of the two power chord forms. Next pick three fret numbers between 1 and 9. Fill the measures below with the fret numbers you chose in any order you like. Play the chords and see how it sounds. Try using more or fewer fret numbers depending on what sounds good to you. After you've tried it with one chord form, try it with the other one too.

Song Title: _______
Artist: ______(Your Name Here)

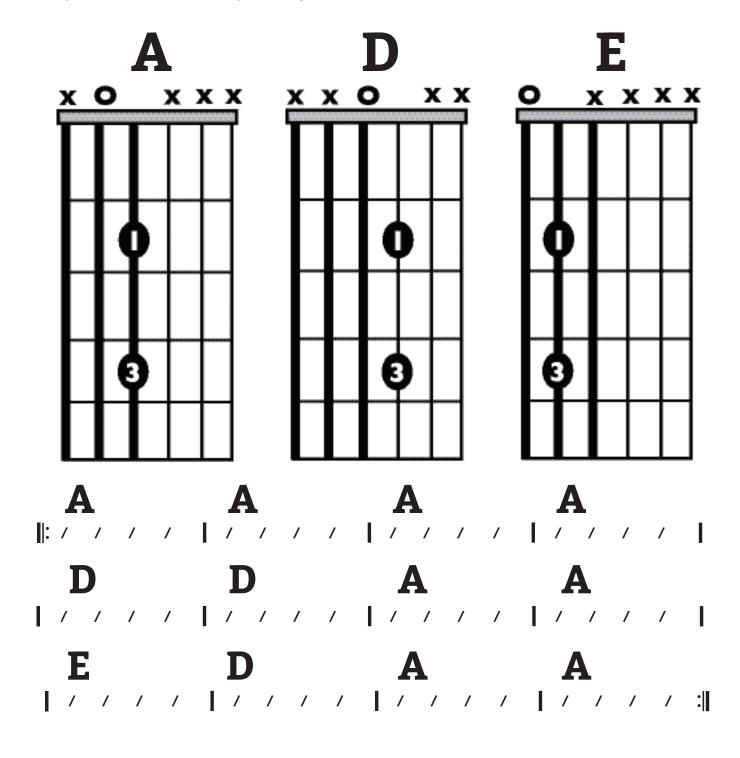




Shuffle Blues in A

It is amazing to think that playing just two strings at a time can sound sooooo good! Each of these three "chords" is played using just two strings at a time. The "A" is played on the 2nd and 3rd strings. The "D" is played on the 3rd and 4th strings. The "E" is played on the 1st and 2nd strings. Be careful to only play two strings at the same time. You play each chord by hitting the open string and first finger together twice, then hitting the open string and third finger twice. The rhythm can be counted by the fingers:

11 33 11 33





The Famous 2 Note Solo

Guitar solos are the kinds of things that can make an audience sit on the edge of their seats or stand up and yell for more. However, taking a guitar solo yourself is not as hard as you may think it is. We say, "Try to use just two notes..."

Look at the picture of the guitar neck. See the two black dots? Those are the two notes we'll be playing. We'll be playing them on the high "E" string which is also the thinnest string on the guitar.

TRY THIS!



Play on the 5th fret with your **1** st finger



Play on the 8th fret with your 4th finger fret





Play each note by itself.



Play picking down.



Play picking up.



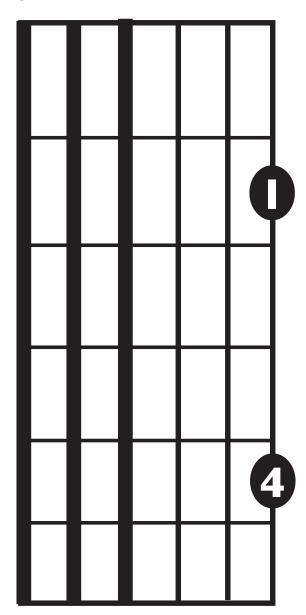
Play 1 first.



Play 4 first.

Let's Take Our First Solo!

We will play it over "The Blues in A." You can play it over the jam track on the CD-ROM. You can also play it with your guitar teacher or pal. No matter what order you play these two notes in, they will rock!



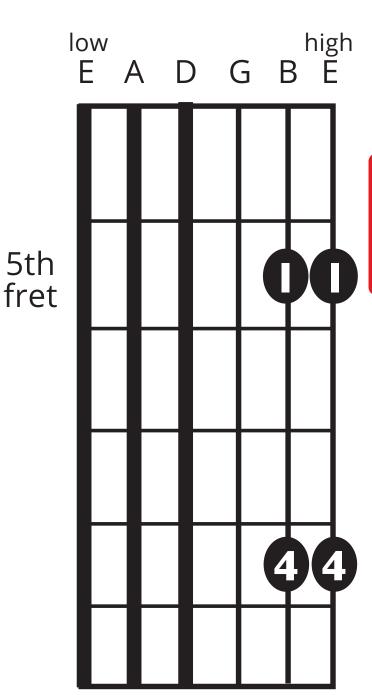


The Four Note Solo

Playing a two-note solo can be cool. Playing a four-note solo can be twice as cool! Look at the drawing of the fretboard and look at the high "E" string. Those are the same two notes we just used in the two-note solo. Now, look at the "B" string and you'll see that we've added two more.

