

Guitar Lessons Reference Book

thomasjennings.net

sample

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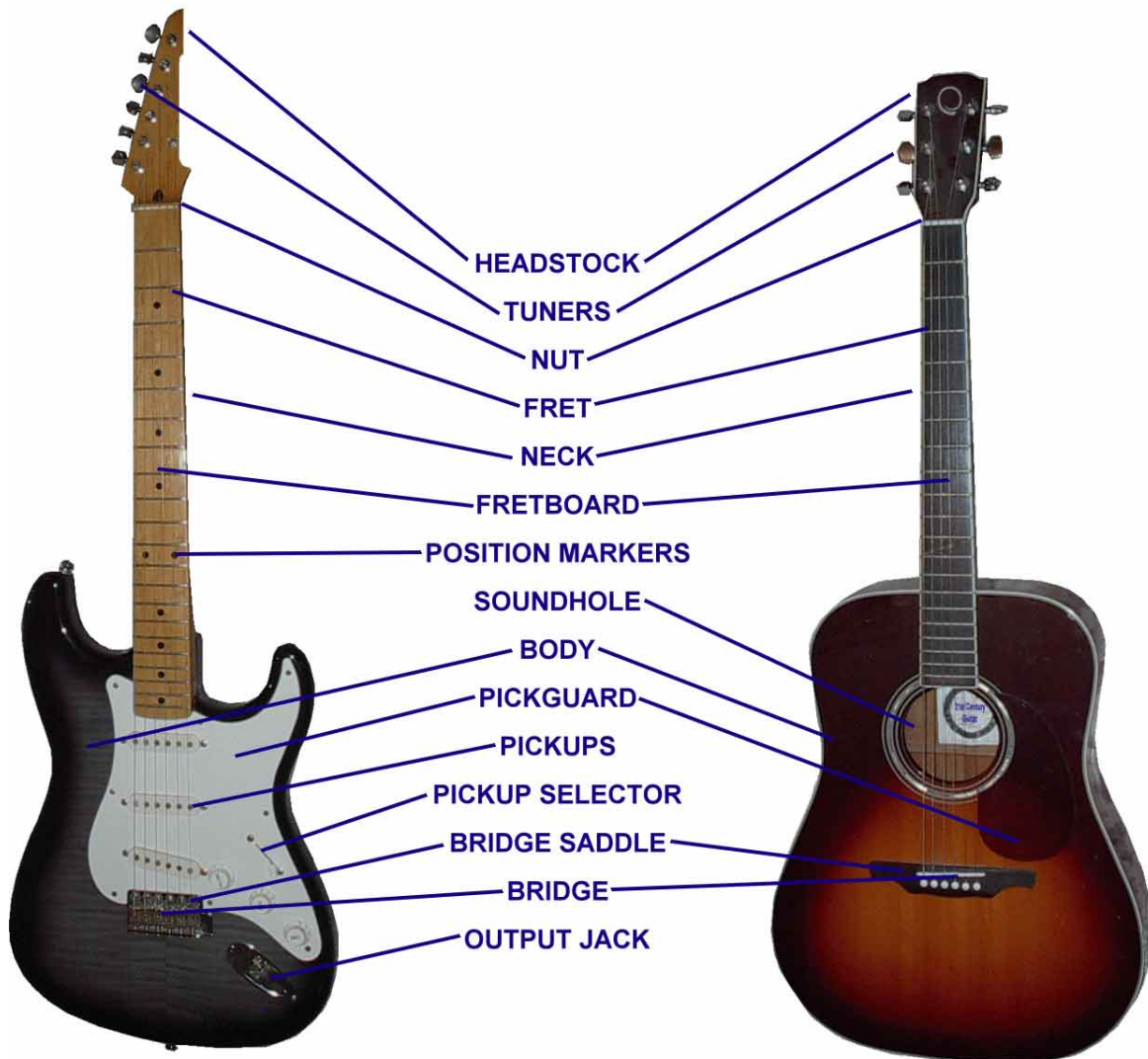
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Chapter 1

Basics

Anatomy of the Guitar

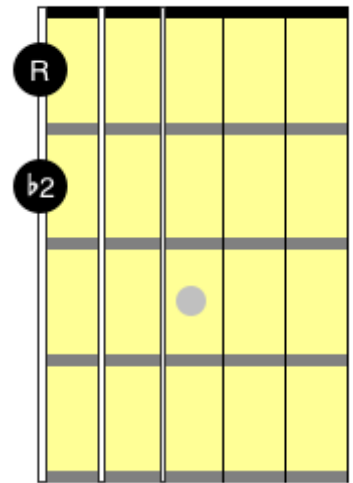
We should start with a basic understanding of how the guitar works. All of our guitar strings are different thicknesses. This way, when we tighten the strings with the **Tuners** to similar tensions, we hear different pitches. The thicker the string, the lower the pitch. The thinner the string, the higher the pitch. The part of the string that vibrates starts at the **Nut** and ends at the **Saddle**. When we **fret** a note, that changes the length of the string, which changes the pitch.



