



# Guitar theory

## 5th chords



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- 5 how to play barred 5th chords
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# The fifth chord and power chords

The fifth chord is unusual in that fifth chords don't contain a complete triad, in fact they only have a diad or 2 notes. The fifth chord mostly used as a barre chord in rock, Grunge and punk and when it's used this way it is often called a power chord. Fifth chords aren't used as often in open chord form and therefore it's easy not to be familiar with them when you come across as an open chord fifth chord.

With fifth chords there is no difference between major chords or minor chords, or in other words there is no such chord as a minor fifth or major fifth, they are always just fifth chords.

## The theory behind the fifth chord.

The two notes that make up a fifth chord are, the FIRST (root) note and the FIFTH note.

C major scale

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

| 1st | 5th

Where you strum more than 2 strings, the notes are just repeated in octave positions.

## Why there's no minor fifth chord

The note that changes between a major chord and a minor chord is the third note of the scale. The minor 3rd is a semitone lower than the major 3rd. When you play a fifth chord you don't play the 3rd note of the scale and therefore there is no difference between a major fifth chord and a minor fifth chord.

A major scale

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

| 1st | 5th

You can see clearly that the note that makes the difference between the major and minor chord is the third, so if we remove the third, the two chords can no longer be differentiated between.

A minor scale

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

| 1st | 5th

## examples of open 5th chords

G5

A5

C5

D5

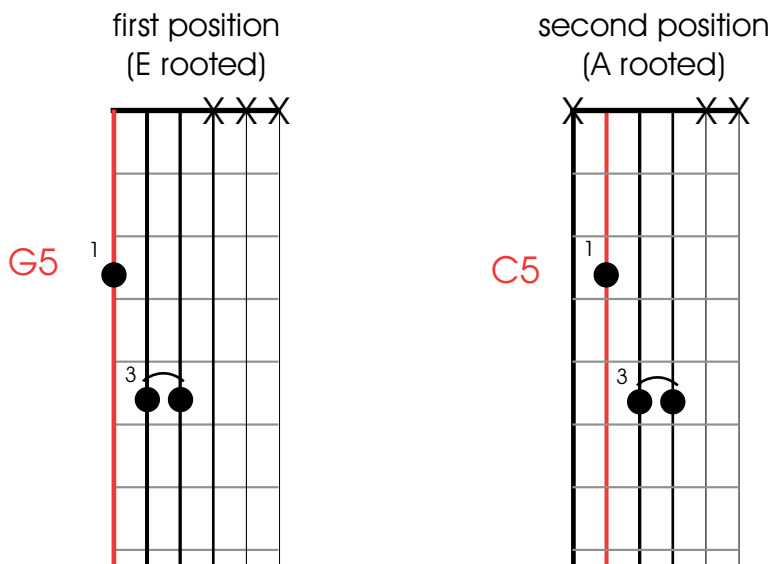
E5

## How to mute strings in the middle of chords.

Let a finger rest on or hang over the string you want to mute. This will take practice because you need to maintain the pressure on the fingered notes at the same time as muting.

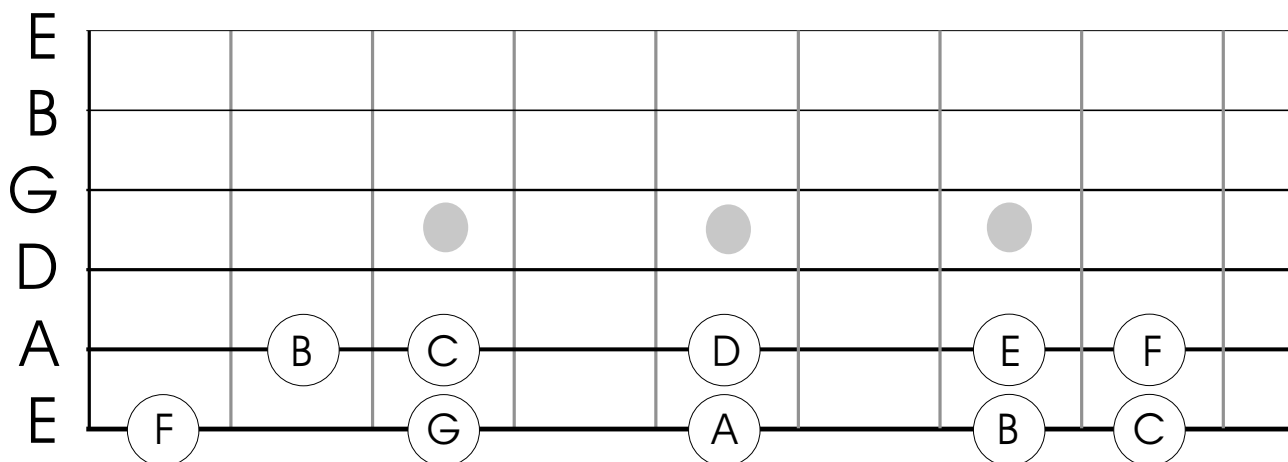
### 'E' string and 'A' string rooted barre 5th chords