Do you notice any similarities between the two strings with notes? Each of the fingerings is identical. Therefore, once you learn to finger the two notes on the "E" string, fingering the notes on the "B" string will feel familiar.

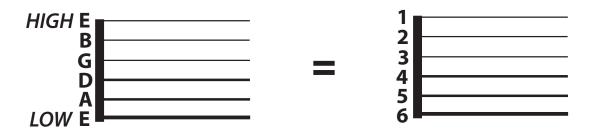
Try to rock along with the Jam Track!





Tablature Explanation

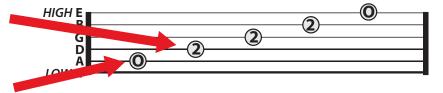
TAB is cool way to read music for guitar or bass and we read it from left to right, just like a book!It tells us lots of things that we need to know to play songs.



The six lines represent the six strings of a guitar.

The numbers show us what fret spaces to put our fingers.

A 2 written on String 4 tells us to play the 2nd fret of the D String.



A 0 means that we don't play any frets but play the open string.

TAB is great but there are some things that it does not tell us and we have to use our creativity, or a teacher's help, to figure out.

TAB does not tell us:

- how long or short the notes are.
- how fast or slow to play a song.
- which fingers to use to play the notes

Remember that music is about expressing YOURSELF, so use whichever fingers feel most comfortable for YOU!

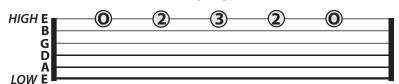


Tablature Explanation

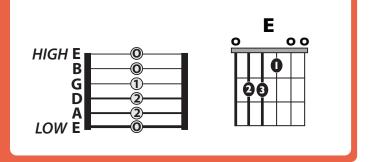
When fret #'s are written on top of each other, or stacked, we should play the notes at the same time.



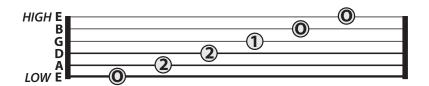
When notes are written next to each other we should play one note at a time.



Ordinary guitar chords are sometimes written in TAB. After some practice, you will begin to recognize the TAB chord as the same chord you already know.



Sometimes that same chord may be written with the notes next to each other instead of stacked.

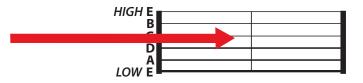


When this happens we play each note one at a time, but WE KNOW that it's really just an E chord in disguise!

Fun Fact:

A chord that is played one note at a time is called an arpeggio (ar - peh - jee - oh)

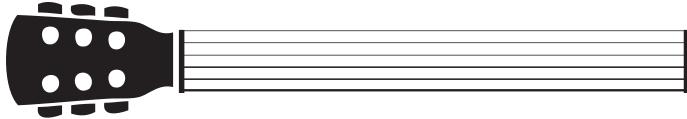
A measure is a group of beats. Songs have lots of these groups and they are separated by lines called Measure Lines.

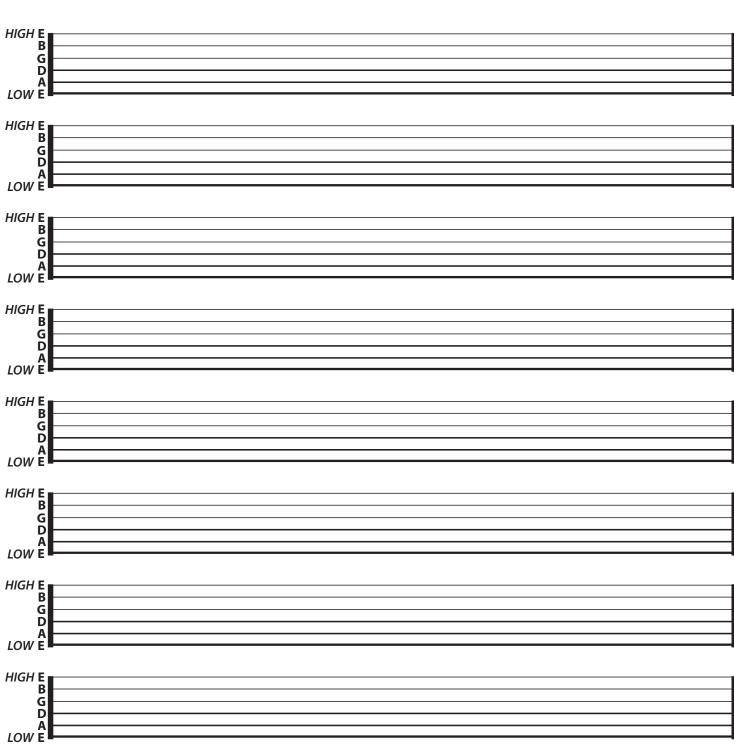


When we listen to a song and count 1,2,3,4 – 1,2,3,4 we are actually counting measures! Many songs have 4 beats but songwriters often use 2, 3 and 6 beats in each measure. Some songs even have 5 or 7!



