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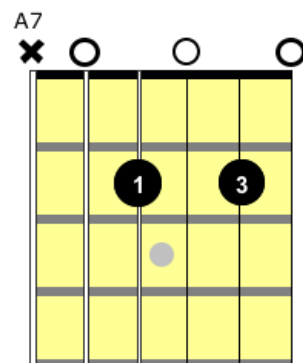
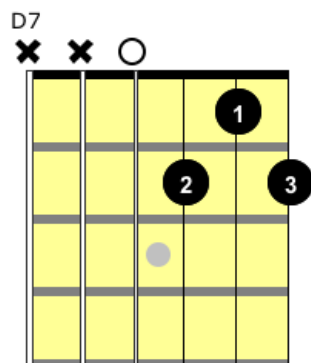
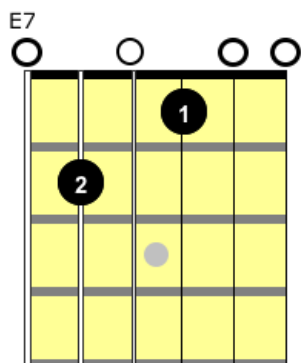
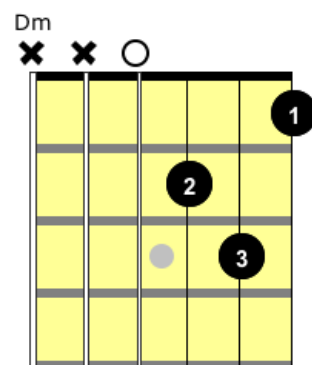
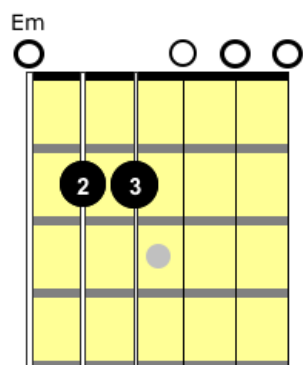
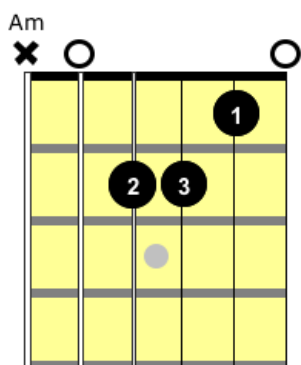
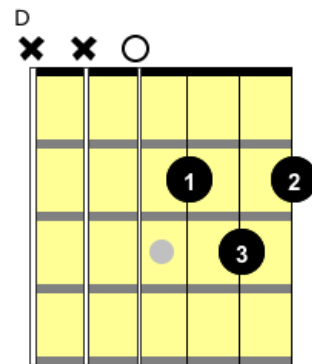
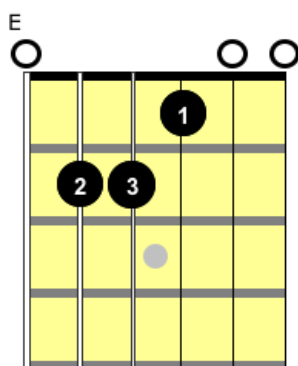
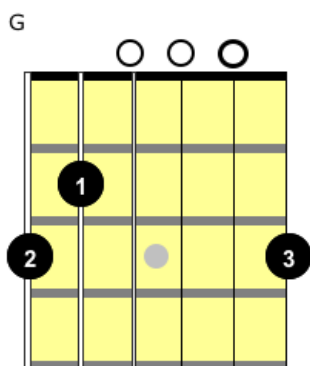
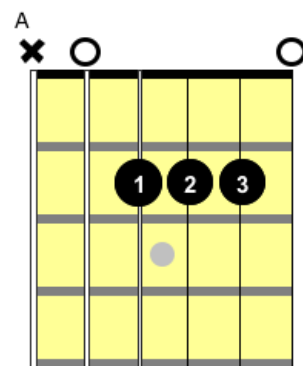
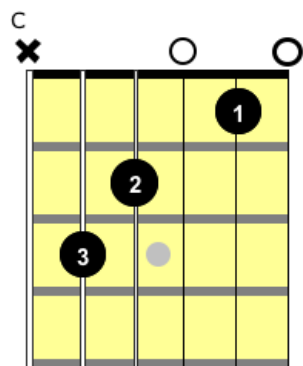
First Chords

These are usually the first chords guitarists learn. They are sometimes called 'open chords' as they contain open strings (where you have no left hand fingers pressed onto the fretboard. The E A D G B E strings are the open strings). These chords are found in hundreds of songs.

