

Guitar Chord Reference

A Comprehensive Visual Guide Standard Tuning: E – A – D – G – B – e

Theory (A – G) · Open chords · Barre chords · 7ths · Sus · Power · Add9 · Aug · Dim

This guide is a self-contained reference for guitarists at any level, from the first open chord to complex jazz voicings. It is organised in three parts.

The **theory chapters** (pages 2–10) explain how chord symbols work: what the letters and suffixes mean, how every chord type is built from a scale, and how Roman numerals let you transpose any progression instantly to a new key. Each of the seven natural roots (A through G) gets its own table, with close-position staff notation in the treble-8 clef standard to guitar.

The **chord diagram sections** (pages 11–16) provide fingering diagrams and staff notation for more than sixty voicings in standard tuning: open major and minor chords, dominant and major seventh chords, suspended, power, barre, add9, augmented and diminished chords, and the diatonic chords of C major.

The **practical sections** (pages 17–20) bridge theory and playing: a primer on strumming patterns and rhythm notation, four graded songs (beginner to intermediate) with chord grids and picking patterns, and a set of technique tips for cleaner fretting, smoother chord changes and better barre chords.

All diagrams assume **standard tuning** (low to high: E – A – D – G – B – e). Staff notation uses the **treble-8 clef** (sounds one octave below written), which is the international standard for guitar.

Contents

1	How to Read Chord Diagrams	3
2	Chord Theory: Chord Families A through G	3
3	Open-Position Major Chords	14
4	Open-Position Minor Chords	14
5	Dominant 7th Chords	14
6	Major 7th Chords (maj7)	14
7	Minor 7th Chords (m7)	15
8	Suspended Chords (sus2, sus4)	15
9	Power Chords (5th Chords)	15
10	Barre Chords — E Shape (Major and Minor)	15
11	Barre Chords — A Shape (Major and Minor)	16
12	Added-Tone Chords (add9, add6)	16
13	Augmented Chords (aug)	16
14	Diminished Chords (dim, dim7)	16
15	Diatonic Chords and Roman Numeral Notation	17
15.1	The seven diatonic chords of a major key	17
15.2	Common progressions and their Roman numeral patterns	17
16	Chord Formula Quick Reference	18
17	Strumming and Rhythm Basics	18
17.1	Time signatures	18
17.2	Stroke notation	18
17.3	Counting subdivisions in 4/4	18
17.4	Common patterns	19
17.5	Dynamics and accents	19
18	Songs to Play	19
18.1	1. Horse With No Name — America (1971)	Level: beginner 19
18.2	2. Knockin' on Heaven's Door — Bob Dylan (1973)	Level: beginner 19
18.3	3. Wonderwall — Oasis (1995)	Level: intermediate 20
18.4	4. House of the Rising Sun — The Animals (1964)	Level: intermediate 20
19	Practice Tips	20

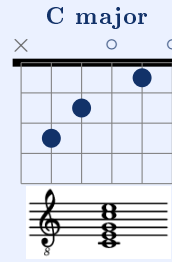
How to Read Chord Diagrams

Each diagram shows the guitar neck as seen from the front. Strings are **vertical** (low E at left, high e at right); frets are **horizontal**.

- **Thick top bar** = the nut (open-position chords)
- **Number at left** = starting fret (barre chords)
- **Filled circles** = press here with your fingertip
- **Thick round bar** = barre (one finger across multiple strings)
- **○ above string** = play it *open* (unfretted)
- **× above string** = mute / do not play

The **staff notation** below each diagram uses the *treble-8* clef — standard for guitar. Notes are written an octave higher than they sound; the “8” below the clef is a reminder to read them down one octave. Finger numbers: **1**=index **2**=middle **3**=ring **4**=pinky.

Example: C major (x32010)



Chord Theory: Chord Families A through G

A chord symbol has two parts: a **root** (the letter name) and a **quality descriptor** that specifies the interval structure. The tables below show every chord type for each of the seven natural roots **A, B, C, D, E, F, G**. Formulas use *scale-degree numbers* with accidentals (*b* = lower by 1 semitone, *#* = raise by 1 semitone). The **Staff** column shows the chord in close position using the treble-8 clef; guitar diagrams on later pages show practical voicings on the fretboard.

The A Family

Key signature: three sharps: F#, C#, G#.



Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
A	A major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Am	A minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: C# → bC#.
A5	A power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Asus2	A sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (B).
Asus4	A sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (D).

(continued ...)