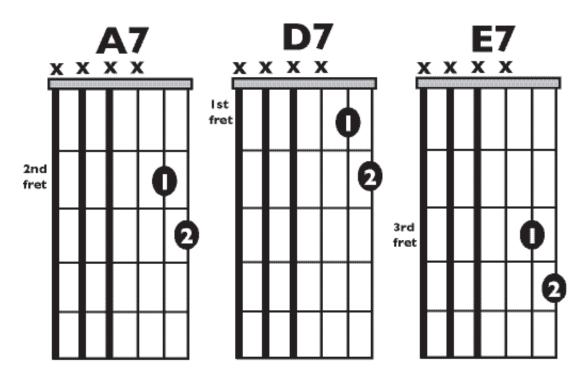
Blank Tab Sheet



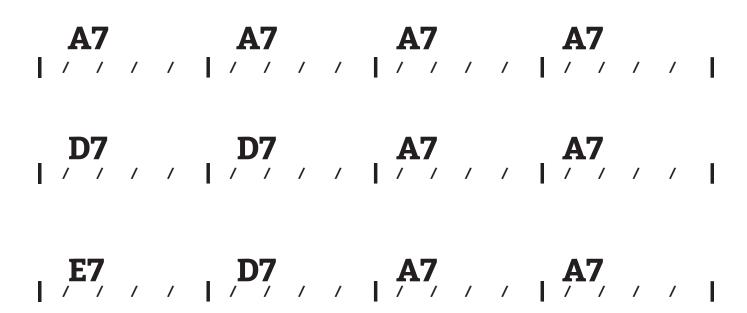




The Three Fret Funk



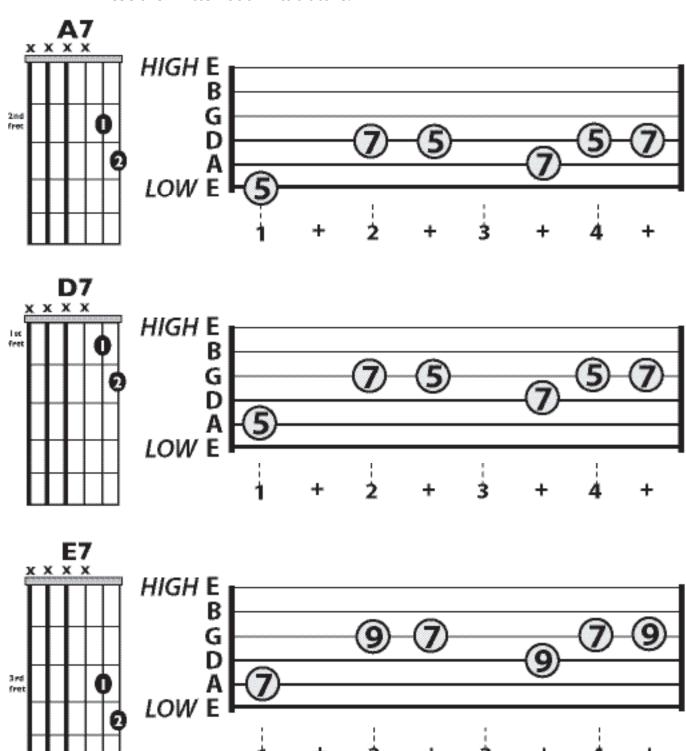
Look at the 3 chords above. What do you notice? They all have the same shape and they are all played the same way...just on different frets! You can play a very funky tune with these chords. Try using this rhythm:





The Three Fret Funk

(The bass line on your guitar!)
Here is a bass line for each of the three chords in "Three Fret Fun." Groovy! These are written out in "tablature."