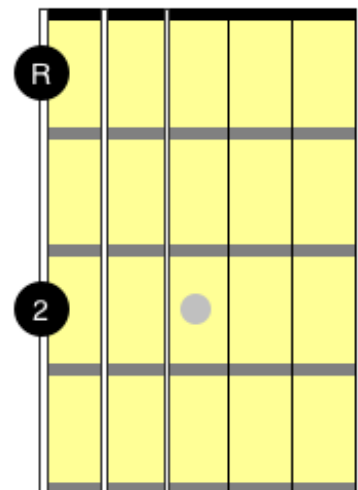
Musical Steps

There are two types of “steps” in music, a *half step* and a *whole step*. You can measure the distance between any two notes using half and whole steps. On the guitar, our frets help us figure out how many steps we are moving.

A move of one fret, either up or down, is a move of one “half step”. This would be the same as moving one key on the piano keyboard.



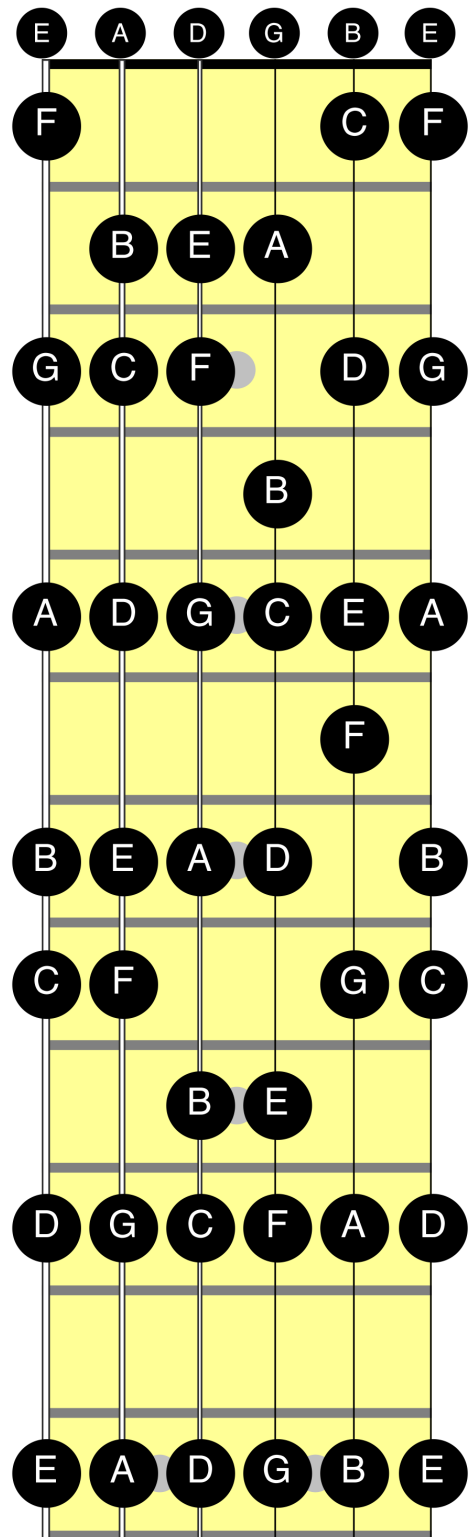
A move of two frets, either up or down, is a move of one “whole step”. This would be the same as moving two keys on the piano keyboard.



Natural Notes on the Fretboard

One thing that makes the guitar an especially tricky instrument to play is how notes are repeated all over the fretboard. On the piano, you have a single key for each note. On the guitar, you can usually play a note in four or five different places!

You can use this diagram as a reference whenever you need to know what note you are playing. The first strings we will memorize are the low E and A strings. These will be especially important as we start talking about scales and barre chord shapes. Over time, we will memorize all of these notes, and even the ones in between.