(Table continued)

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
A6	A major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (F#).
Aadd9	A add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (B), no 7th.
A7	A dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: G# → bG#.
Amaj7	A major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (G#).
Am7	A minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Aaug	A augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Adim	A diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.
Adim7	A dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Am7b5	A half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: Aø).

The B Family



Key signature: five sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#.



Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
B	B major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Bm	B minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: D# → bD#.
B5	B power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Bsus2	B sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (C#).
Bsus4	B sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (E).
B6	B major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (G#).
Badd9	B add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (C#), no 7th.
B7	B dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: A# → bA#.
Bmaj7	B major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (A#).
Bm7	B minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Baug	B augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Bdim	B diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.

(continued ...)

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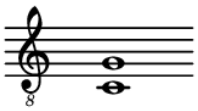


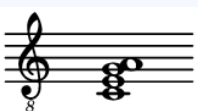

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
Bdim7	B dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Bm7b5	B half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: B⊙).

The C Family

Key signature: no sharps or flats.




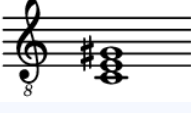





1 C 2 D 3 E 4 F 5 G 6 A 7 B 8 C

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
C	C major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Cm	C minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: E → bE.
C5	C power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Csus2	C sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (D).
Csus4	C sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (F).
C6	C major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (A).
Cadd9	C add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (D), no 7th.

(continued ...)

(Table continued)



Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
C7	C dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: B → bB.
Cmaj7	C major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (B).
Cm7	C minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Caug	C augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Cdim	C diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.
Cdim7	C dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Cm7b5	C half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: Cø).

The D Family

Key signature: two sharps: F#, C#.



1 D 2 E 3 F# 4 G 5 A 6 B 7 C# 8 D

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
D	D major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Dm	D minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: F# → bF#.

(continued ...)

(Table continued)

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
D5	D power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Dsus2	D sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (E).
Dsus4	D sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (G).
D6	D major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (B).
Dadd9	D add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (E), no 7th.
D7	D dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: C# → bC#.
Dmaj7	D major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (C#).
Dm7	D minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Daug	D augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Ddim	D diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.
Ddim7	D dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Dm7b5	D half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: Dø).

The E Family

Key signature: four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#.


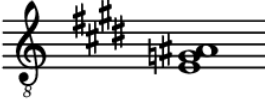
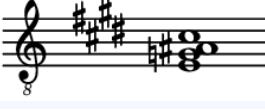



1 E 2 F# 3 G# 4 A 5 B 6 C# 7 D# 8 E

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
E	E major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Em	E minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: G# → bG#.
E5	E power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Esus2	E sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (F#).
Esus4	E sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (A).
E6	E major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (C#).
Eadd9	E add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (F#), no 7th.
E7	E dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: D# → bD#.
Emaj7	E major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (D#).
Em7	E minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.

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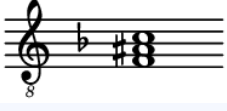
Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
Eaug	E augmented	1 - 3 - $\sharp 5$		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Edim	E diminished	1 - $b3$ - $b5$		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.
Edim7	E dim. 7th	1 - $b3$ - $b5$ - $bb7$		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Em7b5	E half-dim.	1 - $b3$ - $b5$ - $b7$		Tense, jazzy (also: E \ominus).

The F Family

Key signature: one flat: B \flat .







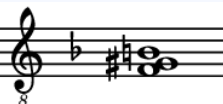




1 F 2 G 3 A 4 B \flat 5 C 6 D 7 E 8 F

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
F	F major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Fm	F minor	1 - $b3$ - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: A \rightarrow b A.
F5	F power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Fsus2	F sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (G).
Fsus4	F sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (B \flat).

(continued ...)

(Table continued)

Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
F6	F major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (D).
Fadd9	F add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (G), no 7th.
F7	F dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: E → bE.
Fmaj7	F major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (E).
Fm7	F minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Faug	F augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Fdim	F diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.
Fdim7	F dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Fm7b5	F half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: Fø).



The G Family**Key signature:** one sharp: F#.