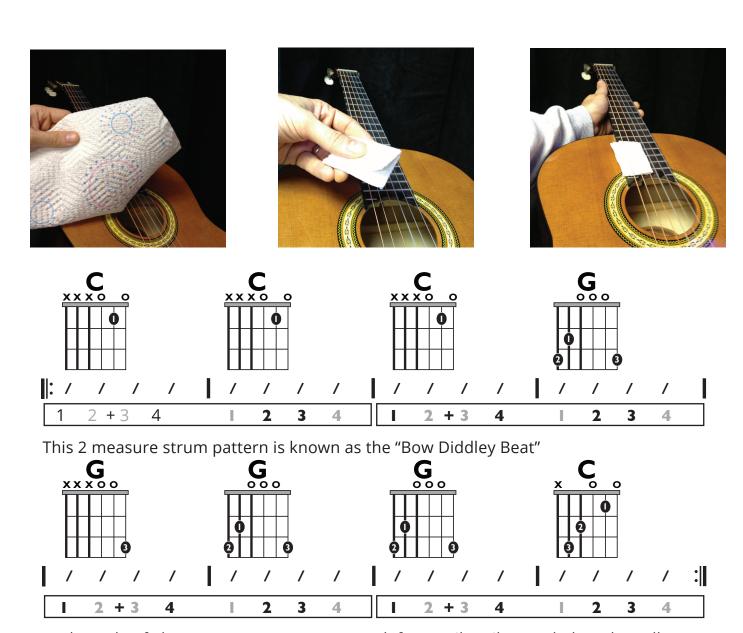




Songs for One Finger!

Using only ONE finger you can play MOUNTAINS of songs! Play on strings 1, 2, and 3 only (the skinniest strings) and start rockin'!

It may be helpful to use a "paper towel mute" for strings 4, 5, and 6 by placing a folded papertowel underneath strings 4, 5, and 6!



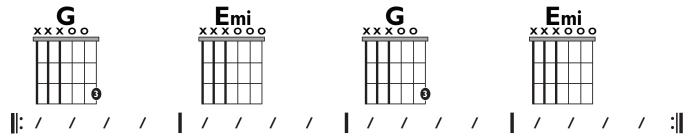
In the style of The Women Are Smarter, Un Elefante, Aiko Aiko, Jumbalay, They All Asked For You, The Dreidle Song, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, etc....



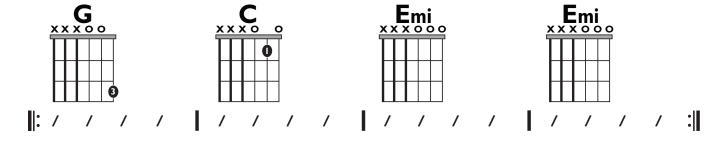
More One Finger Chord Songs



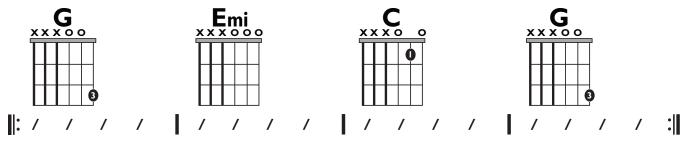
In the style ofFeelin' Alright, You Can't Always Get What You Want, Imagine, Friend of the Devil, My Girl, Take a Walk on the Wild Side,



In the style of Shout, Wish You Were Here, Hang Me Up To Dry (Cold War Kids)



In the style of I've Got a Feeling (Black Eyed Peas), Without You (David Guetta)

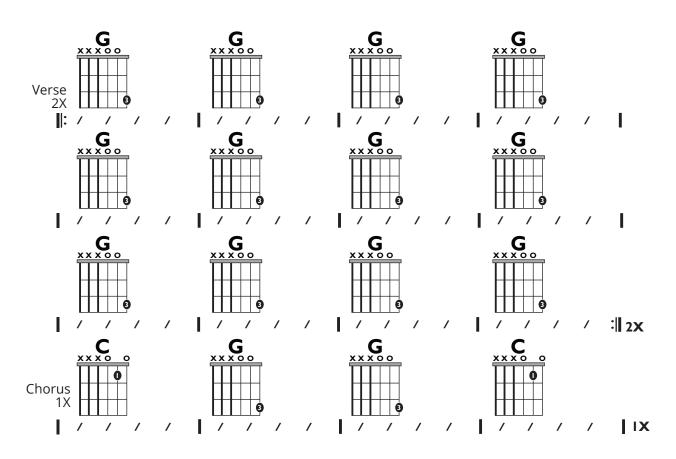


In the style of One by U2, Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars

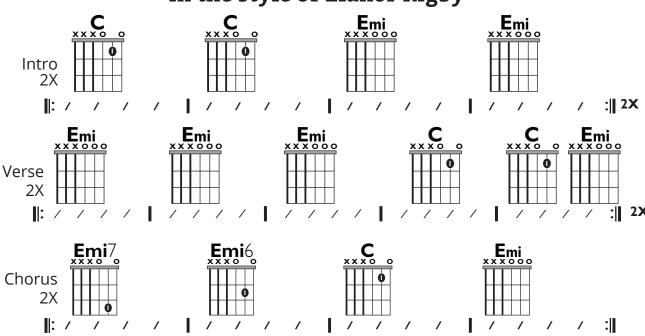


The Beatles One Finger Classics

In the style of Paperback Writer



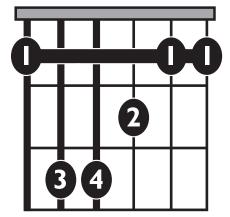
In the style of Elanor Rigby



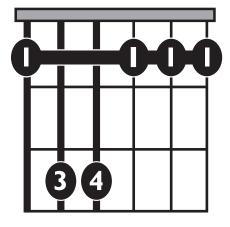


E-Style Barre Chord

F







The chord to the left is called a barre chord. If you look carefully at the six black dots, you will see that they look like an "E" chord. That's why this is called an "E" style barre chord. This chord gets around and likes to be moved up and down the neck.

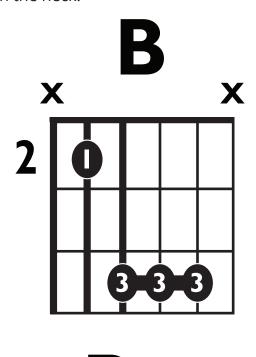
By playing a barre chord your index finger is a substitute for the end of the guitar, allowing you to play any chord in the musical alphabet by using the same "E" chord shape. The hardest part about playing a barre chord is the finger that acts as a barre. Experiment with the position of this finger for the most comfortable fit. Barre chords are easier to play up the neck; the hardest position is in the first and second frets where the frets are the furthest apart.

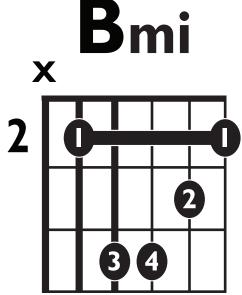
The "minor" version of this kind of barre chord involves one less finger! The shape is that of an "E minor" chord.



A-Style Barre Chord

This is a tough chord to play! If you look carefully at the four black dots, you will see that they look almost like an"A" chord. That's why this is called an "A" style barre chord. This chord gets around and likes to be moved up and down the neck!



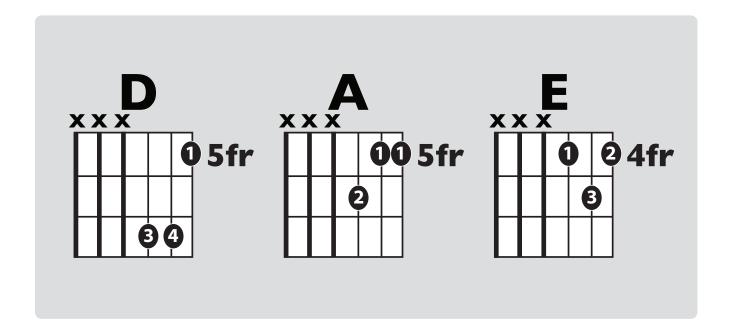


The minor chord version of this chord looks like an A minor chord next to the barre!



Get Movin'!

Below you'll find three very cool and useful chords. These are called closed-position triads, and are moveable chords just like your barre chords. This means that you can move them anywhere on the neck without having to change the shape of the chord.



Play any song that uses A, D and E chords using these shapes.

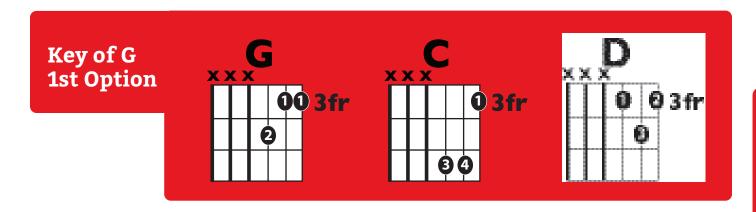
Figure out where you could play G, C, and D Chords

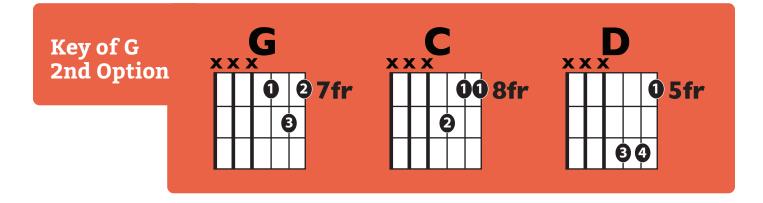
What are these chords named when played at the 3rd fret?