Rhythm

Notes



Rests



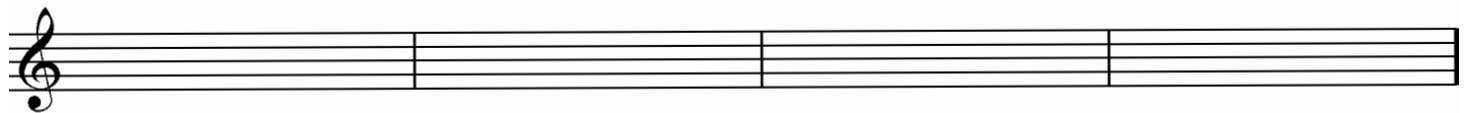
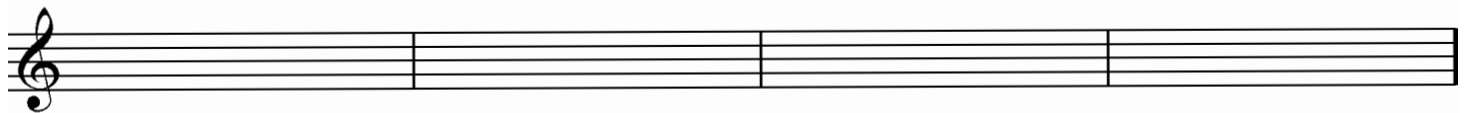
Sixteenth Notes



Triplets (Eighth note triplets)

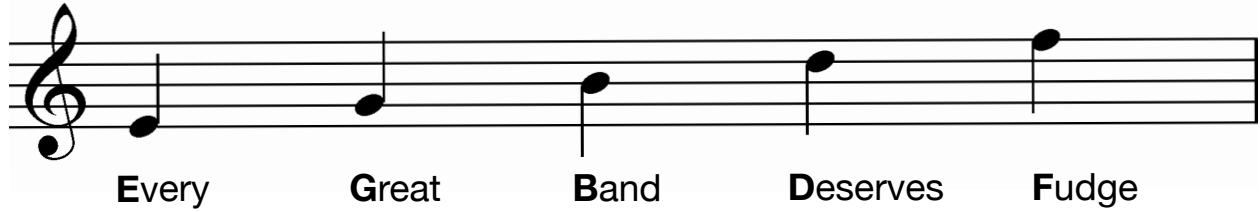


Rhythm Exercises



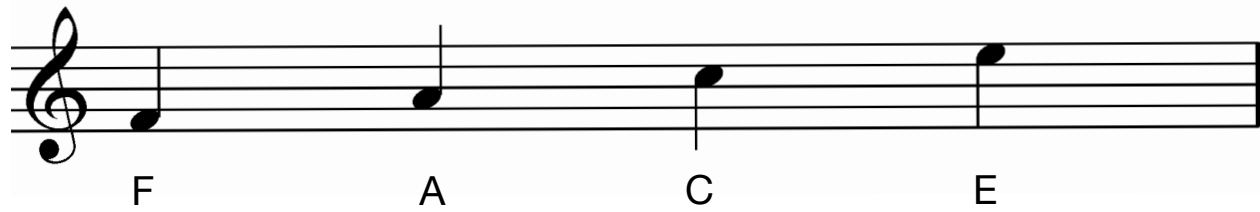
Treble Clef

Lines



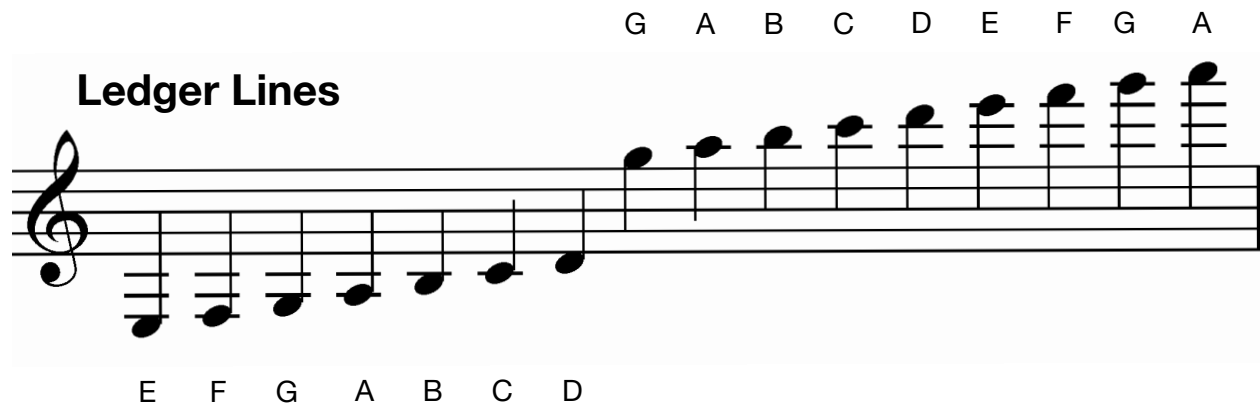
A musical staff with a treble clef. Five quarter notes are placed on the lines of the staff, from bottom to top. Below each note is a word: 'Every', 'Great', 'Band', 'Deserves', and 'Fudge'.