1 G 2 A 3 B 4 C 5 D 6 E 7 F# 8 G

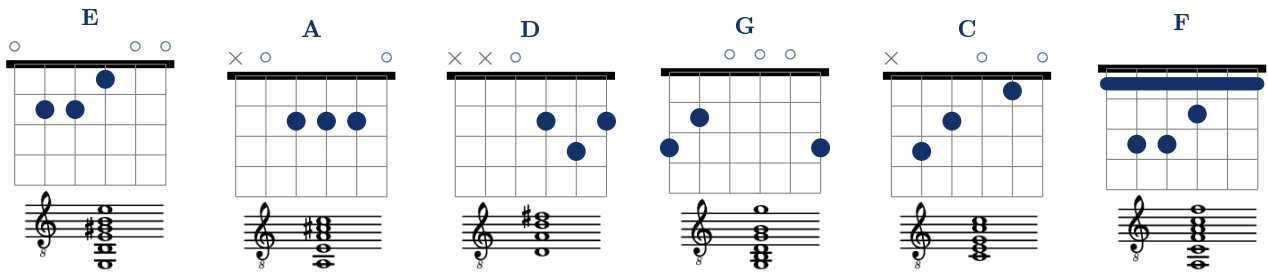
Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
G	G major	1 - 3 - 5		Bright, stable.
Gm	G minor	1 - b3 - 5		Dark. Lower the 3rd: B → bB.
G5	G power chord	1 - 5		Raw, neutral. No 3rd.
Gsus2	G sus. 2nd	1 - 2 - 5		Open. Replace 3rd with 2nd (A).
Gsus4	G sus. 4th	1 - 4 - 5		Tense. Replace 3rd with 4th (C).
G6	G major sixth	1 - 3 - 5 - 6		Sweet, vintage. Add 6th (E).
Gadd9	G add nine	1 - 3 - 5 - 9		Colourful. Add 2nd/9th (A), no 7th.
G7	G dominant 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7		Bluesy. Lower 7th: F# → bF#.
Gmaj7	G major 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - 7		Dreamy, jazzy. Keep natural 7th (F#).
Gm7	G minor 7th	1 - b3 - 5 - b7		Mellow, soulful. Lower 3rd and 7th.
Gaug	G augmented	1 - 3 - #5		Eerie. Raise the 5th by 1 semitone.
Gdim	G diminished	1 - b3 - b5		Very tense. Lower 3rd and 5th.

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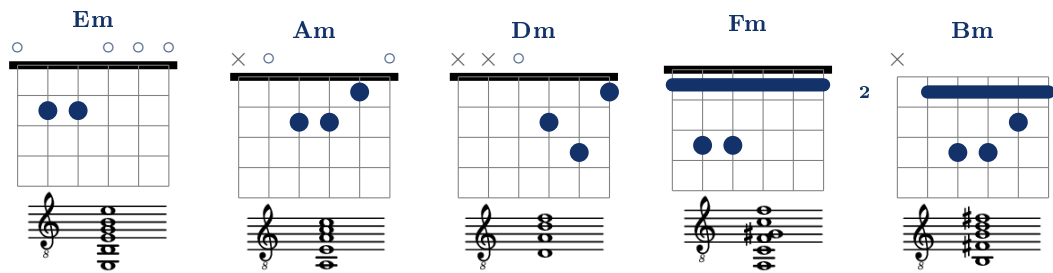
Symbol	Full name	Formula	Staff	Colour / use
Gdim7	G dim. 7th	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7		Max. tense. All minor 3rds.
Gm7b5	G half-dim.	1 - b3 - b5 - b7		Tense, jazzy (also: Gø).

Open-Position Major Chords



E 022100 A x02220 D xx0232 G 320003 C x32010 F 133211 (barre at fret 1)

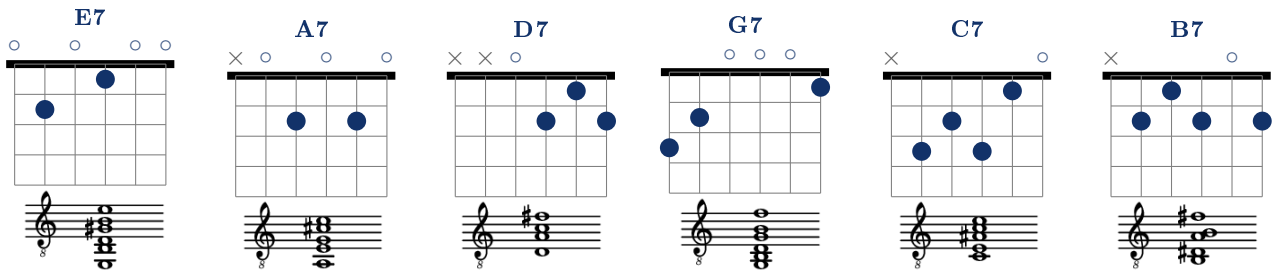
Open-Position Minor Chords



Em 022000 Am x02210 Dm xx0231 Fm 133111 (barre at 1) Bm x24432 (barre at 2)