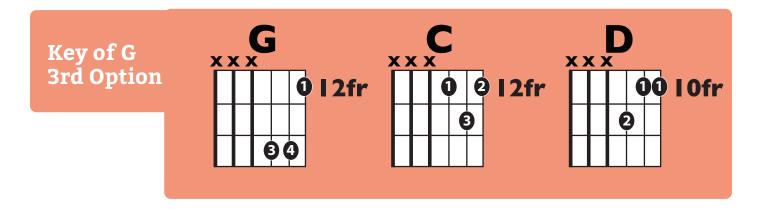


More Triads

Below you'll find three new ways to play G, C and D. Once you feel comfortable with these, try A, D and E or F, Bb and C or B, E and F#. There are lots of possibilities!









Minor Pentatonic Scale

The minor pentatonic scale has five notes and is probably the most popular scale in music today. It has a sad sound.

Ready to Rock?!



Place your fingers one at a time.



Place each finger close to the fret just below it.



Pick with the following pattern: down, up, down, up,down, up, down, up....

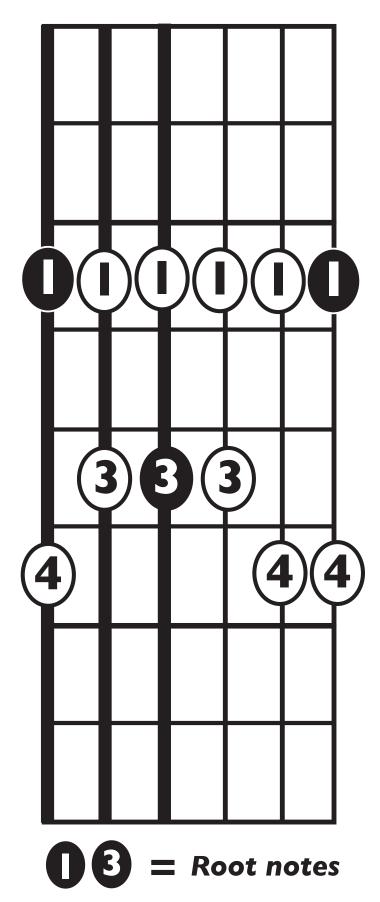


While you play it, say "down, up, down, up..." This will help you correct your own mistakes.



Make sure that you use the right finger for each note. For example, on the first string, use fingers 1 and 4.







Major Pentatonic Scale

The major pentatonic scale also has five notes and is another really popular scale in music today. It has a happy sound. It looks the same as the minor pentatonic but the root is in a different spot.

Ready to Rock?!



Place your fingers one at a time.



Place each finger close to the fret just below it.



Pick with the following pattern: down, up, down, up,down, up, down, up....

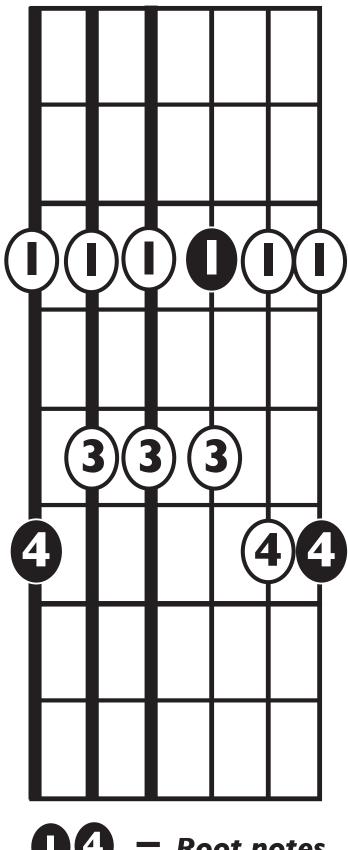


While you play it, say "down, up, down, up..." This will help you correct your own mistakes.



Make sure that you use the right finger for each note. For example, on the first string, use fingers 1 and 4.







Blues Scale

The blues scale has six notes and is used in many different styles of music including blues, rock, pop, rap, funk and others. It looks a lot like the pentatonic scale but with an extra "blue note" thrown in.

Ready to Rock?!



Place your fingers one at a time.



Place each finger close to the fret just below it.



Pick with the following pattern: down, up, down, up,down, up, down, up....

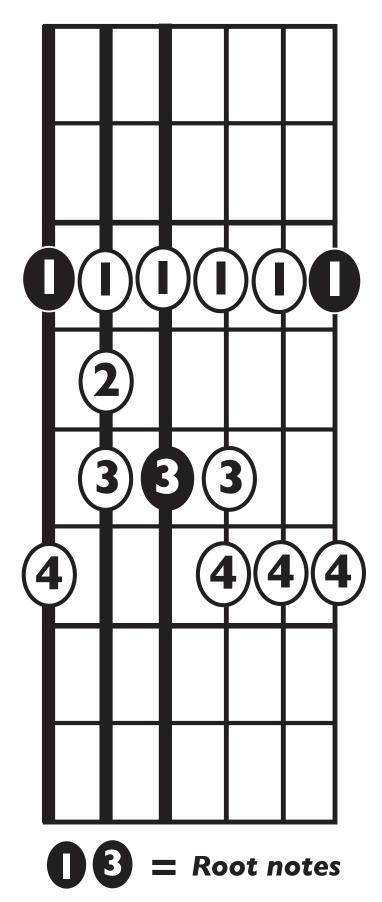


While you play it, say "down, up, down, up..." This will help you correct your own mistakes.