Spaces



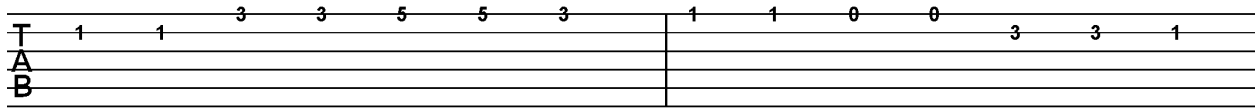
A musical staff with a treble clef. Four quarter notes are placed in the spaces of the staff, from bottom to top. Below each note is a letter: 'F', 'A', 'C', and 'E'.

Ledger Lines



A musical staff with a treble clef. The first seven notes are on ledger lines below the staff, labeled 'E', 'F', 'G', 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' from left to right. The next seven notes are on lines and spaces above the staff, labeled 'G', 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', and 'A' from left to right.

Tablature (Tab)



Tablature is an intuitive notation system created specifically for fretted instruments. There are six lines that represent the six strings of the guitar. The numbers placed on those lines refer to the fret you are supposed to play on a given string. Reading the numbers left to right allows guitar players to easily play the correct notes in the correct order. Stacked numbers are used to notate chords. There are tons of resources and communities online where free tabs are posted for songs and solos both popular and obscure. Unlike standard notation, there is no question about which string or which fret one should play a written note. The biggest downside of tabs is they do not offer a clean and simple way to notate rhythms, so the duration of each note may be ambiguous or challenging to sight read.

If your ambitions include strumming songs around a campfire, playing the blues, taking guitar solos in a rock band, writing your own pop/folk/rock songs, or playing music with/for your friends and family, then I think studying with tabs will be a great fit.

Chapter 2

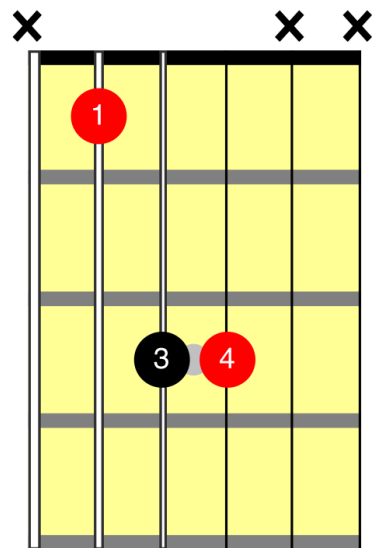
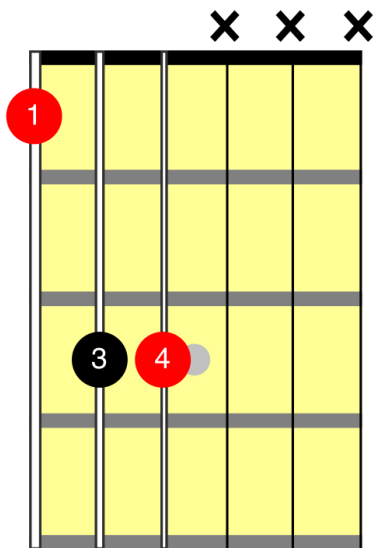
Chords