KEY

X - Don't play this string.

O - Open String.



Strumming

▣ = Down strum

∨ = Up strum

Count crotchets "1,2,3,4" and quavers "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and" (1+2+3+4+). 'On' beats should be played with down strums and 'off' beats with up strums. You will get used to on and off beats.

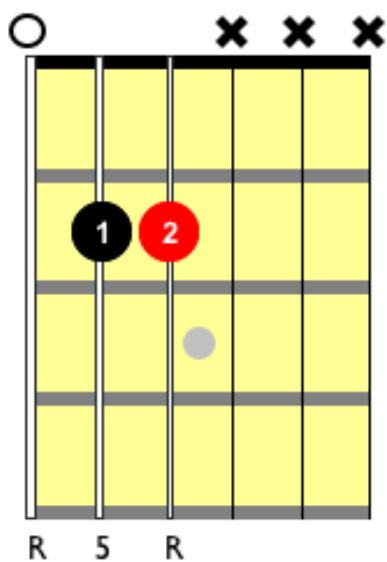
TIES: A tie connects two notes together. The first is played but the second is not.

Rock Chords

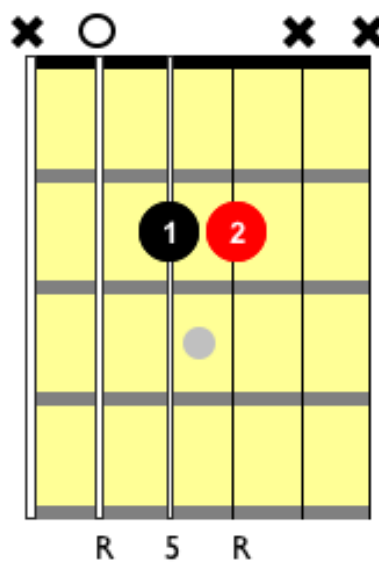
These chords are called 'power chords' and are the sound of rock! (Just add distortion). They are notated with a '5' after the root note e.g. E5. The formula is R 5 8.

SHAPE 1 – Open String Shape

Root on E Open String (E5)

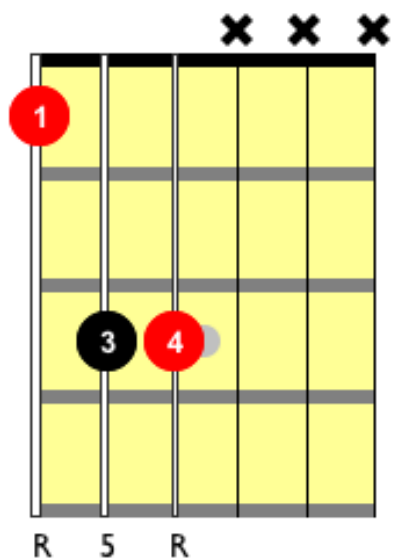


Root on Open A String (A5)