The most common 5th chords are barre chords. If you haven't learned barre chords yet don't worry because these are the easiest barre chords to play and learn. Just like when you learn scales in different positions these 5th chords are named after the root notes. The 'E' string rooted 5th chords take their name from the names of the notes on the bottom 'E' string and the 'A' string rooted 5th chord gets its name from the 'A' string.

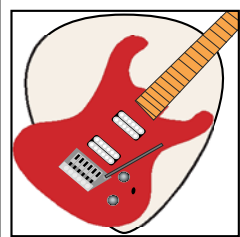


The chords in the examples above are on the 3rd fret and are a G5 and a C5, however if you play exactly the same shape chords in the 5th fret they would be A5 and D5. By learning these 2 chord shapes and the names of the notes on the 'E' and 'A' string you will be learning over 20 chords.

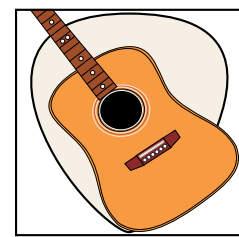
### fret map for the 'E' and 'A' strings



The gaps in this fret map are the sharps and flats. A sharp is a note moved up one fret and a flat is when a note is moved down one fret. This means that most of the blank frets can have 2 names, a sharp and a flat.



# month eleven Week One



## Fifth chords and power chords

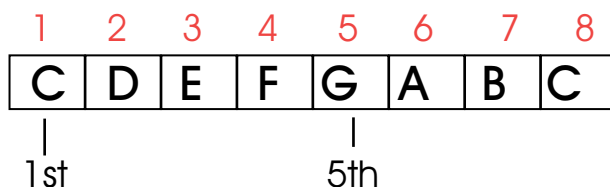
Fifth chords are the chords most used in rock and grunge or just to create power and because of this they are also known as the power chords. We have already used power chords in the rock section of this course, however at that time we didn't referring to them by their correct name 5th chords. With fifth chords their is no difference between major or minor chords and this makes life easier when writing music using 5th chords.

### Fifth chord theory.

The fifth chord only has two notes in its structure, the FIRST (root) note and the FIFTH note, hence the name.

When two notes make up a chord, it is called a diad.

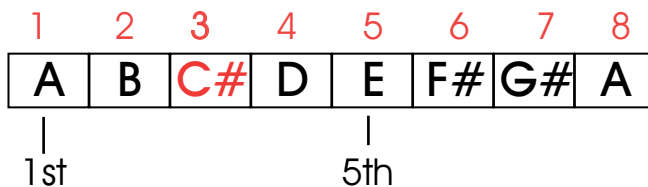
### C major scale



The C5 diad is C and G

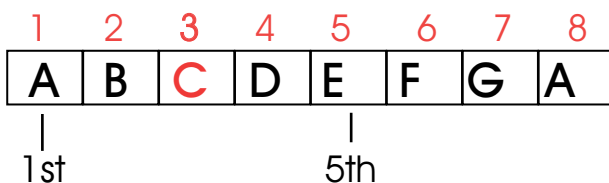
### Why there is no major or minor fifth chord