Dominant 7th Chords

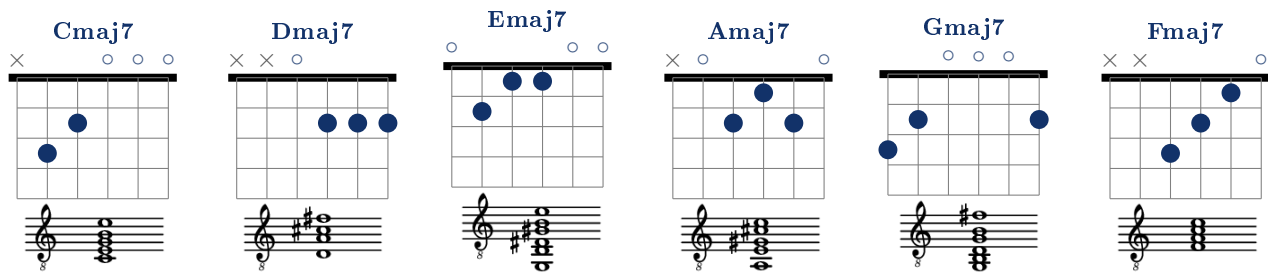
1 - 3 - 5 - b7: bluesy and tense, naturally resolving to the tonic.



E7 020100 A7 x02020 D7 xx0212 G7 320001 C7 x32310 B7 x21202

Major 7th Chords (maj7)

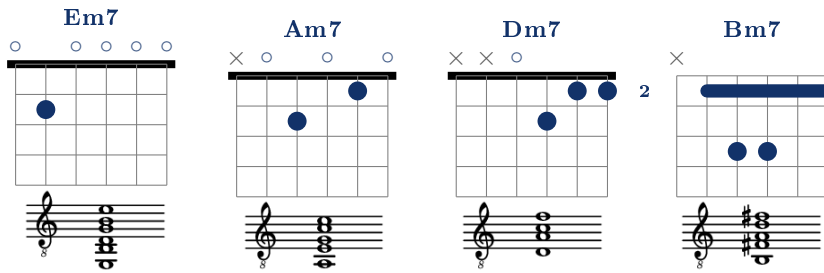
1 - 3 - 5 - 7: smooth, dreamy and jazzy.



Cmaj7 x32000 Dmaj7 xx0222 Emaj7 021100 Amaj7 x02120 Gmaj7 320002 Fmaj7 xx3210

Minor 7th Chords (m7)

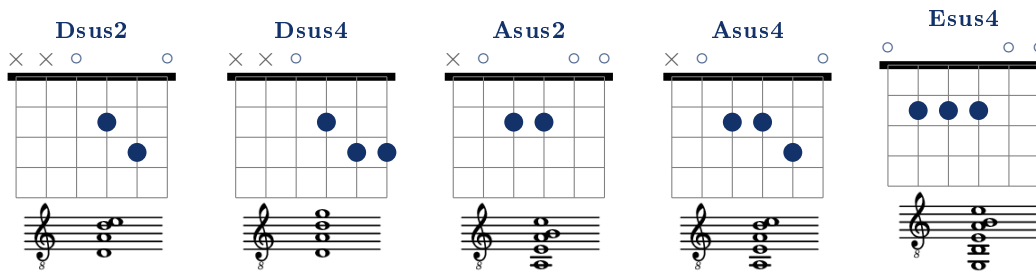
1 – b3 – 5 – b7: cornerstone of jazz, soul and R&B.



Em7 020000 Am7 x02010 Dm7 xx0211 Bm7 x24232 (barre at 2, variant shown)

Suspended Chords (sus2, sus4)

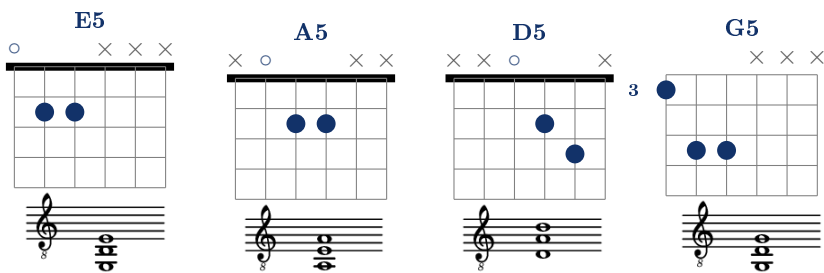
The 3rd is replaced by a 2nd or 4th: harmony is open and unresolved.