Power Chords

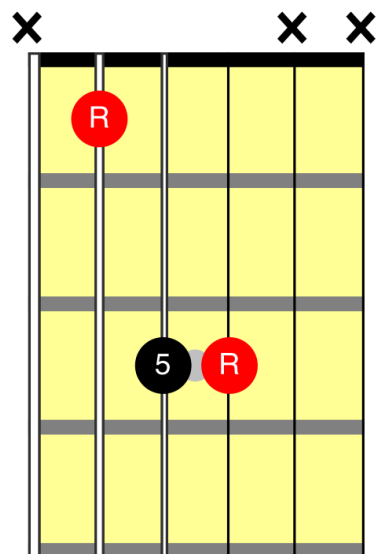
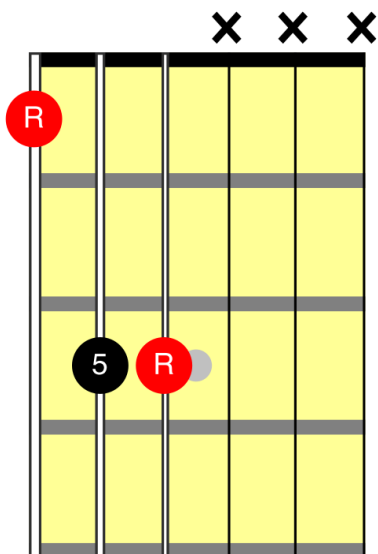
Power chords are simple chords made of two notes, a root and a fifth.

There is only one shape to memorize! The first row shows our power chord shape on two different strings with the *fingering* indicated by the numbers inside the dots. The second row shows the same two power chord shapes with the *intervals* inside the dots so you can see how the chord is built. Power chords are named by their root, which is indicated by the red dot. If a song calls for an F power chord, it will usually use the chord symbol "F⁵".