### A major scale

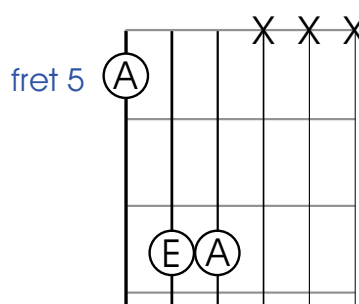
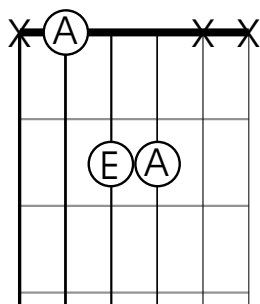


You can see clearly that the note that makes the difference between the major and minor chord is the third, so if we remove the third, the two chords can no longer be differentiated between.

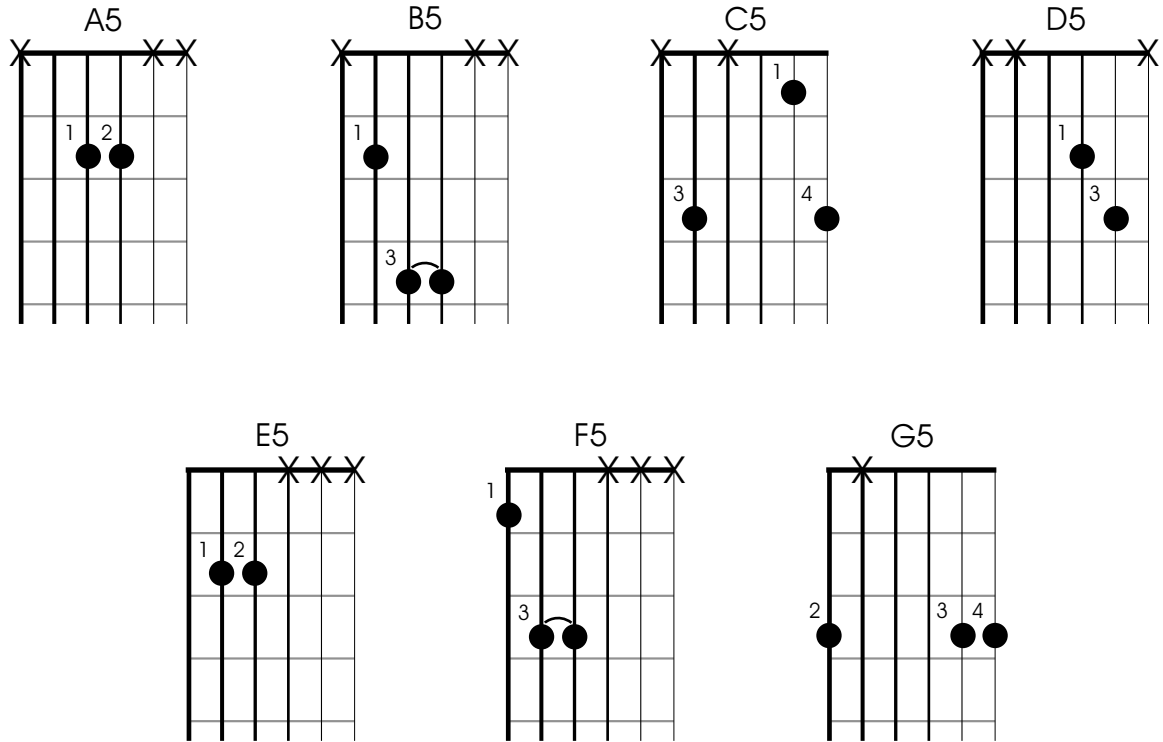
### A minor scale



Between the major and the minor triad the 3rd is the only note that changes however the third is not used in when playing a fifth chord. Below you can see that the he A5 diad consists of only A and E.



## list of 5th chords



With the above G5 and C5 chords you will notice silent strings in the middle of the chord. These notes should be muted. To achieve this, let a finger rest on the string to be muted or allow a finger on an adjacent string to hang over and rest on the string to be muted. This will take some practise because you need to maintain pressure on the fingered note at the same time as muting the string next to it.