Dsus2 xx0230 Dsus4 xx0233 Asus2 x02200 Asus4 x02230 Esus4 022200

Power Chords (5th Chords)

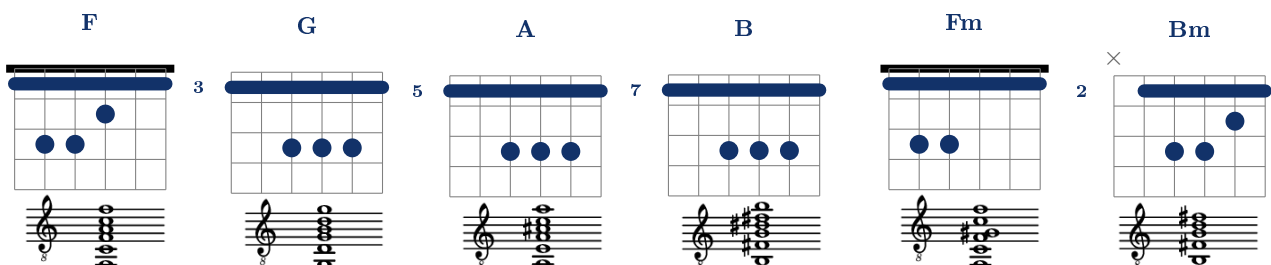
1 – 5 only, no 3rd: neither major nor minor. Essential in rock and metal.



E5 022xxx A5 x022xx D5 xx023x G5 355xxx (movable E5-shape at fret 3)

Barre Chords — E Shape (Major and Minor)

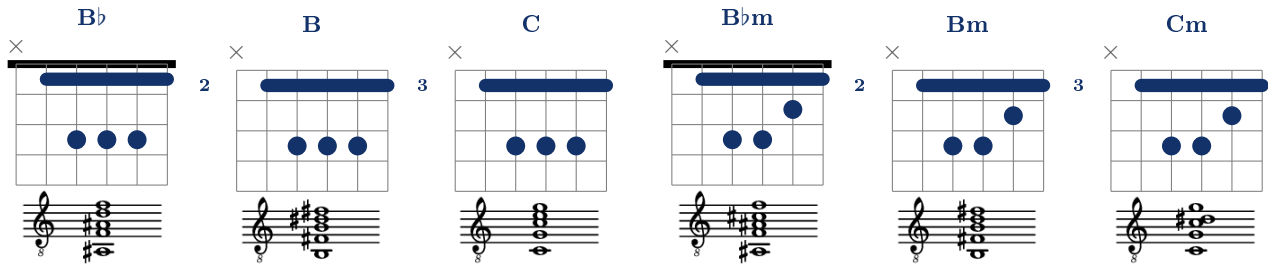
Open E or Em shape moved up the neck. Index finger barres all 6 strings; fret number at left = root.



Major: fret 1=F, 2=F#, 3=G, 5=A, 7=B, 8=C, 10=D... Minor: fret 1=Fm, 2=F#m, 5=Am, 7=Bm...

Barre Chords — A Shape (Major and Minor)

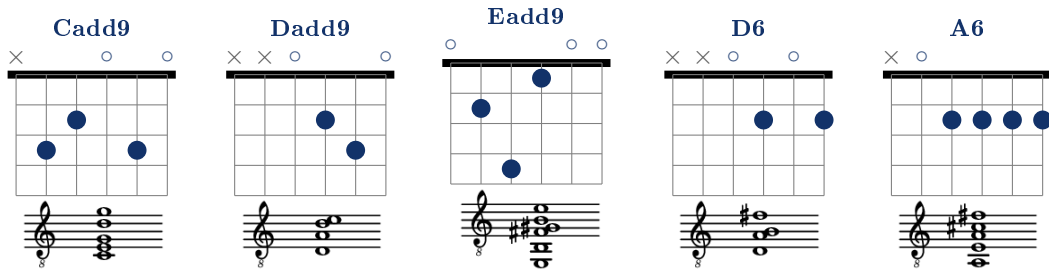
Open A or Am shape moved up the neck. Index finger barres strings 2–6.