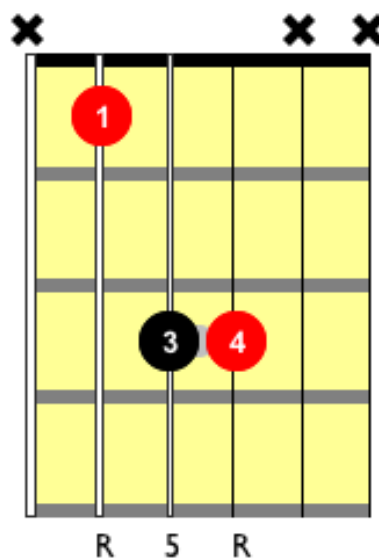


SHAPE 2 – Moveable Shape

Root on E String



Root on A String

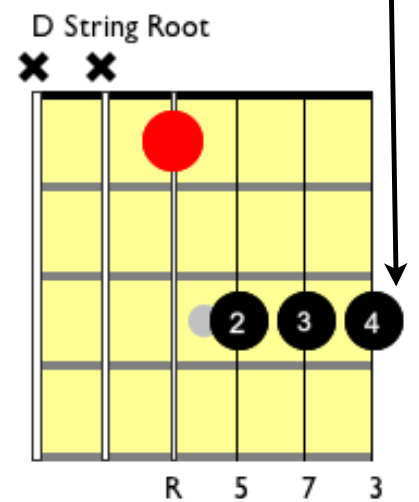
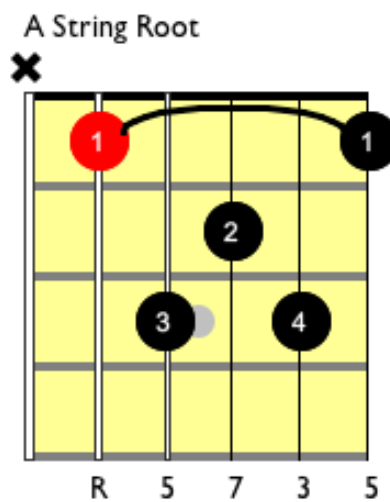
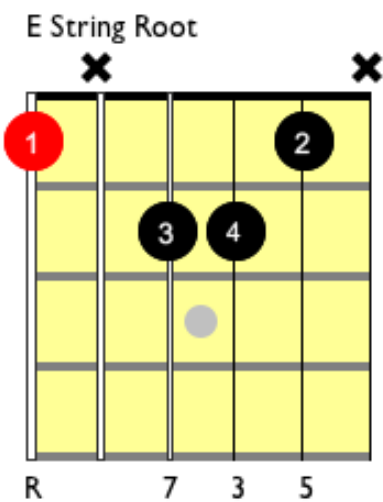


Jazz Chords

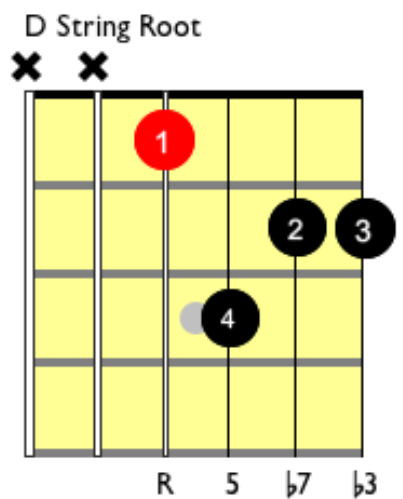
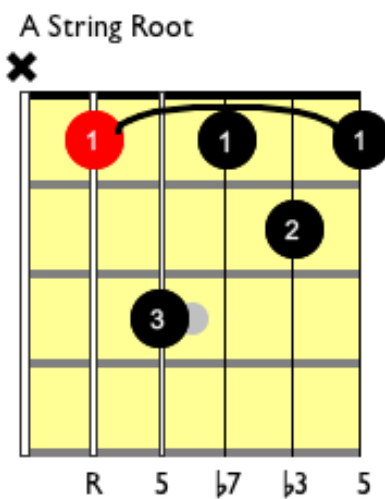
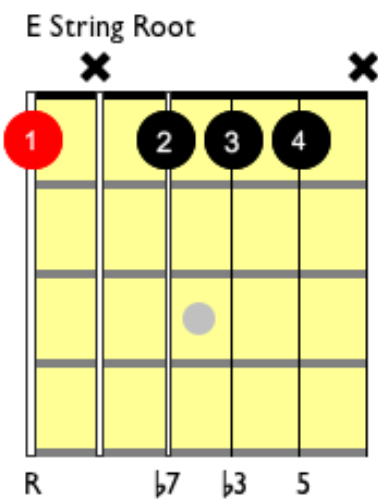
These chords are great to know if you want to get into playing some simple jazz tunes. However, these 'seventh' chords are also used in blues, pop, rock and many other styles of music so learn them! The shapes are all moveable and there are three shapes for each chord type - a root on the E, A and D strings.

Major Seventh - Formula: R 3 5 7

You can use your third finger to barré these notes.