Fingering

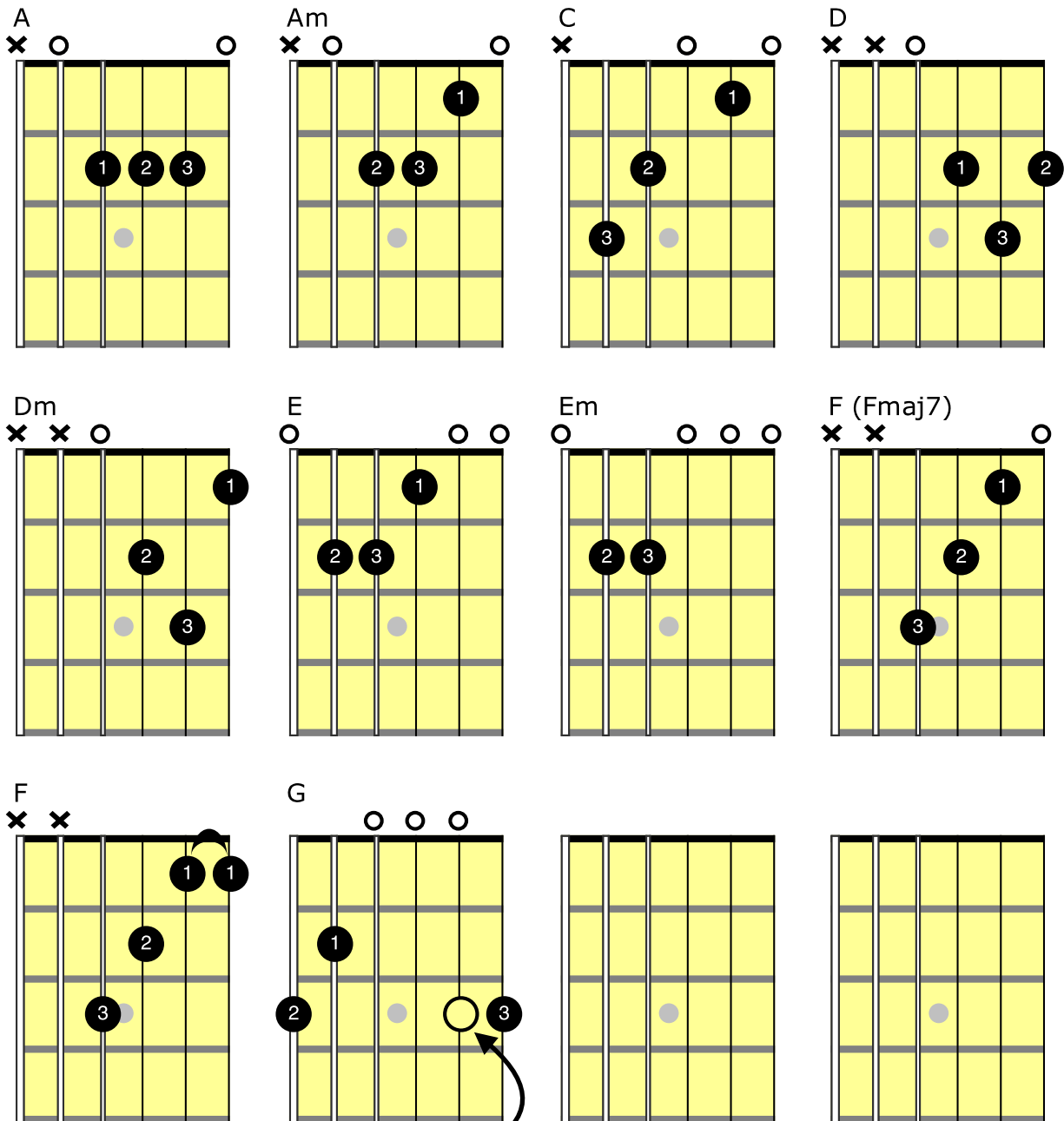


Intervals



Open Chords

These chords are the bread and butter of guitar playing. The numbers tell you which fingers to use for each chord. You will eventually memorize this whole page and learn to switch between these chords quickly and easily.



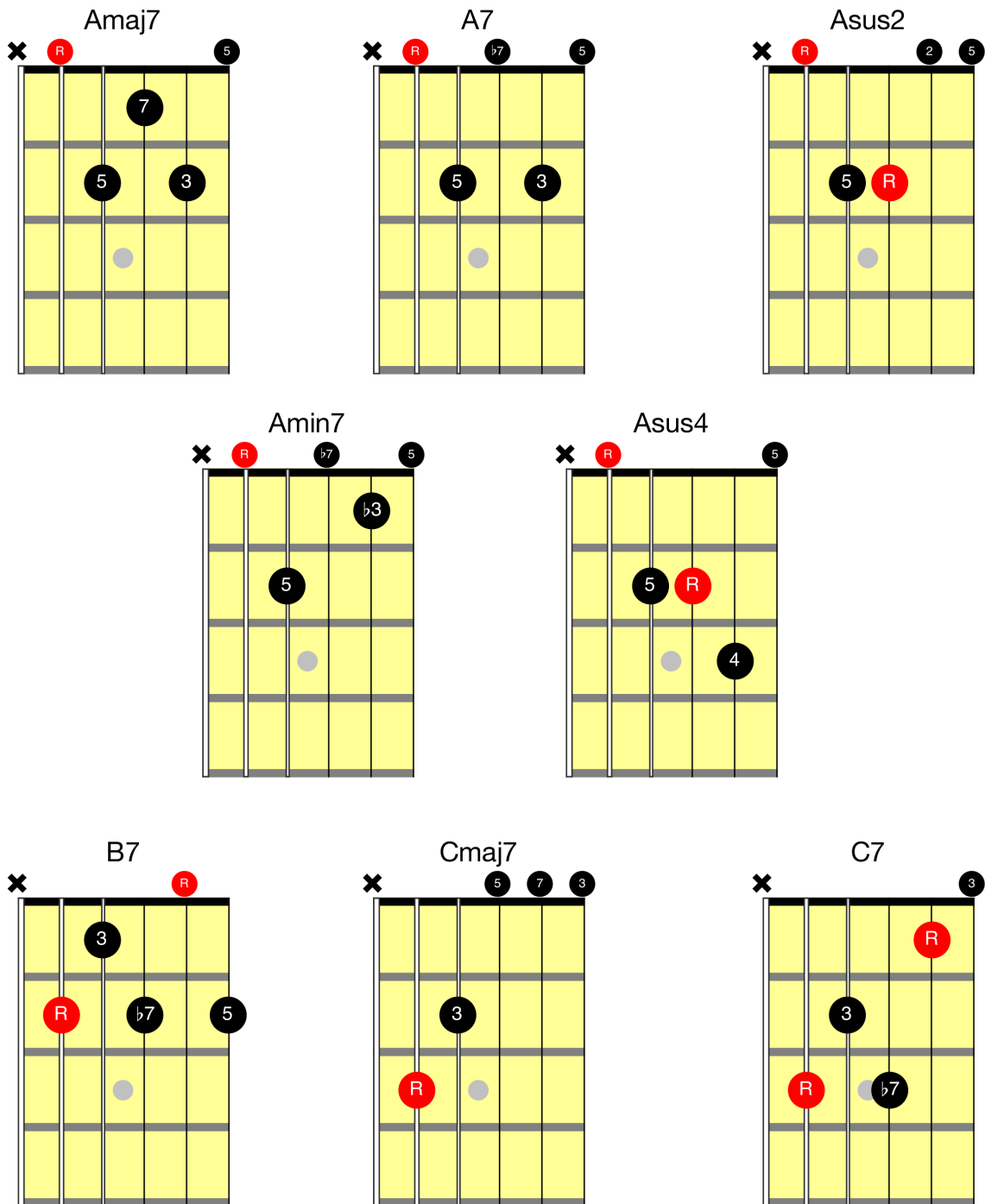
Pick either note on the B string:

