

How I Play Almost *Any* Guitar Chord Without Having To Learn Them All

Do you really want to learn guitar chords but don't know where to start? This guitar lesson will show you how to easily memorize any guitar chord.

When I started learning to play the guitar I wasn't taught this technique. If I had known this secret back then it would have saved me hours of thumbing through chord books and shuffling music sheets around on a music stand!

Learning these chords is not difficult, once you get the hang of them it will open up your guitar playing world and enable you to instantly visualise which chord to play when someone says, "play an F minor chord!".

Guitar playing is an art and it does take time, so even if you don't manage to get the hang of every chord the first time round, keep practising. I have been playing since I was 9 years old and I still have to practice. You will get there eventually!

Don't forget to let me know how you are getting on by [commenting this Ebook on Guitar-Beginner.com](#), I'll do my very best to answer any questions you have.

Before you start, [download the Guitar Pro software](#) (free trial). It will help you to hear how the chords sound and see the individual notes that make up each chord.

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Open chord shapes

The secret to learning guitar chords is to learn 'open' chords first. These are chords that use open strings as well as fretted strings rather than 'bar' chords where all strings are fretted. I'll explain more about those later.

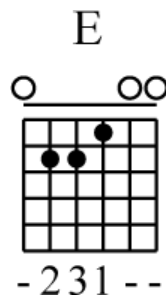
The **open chords** I am going to explain are all played using the first fret as the starting point.

These are the chord shapes you need to know, they're not all of the open chords that can be played but they are the ones that you should learn first. Don't worry too much about learning the chord names at this point, concentrate on the shapes.

Make sure you click the chord pictures to hear what they sound like.

E Major Open Chord Shape

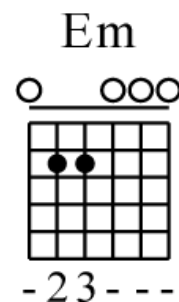
This is the first chord I learned to play on guitar!



- [Listen to this chord](#)

E minor Open Chord Shape

The same shape as the E Major chord but without the first finger.



- [Listen to this chord](#)

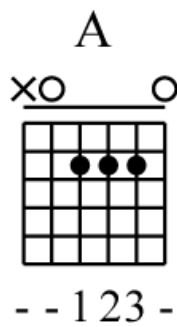
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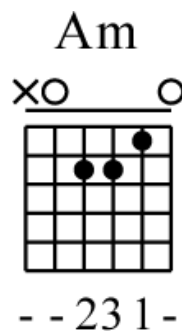
A Major Open Chord Shape



- [Listen to this chord](#)

A minor Open Chord Shape

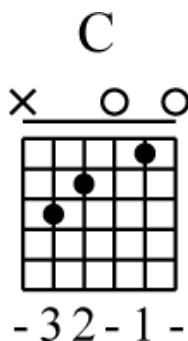
Very similar to the E Major chord but moved one string lower.



- [Listen to this chord](#)

C Major Open Chord Shape

This shape looks a bit like steps on a staircase.



- [Listen to this chord](#)

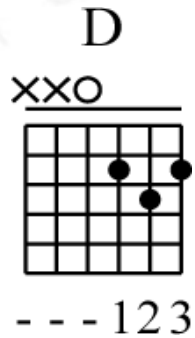
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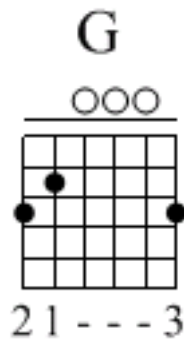
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D Major Open Chord Shape



- [Listen to this chord](#)

G Major Open Chord Shape



- [Listen to this chord](#)

D minor Open Chord Shape



- [Listen to the bonus chord](#)
click the link above to get your bonus chord!

It may take a bit of time to get used to each chord. It took me months when I first started! Don't worry, you will get the hang of them in the end, keep practising.

Songs you can play using open chords

Hundreds of Rock & Pop songs! I can't count the amount of songs that you can play once you have learned these chords, but you'll almost definitely be able to find one that you like to play along to.

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A few that you should try out:

Queen – [Fat Bottomed Girls](#)

The Beatles – [Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds](#)

Take some time learning the open chords, once you have mastered them move onto (next page)...

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Bar Chords and Open Chord Shapes

Bar chords let you play open chords anywhere on the guitar neck. Rather than leaving strings open (with no fingers on a fret), use your first finger to 'bar' the guitar neck (also known as 'barre'). Start by placing your finger over all of the strings at the 7th fret, push down a little bit but not too hard, it shouldn't hurt but it may make your finger ache at first.