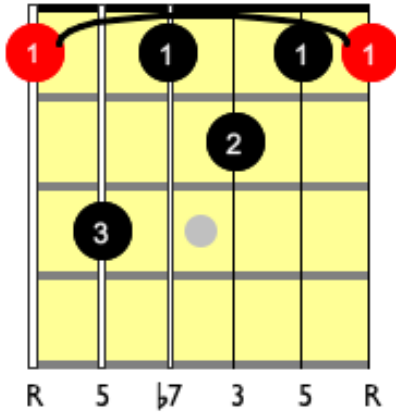


Minor Seventh - Formula: R b7 5 b3

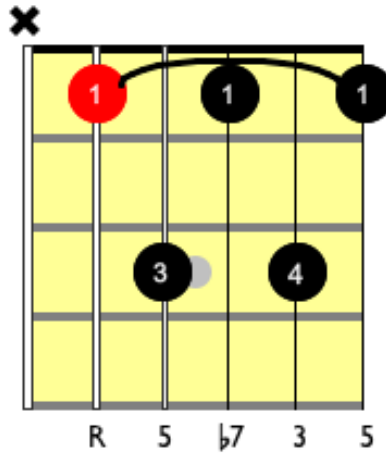


Dominant Seventh - Formula: R 3 5 b7

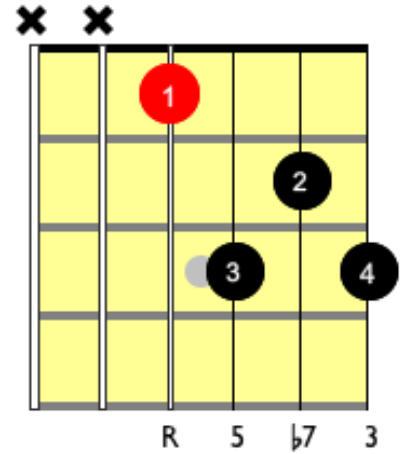
E String Root



A String Root

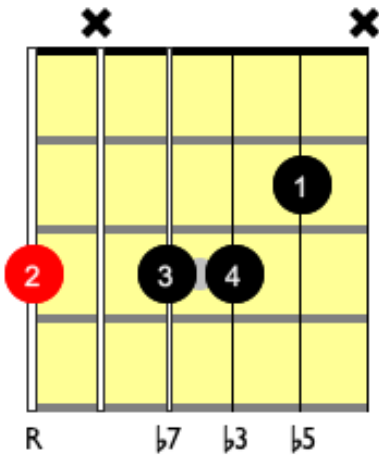


D String Root

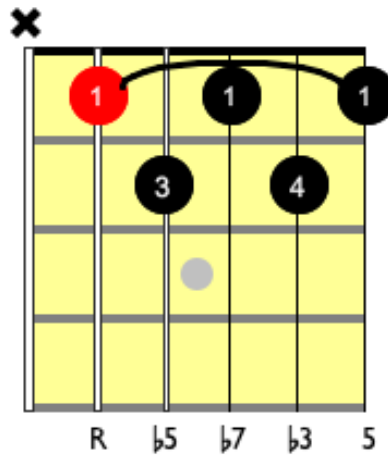


Minor Seventh Flat 5 - Formula: R b3 b5 b7