Major: fret 1=Bb, 2=B, 3=C, 5=D, 7=E, 10=G... Minor: fret 1=Bbm, 2=Bm, 3=Cm, 5=Dm...

Added-Tone Chords (add9, add6)

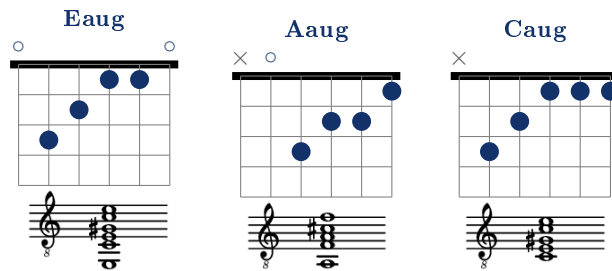
Triad + extra colour note (9th or 6th), without a 7th.



Cadd9 x32033 Dadd9 xx0230 Eadd9 024100 D6 xx0202 A6 x02222

Augmented Chords (aug)

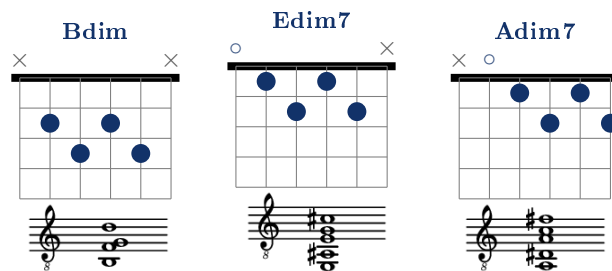
1 – 3 – #5: eerie and tense. Symmetrical — repeats every 4 semitones.



Eaug 032110 Aaug x03221 Caug x32110 Eaug = G#aug = Caug (same pitch-class set).

Diminished Chords (dim, dim7)

Stacked minor 3rds. A dim7 repeats every 3 semitones.



Bdim x2323x Edim7 010203 Adim7 x01212 Shift a dim7 up 3 frets to get the same chord on a new root.

Diatonic Chords and Roman Numeral Notation

Tonal music uses three complementary notation systems for chords. Being able to move between them is an essential skill:

System	Description
Chord name (e.g. <i>G, Am, Dm</i>)	Gives the absolute pitch of the root and the chord quality (see the chord theory sections A-G). Useful for reading a chart or score.
Scale degrees (e.g. <i>1, b3, 5</i>)	Describes the <i>internal structure</i> of a chord regardless of key. Used in the formula tables of this guide.
Roman numerals (e.g. <i>I, IV, V, vi</i>)	Indicates the <i>position</i> of a chord within a given key: the numeral identifies the scale degree on which the chord is built. Upper case = major chord; lower case = minor chord; ° = diminished chord. Useful for transposing a progression to any key.

The seven diatonic chords of a major key

By stacking thirds on each degree of a major scale, we get seven chords whose qualities always follow the same pattern: **Maj – min – min – Maj – Maj – min – dim**. The table below shows all three notations for the key of **C major**:

	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
<i>C major</i>	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
<i>G major</i>	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim
<i>D major</i>	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#dim
<i>A major</i>	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#dim
<i>E major</i>	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D#dim

How to use this table: identify the Roman numeral pattern of a progression, then read across the row for the desired key. Example: **I – V – vi – IV** in C = C – G – Am – F; in G = G – D – Em – C; in D = D – A – Bm – G.

Common progressions and their Roman numeral patterns

The progressions below appear in thousands of songs. The column *In C* gives the literal chord names; *Song* shows the actual key used in the recording.

Roman pattern	In C	Song (key)	Feel
I – IV – V	C – F – G	La Bamba (A)	Bright, driving
I – V – vi – IV	C – G – Am – F	Knockin' on Heaven's Door (G)	Epic, universal
vi – IV – I – V	Am – F – C – G	Wonderwall (F#m, capo 2)	Melancholic, rock
i – VII – VI – VII	Am – G – F – G	Stairway to Heaven (Am)	Dramatic
I – V – vi – iii – IV	C – G – Am – Em – F	Pachelbel's Canon	Timeless, classical
ii – V – I	Dm – G – C	Jazz standard (C)	Tension→release