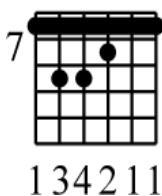
When you are able to do this without making any of the strings buzz, try combining the bar chord with the open E chord at the 7th fret. Instead of using fingers 1, 2 and 3, use finger 1 for the bar chord and 2,3 & 4 to make the E chord shape. Congratulations! You have just played a B Major Chord!

E Major Bar Chord Shape (played on fret 7 = B Major Chord)



B

- [Listen to this chord](#)

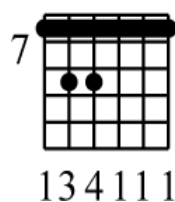


E minor Bar Chord Shape (played on fret 7 = B minor Chord)



Bm

- [Listen to this chord](#)



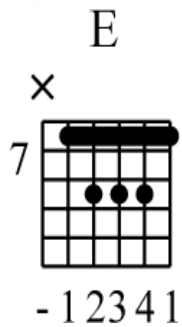
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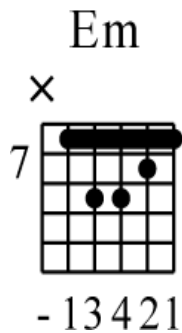
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A Major Bar Chord Shape (played on fret 7 = E Major Chord)



- [Listen to this chord](#)

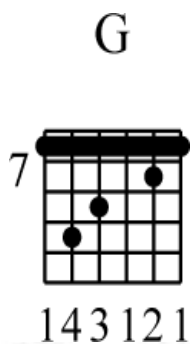
A minor Bar Chord Shape (played on fret 7 = E minor Chord)



- [Listen to this chord](#)

C Major Bar Chord Shape (played on fret 7 = G Major Chord)

This is the trickiest to play as it's a bit of a stretch!



- [Listen to this chord](#)

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Bar Chord Names

To work out which bar chord you are playing, find out the bass note of your chord. For example, if you are using the E shape bar chord starting on fret 1, the bass note is on the bottom E string at fret 1 so you are playing an F Major. If you are using the A shape at fret 2, the bass note is on the 5th (A string) so you are playing a B Major.

Count up each fret to work this out. If the bass note is on the 6th (E string), then count up from E using the chromatic scale -

E (open string), F (fret 1), F# (fret 2), G (fret 3), G# (fret 4...), A, B flat, B, C, C#, D, D#, E. The # symbol stands for sharp.

Notice there are 12 notes there - this takes you all the way up to the 12th fret. Once you get there repeat the notes (the 12th fret is an E so the 13th is an F).

If you're on the A string then the chromatic scale starts on the A and goes up -

A, B flat, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A

So you can now work out which chord you are playing just from the chord shape and the bass note. This technique takes a bit of practice, but once you've memorised the fret notes names it's a breeze.

Use the diagram below to help you



Read on for a quick lesson on the guitar chords that Greenday, Foo Fighters and many other popular Rock/Pop bands use...

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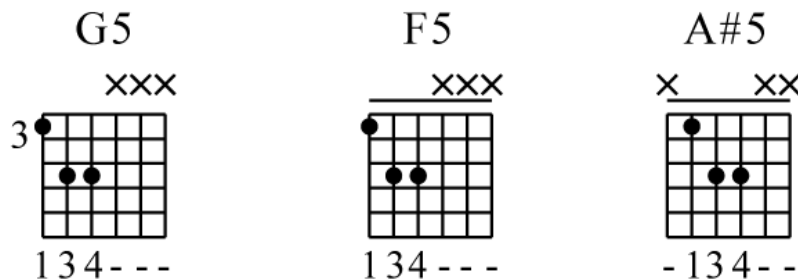
Power Chords

These chords are used by almost all Rock bands at some point. They're probably the only chords that Green Day use!

Power chords are very simple to play and only need 2 or sometimes 3 fingers. These chords use the Root note and the 5th note. Power chords sound best played through a Distortion pedal or amplifier Distortion channel.

The Power Chord Shape

This shape uses only 3 fingers, they are the easiest chords to play on guitar.



Nirvana – [Smells Like Teen Spirit](#) (opens with Spotify) is played using Power Chords.

[View and listen to the Guitar Tab for Smells Like Teen Spirit](#)

That's the end of the **Open Chords, Bar Chords and Power Chords Lesson**. Want to learn more? [Visit my website, Guitar-Beginner.com](#).

Next Lesson:

Guitar Warm Ups – Learn hand exercises and Guitar techniques to do before playing your Guitar, this will help you avoid injuries and make your Guitar playing easier! Look out for this arriving in your inbox very soon :)

Want to send me your comments on this Ebook?

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Thanks for reading!

Steve B.

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