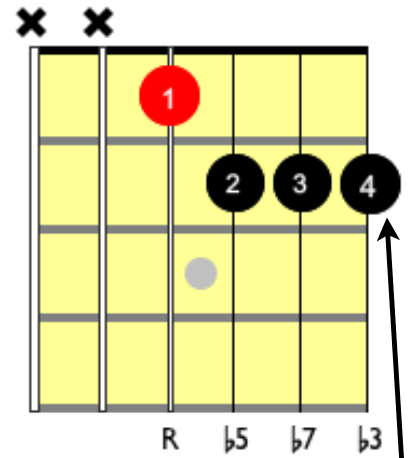
E String Root



A String Root



D String Root

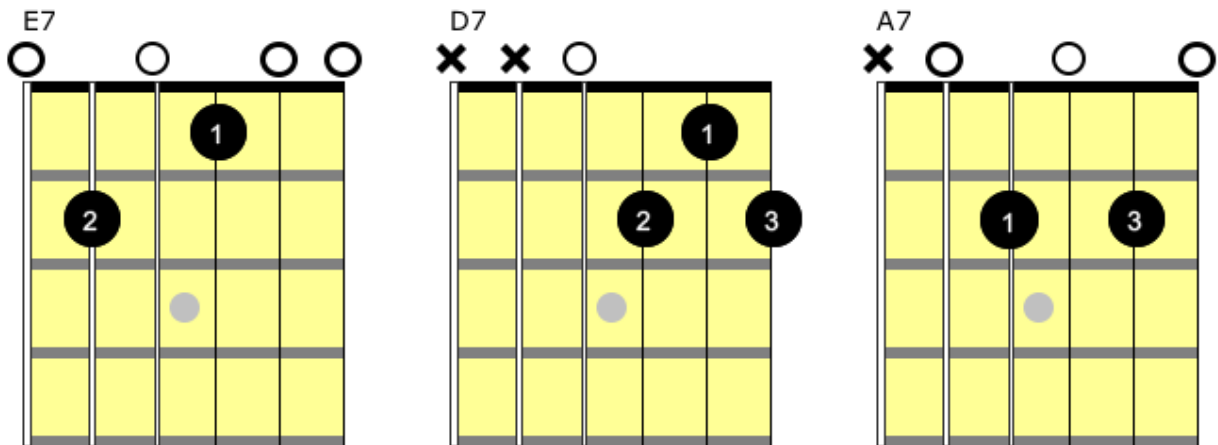


You can use your third finger to barré these notes.

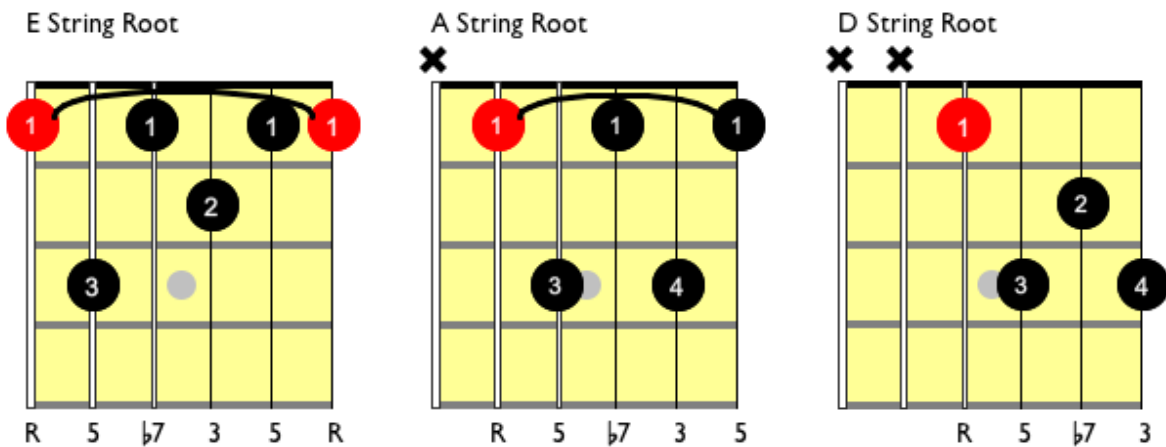
Blues Chords

If you want to play some blues rhythm guitar, learn how to play dominant chords - they are the sound of blues! They are written with just a '7' after the root note.