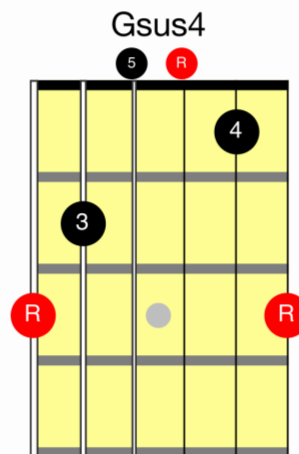
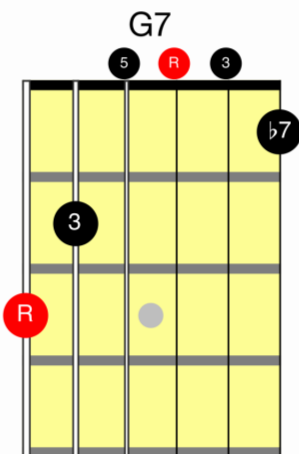
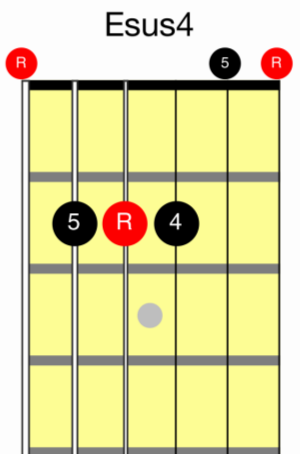
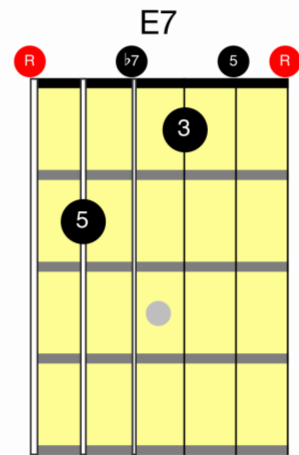
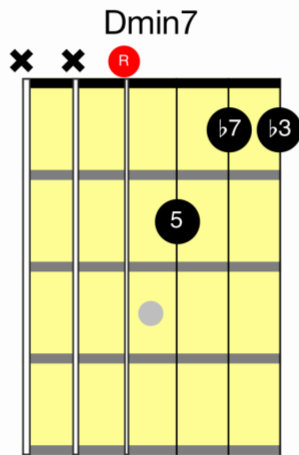
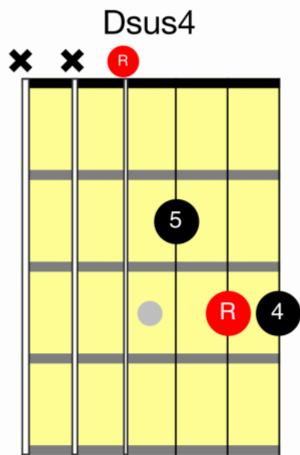
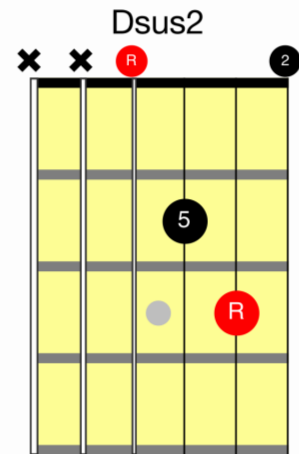
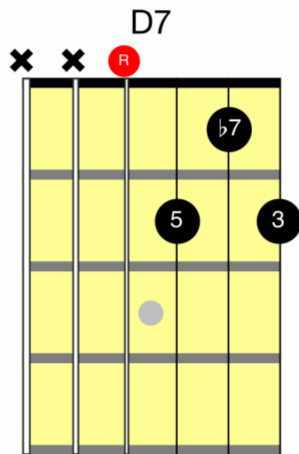
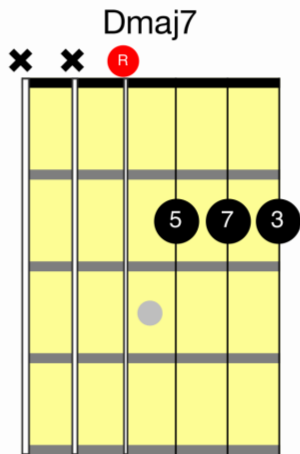
- if open, use written fingering or swap 123 for 234
- if using 3rd fret, use fingers 3 and 4 on B and E

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Intermediate Open Chords

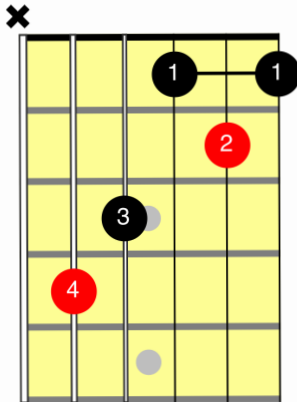
These are common variations on the chords we have already learned as well as some brand new ones. In this section, the numbers will show you how the notes of the chord relate to each other, also known as their "scale degree."