Make sure that you use the right finger for each note. For example, on the first string, use fingers 1 and 4.







Major Scale

The major scale has seven notes. It has a happy sound. Can you see another scale hidden inside the major scale?

Ready to Rock?!



Place your fingers one at a time.



Place each finger close to the fret just below it.



Pick with the following pattern: down, up, down, up,down, up, down, up....

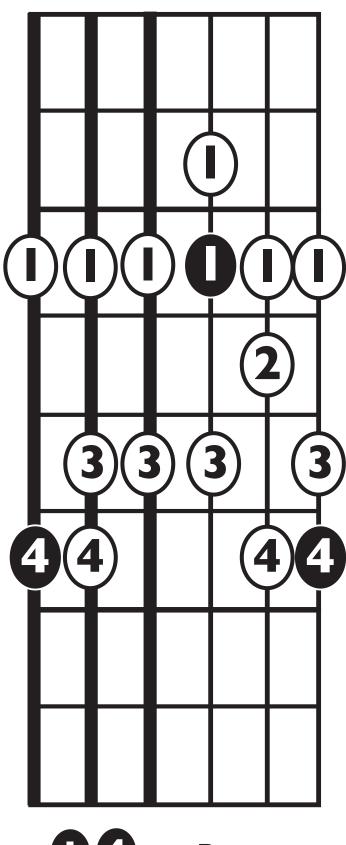


While you play it, say "down, up, down, up..." This will help you correct your own mistakes.



Make sure that you use the right finger for each note. For example, on the first string, use fingers 1 and 4.





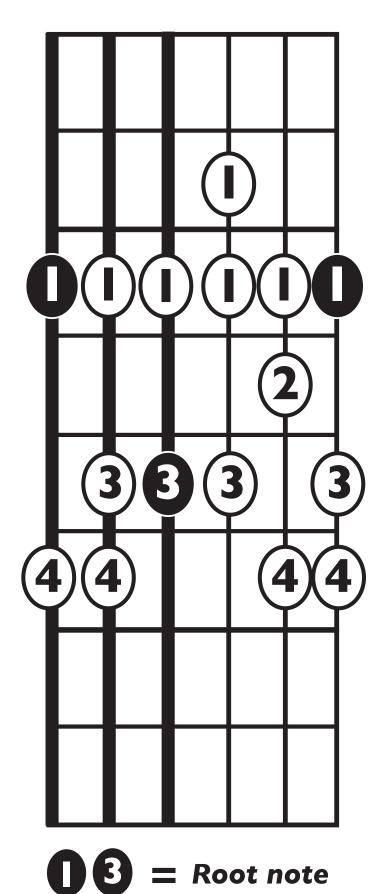


Minor Scale

The minor scale also has seven notes. It has a sad sound. Can you see another scale hidden inside the major scale?

Ready to Rock?!

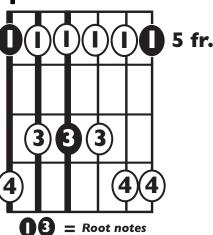
- Place your fingers one at a time.
- ****
- Place each finger close to the fret just below it.
- **/**
- Pick with the following pattern: down, up, down, up,down, up, down, up....
- ****
- While you play it, say "down, up, down, up..." This will help you correct your own mistakes.
- **1**
- Make sure that you use the right finger for each note. For example, on the first string, use fingers 1 and 4.
- Use as little finger movement as you can with your picking hand.