Open dominant chords

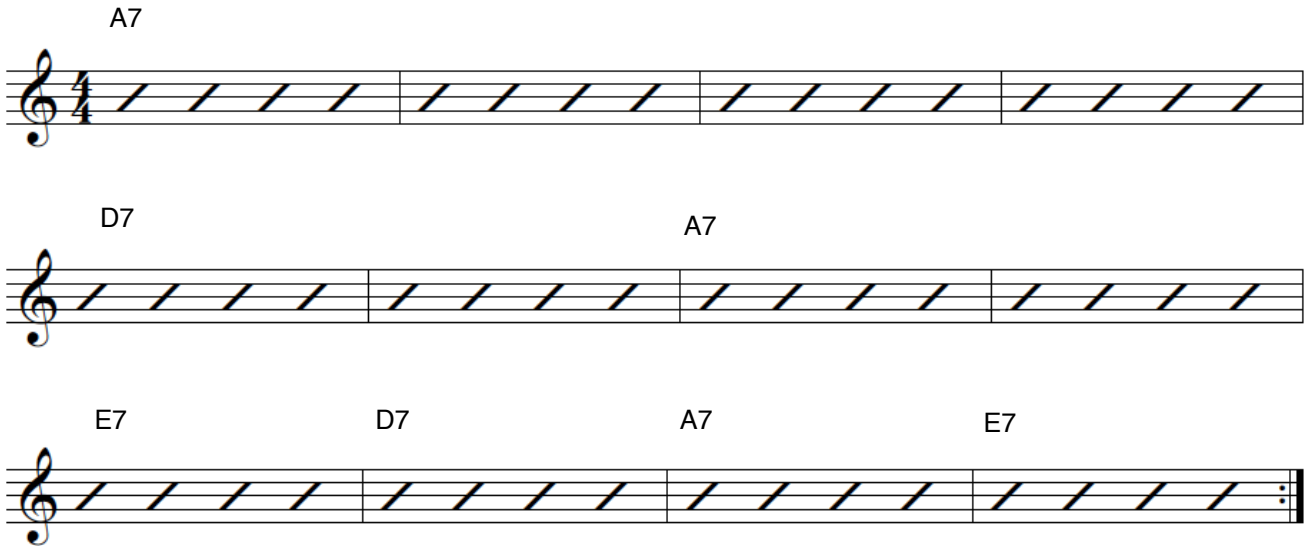
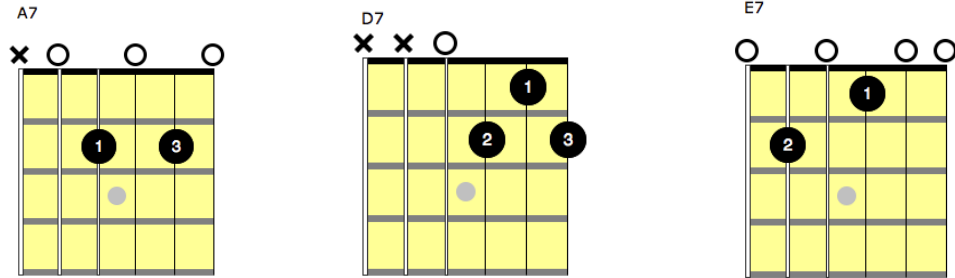


Moveable shapes



12 Bar Blues in A

Every guitarist need to know how to play a 12 bar blues! Here is a blues in D using open chords that you should already know. Learn the order of chords and improvise your own rhythms-use a shuffle rhythm if you can.

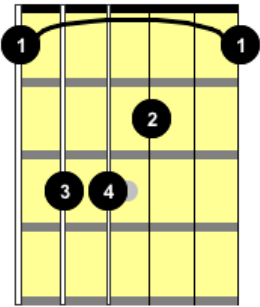


Barré Chords

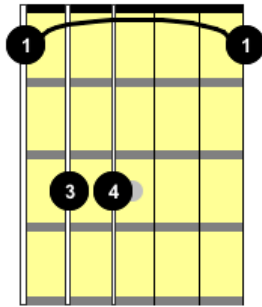
Barré chords are essential to learn as they are used in hundreds of songs. They will allow you to play far more songs than the fairly limited range the first chords leave you with.

E-Shaped

Major

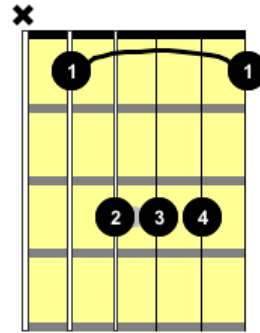


Minor

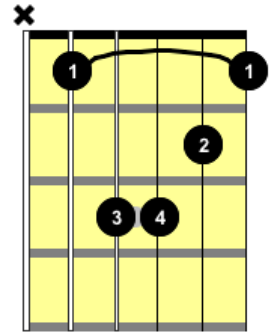


A-Shaped

Major

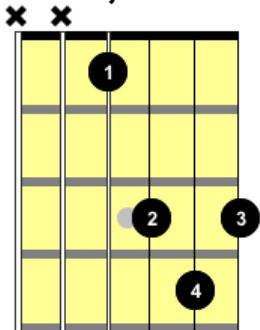


Minor

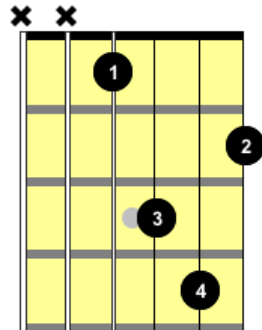


D-Shaped

Major

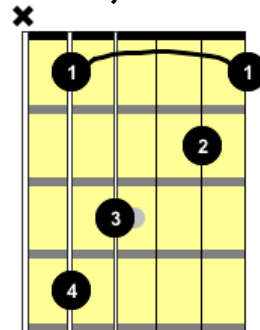


Minor



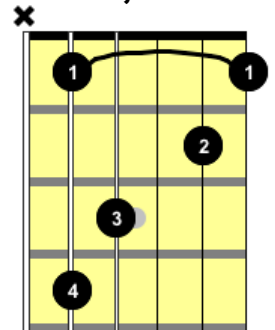
C-Shaped

Major



G-Shaped

Major



Chord Progressions and Strumming

The following progressions will help you to:

- Learn these chords.
- Switch between them.
- Use different rhythms when strumming.