Chord Formula Quick Reference

Symbol suffix	Formula	Semitone gaps	Character
(none) = Major	1 - 3 - 5	+4, +3	Bright, stable
m = Minor	1 - b3 - 5	+3, +4	Dark, melancholic
7 = Dom. 7th	1 - 3 - 5 - b7	+4, +3, +3	Tense, bluesy
maj7	1 - 3 - 5 - 7	+4, +3, +4	Dreamy, jazzy
m7	1 - b3 - 5 - b7	+3, +4, +3	Mellow, soulful
sus2	1 - 2 - 5	+2, +5	Open, floating
sus4	1 - 4 - 5	+5, +2	Tense, anticipating
5 = Power	1 - 5	+7	Raw, neutral
aug	1 - 3 - #5	+4, +4	Eerie, tense
dim	1 - b3 - b5	+3, +3	Very tense
dim7	1 - b3 - b5 - bb7	+3,+3,+3	Maximally tense
add9	1 - 3 - 5 - 9	triad + 9th	Colourful, modern
6	1 - 3 - 5 - 6	triad + 6th	Sweet, vintage

Strumming and Rhythm Basics

Strumming is the act of sweeping the pick (or fingernails) across several strings at once to produce a chord. Two ingredients define a strumming pattern: the **time signature** (how beats are grouped) and the **stroke direction** (down or up) on each subdivision.

Time signatures

Sig.	Meaning	Feel / typical use
4/4	4 beats per bar, quarter note = 1 beat	Most pop, rock, blues — the default
3/4	3 beats per bar	Waltz, ballads (e.g. “Iris” by Goo Goo Dolls)
6/8	6 eighth-note beats per bar, grouped 3+3	Compound feel; suits fingerpicking (e.g. “House of the Rising Sun”)

Stroke notation

Strumming patterns in this guide use the following symbols:

Symbol	Meaning
D	Downstroke — sweep from string 6 (low E) toward string 1 (high e)
U	Upstroke — sweep from string 1 toward string 6
-	Rest / lift — do not strike the strings on this subdivision
×	Choked strum — touch the strings with the palm or fretting hand to mute them just before or just as you strum

Counting subdivisions in 4/4

In 4/4 time, each beat can be divided into two eighth notes, counted **1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and**. Downstrokes fall on the numbered beats; upstrokes on the “ands”:

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +
D U D U D U D U

All-eighth pattern: the simplest full 4/4 strum.

Common patterns

The table below shows the most widely used patterns. Each cell is one eighth-note subdivision (“1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +”). **Bold** = on-beat stroke; regular = off-beat (“and”) stroke.

Pattern name	Subdivisions: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +								Used in
All down (4/4)	D	D	D	D					Folk, slow ballads
Basic 8ths	D	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	Pop, rock
Island / Reggae	D	D	U	D	U	D	U		Bob Dylan, America
Pop “4-chord”	D	U	D	U	-	U	D	U	Knockin’, most pop
Oasis pattern	D	D	U	-	U	D	U		Wonderwall, britpop

Reading tip: always tap your foot on beats 1, 2, 3, 4. Downstrokes align with foot taps; upstrokes happen as the foot rises. Start very slowly with a metronome and only increase tempo once the pattern is automatic.

Dynamics and accents

A flat sequence of D and U strokes sounds mechanical. Two techniques add life:

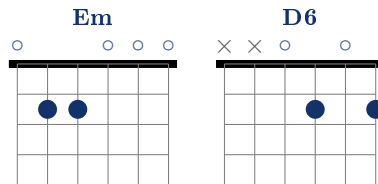
- **Accent beats 2 and 4.** In most Western popular music, the snare drum lands on beats 2 and 4 (the “backbeat”). Strumming those beats slightly harder locks you in with a drummer.
- **Vary string coverage.** Downstrokes can sweep all six strings for power, while upstrokes often catch only the top two or three — this lightens the texture and makes changes feel more natural.

Songs to Play

The four songs below cover progressively harder ground. Each entry shows the chord diagrams, then a bar-by-bar progression grid, then the strumming or picking pattern and a focused playing tip. **D** = downstroke, **U** = upstroke, - = muted beat, × = choked strum.

1. Horse With No Name — America (1971) Level: beginner

Only two chords, repeated throughout. **Em** and **D6** (also called Dadd9/F#) alternate every two bars. Key: E minor.