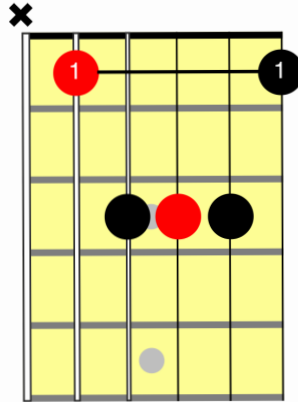


Barre Chords

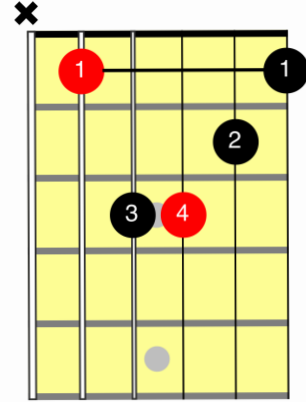
C Major Shape



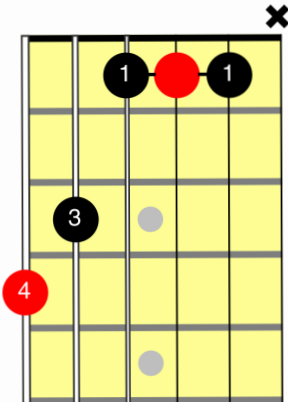
A Major Shape



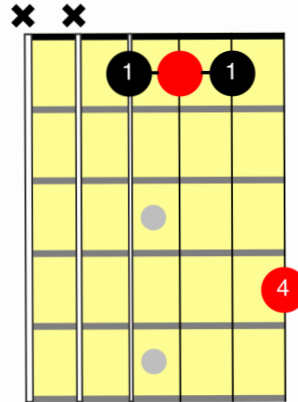
A Minor Shape



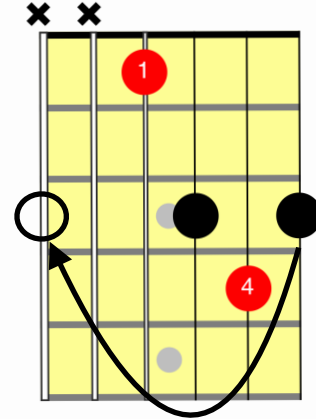
G Major Shape 1



G Major Shape 2

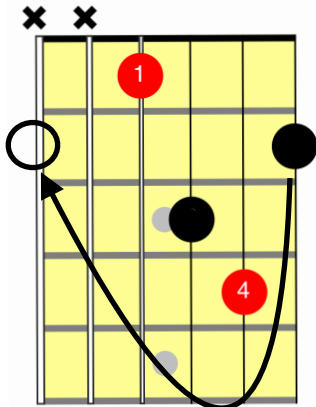


D Major Shape



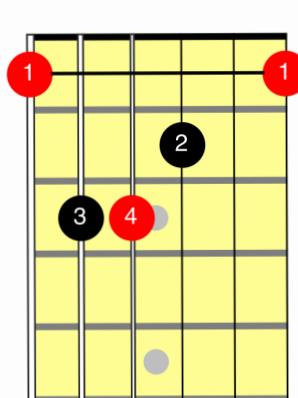
Pick either one, high or low

D Minor Shape

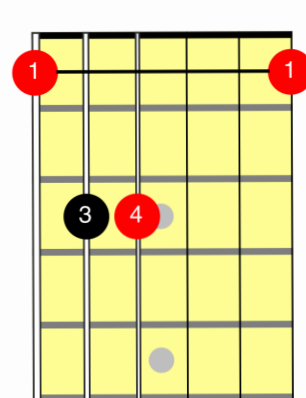


Pick either one, high or low

E Major Shape



E Minor Shape



That's the sample!

All my students get free access to this reference book and all updates.

You can buy the complete book at

www.thomasjennings.net/shop

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