Start off very slowly with all these examples and gradually build up speed. When you feel comfortable with this, use a metronome or drum machine (or real drummer!) to really test you and develop your sense of rhythm.

Am to C

You actually **only need to move your 3rd finger** here! This is a handy shortcut between these chords.

This musical notation shows a progression from Am to C. At the top, two guitar diagrams are provided: Am (fingerings 2, 3, 1) and C (fingerings 3, 2, 1). The notation consists of a single staff with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a whole note chord for Am, and the second measure contains a whole note chord for C. The tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string: Am (T:0, A:1, B:2) and C (T:0, A:1, B:3).

This musical notation shows the same Am to C progression with a specific strumming pattern. It includes the same Am and C guitar diagrams as above. The notation consists of a single staff with a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a whole note chord for Am, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note chord for C, followed by another quarter rest. The second measure contains a whole note chord for C, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note chord for Am, followed by another quarter rest. The tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string: Am (T:0, A:1, B:2) and C (T:0, A:1, B:3).

Am C

5 6

TAB

Am C

7 8

TAB

G to Em

Here, you can keep your 1st finger down when changing chord.

Diagram 1: G major chord (213) and E minor chord (120). Measure 9: G major (213). Measure 10: E minor (120).

Diagram 2: G major chord (213) and E minor chord (120). Measure 11: G major (213). Measure 12: E minor (120).

Diagram 3: G major chord (213) and E minor chord (120). Measure 13: G major (213). Measure 14: E minor (120).

Diagram showing guitar chord shapes for G and Em, and a musical notation example. The G chord is shown with a 213 fingering. The Em chord is shown with a 12 fingering. The notation includes a staff with notes and a TAB staff with fret numbers (3, 0, 0, 2, 3 for G; 0, 0, 0, 2, 0 for Em). The exercise starts at fret 15 and moves to fret 16.

Em to Asus2

In this chord progression you have to move all fingers to get to the next chord. However, the Asus2 is the same shape, same fingering and you don't have to move that far so it is fairly easy!

Diagram showing guitar chord shapes for Em and Asus2, and a musical notation example. The Em chord is shown with a 12 fingering. The Asus2 chord is shown with a 12 fingering. The notation includes a staff with notes and a TAB staff with fret numbers (0, 0, 0, 2, 0 for Em; 0, 0, 2, 2, 0 for Asus2). The exercise starts at fret 17 and moves to fret 18.

Follow the same rhythms as before.....

Em to C

You keep your 2nd finger down here. The other two fingers have to move quite far here so take this slow and try to move the fingers up and then down at the same time (don't move one and then the other - this is too slow!). It will take a while to get used to this.

Em

C

19

20

T 0 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 0

B 2 2 2 0

0 0 1 0 2 3

Follow the same rhythms as before.....

E to Am

These chords are the same shape. You have to move all fingers to different strings though so take this slowly at first.

E

Am

21

22

T 0 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 0

B 2 2 2 0

0 0 1 0 2 3

Follow the same rhythms as before.....

Em to Am

Before, you used fingers 1 and 2 to play the Em chord. In this progression, use 2 and 3 for the Em chord as when you move to the Am chord, your fingers will already be where they want to be.

The image shows a musical progression from an Em chord to an Am chord. At the top, two chord diagrams are provided: the Em chord (E minor) and the Am chord (A minor). The Em diagram shows the 2nd and 3rd strings fretted at the 2nd fret, with the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th strings open. The Am diagram shows the 2nd and 3rd strings fretted at the 2nd fret, the 4th string at the 1st fret, and the 1st, 5th, and 6th strings open. Below the diagrams is a guitar staff with two measures. The first measure is labeled '23' and shows the Em chord. The second measure is labeled '24' and shows the Am chord. Below the staff, a TAB (Tuning) section is provided: the first measure has fret numbers 0, 0, 2, 2, 0 for strings 1 through 6 respectively; the second measure has fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 2, 0 for strings 1 through 6 respectively.