Progression (same for intro, verse and chorus):

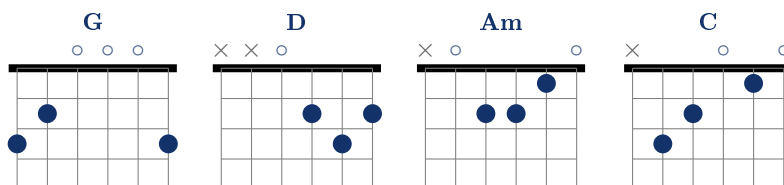
Em	Em	D6	D6
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Strumming (4/4, ≈120 bpm): **D - D U - U D U**

Tip: Both chords share open strings 3 and 5 — only the ring finger moves between Em (string 4, fret 2) and D6 (string 4, fret 2 + string 1, fret 2). Keep the wrist relaxed.

2. Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door — Bob Dylan (1973) Level: beginner

Classic **I – V – vi – IV** progression in G major (see “Diatonic Chords and Roman Numeral Notation”: G – D – Em – C). Four open chords; verse and chorus use the same sequence.



Verse & Chorus:

G	D	Am	Am
G	D	C	C

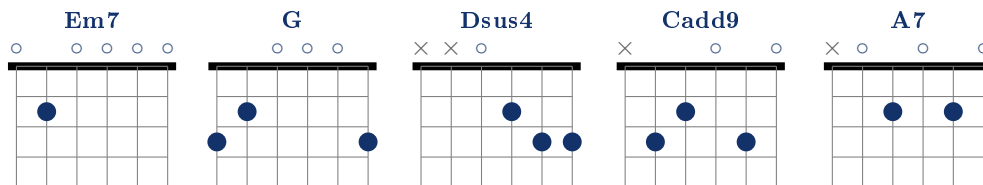
Strumming (4/4, ≈68 bpm): D D D U D U

Tip: Anchor finger — the middle finger stays on string 1, fret 3 for both G and D; only the index and ring finger move.

3. Wonderwall — Oasis (1995)

Level: intermediate

Famous for the **Cadd9** chord (“the Oasis chord”) that recurs throughout. Key: F# minor (capo fret 2 recommended to play the open shapes as on the recording).



Verse:

Em7	G	Dsus4	A7
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Chorus:

Cadd9	Em7	G	Em7
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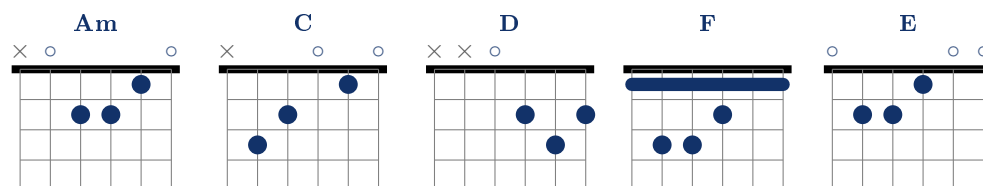
Strumming (4/4, ≈86 bpm): D DU -UDU

Tip: Strings 5 and 6 ring open on Em7, G, Dsus4 and Cadd9 — keep fingers 3 and 4 pressed on strings 1 and 2 (both fret 3) for all four chords; only fingers 1 and 2 change position.

4. House of the Rising Sun — The Animals (1964)

Level: intermediate

The iconic 6/8 fingerpicking piece. Progression i – III – IV – VI in A minor (Am – C – D – F; see “Diatonic Chords”). One chord per bar.



Progression:

Am	C	D	F	Am	C	E	E
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Fingerpicking (6/8, ≈75 bpm): pluck strings in order 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 – 2 for each bar (6 beats).

Tip: Avoid string 6 (low E) on Am, C, D and F. For the F barre chord, first place fingers 2–4 on strings 2–4, then roll the index finger into the barre once the other fingers are set.

Practice Tips

1. **Clean fretting.** Place the fingertip just *behind* the fret wire, pressing with the very tip.
2. **Thumb behind the neck.** Keep the thumb roughly opposite the middle finger so fretting fingers can arch cleanly.
3. **Muted strings.** Brush the string lightly with a neighbouring finger, or train the picking hand to avoid it.
4. **Barre chords.** Roll the index finger toward the headstock so the bony edge contacts the strings. Start at fret 5 where tension is lower, then work toward the nut.
5. **Anchor fingers.** When changing chords, keep fingers that stay on the same string/fret anchored while repositioning the rest.
6. **Slow practice.** Use a metronome. Master each transition cleanly at a slow tempo before increasing speed.
7. **Essential beginner progressions:** G - C - D | C - Am - F - G | Am - F - C - G | E - A - B7 - E.

All voicings in standard tuning (E A D G B e). TAB: 6 digits, low E first (0 = open, x = mute). Staff: treble-8 clef (guitar sounds one octave below written).