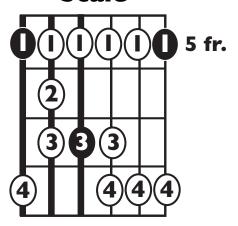


Scales to Jam By

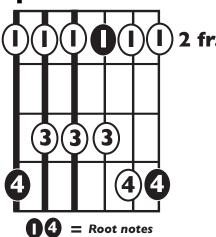
A minor pentatonic



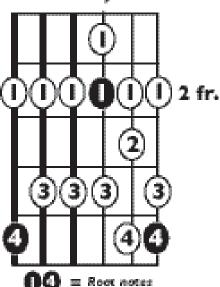
A Blues Scale



A major pentatonic



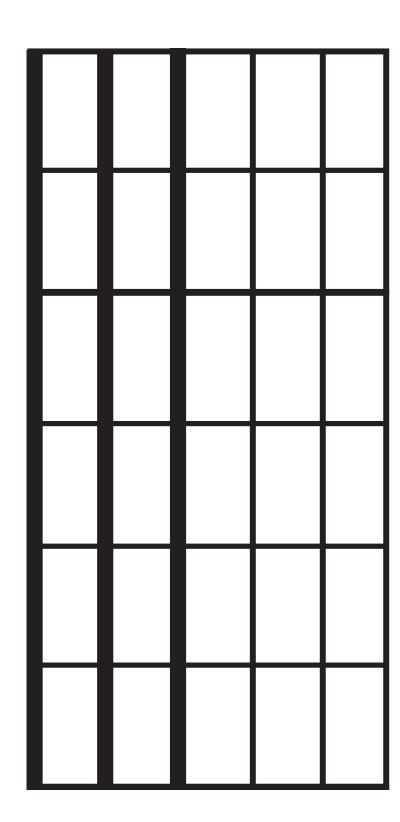
A major





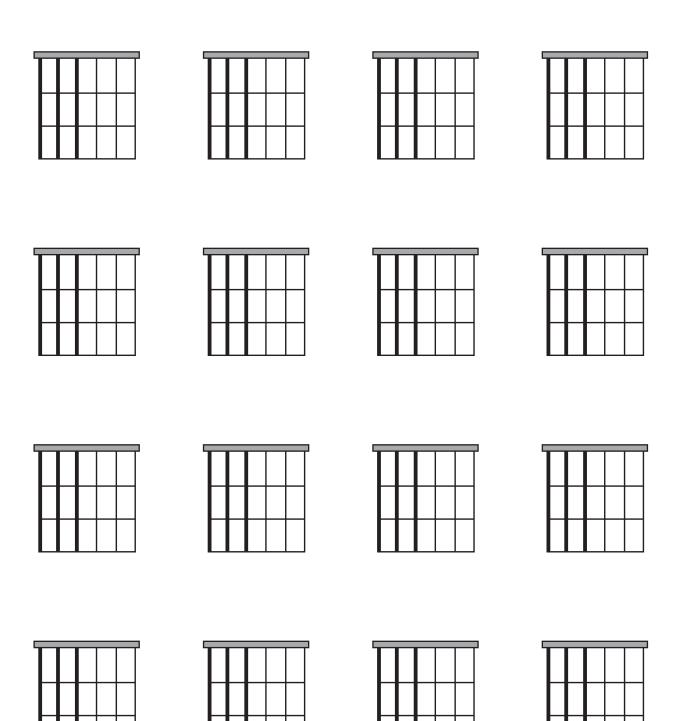
Blank Guitar Neck

Fret



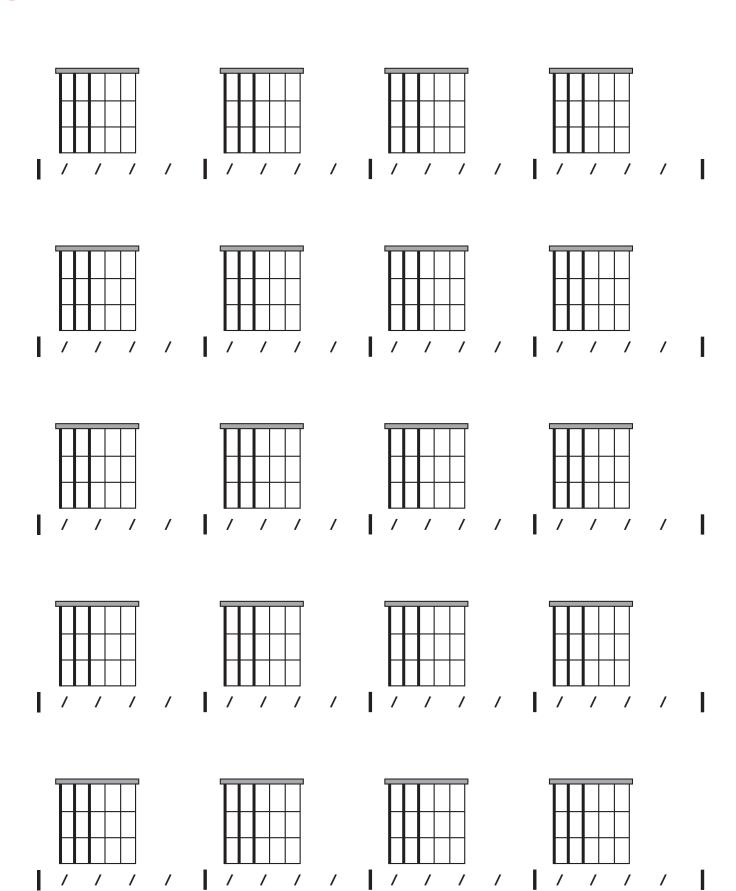


Blank Chord Boxes





Blank Progressions





Blank Progressions