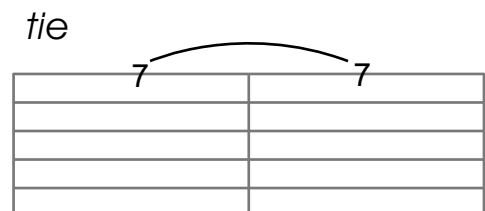
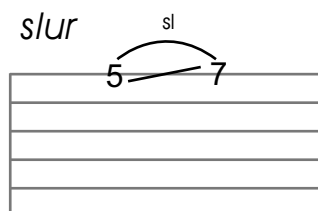
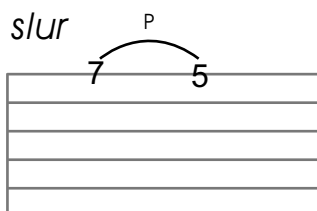
## note

When you play a chord with 2 notes, it is called a diad. This word is spelled 2 ways but the 2 different spellings refer to the same thing.

**diad = dyad**

## The tie and slur symbol

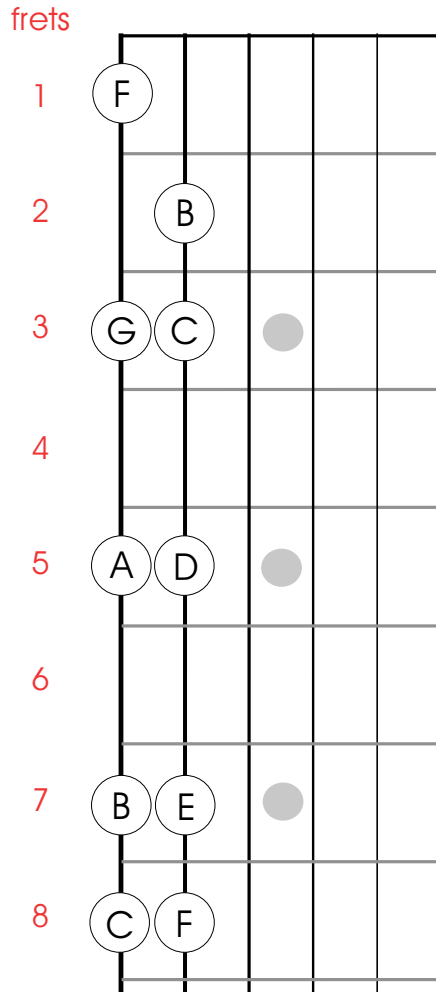
This symbol means that two or more notes are joined together. If a note carries across from one bar to another then this symbol will show that it is one note, and when this happens the symbol is called a tie. If a note is slid or hammered to another note so the guitar string is only picked once for the two notes then the slur symbol will occur.



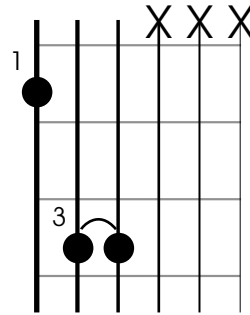
# exercises

## fifth barre chords

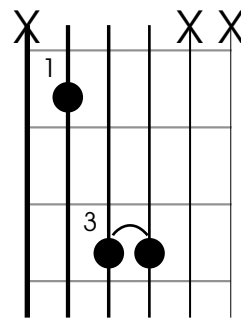
try the following exercises, using barre chords. Remember that the underlined chords are second position.



First position shape  
(E rooted)



Second position shape  
(A rooted)



exercise 1      A5    D5    A5    D5    C5    A5    D5    E5

exercise 2      A5    Db5    G5    Cb5    A5    Db5    G5    Cb5    A5

exercise 3      A5    D5    F5    C5    A5    D5    F5    C5    G5    A5

## note

These exercises are repeated in a tablature form on the next page, however by trying them first without the tablature will help you learn where the root notes are on the 'E' and the 'A' string. This is a really useful thing to learn.



# exercise 1

A5                      D5                      A5                      D5

				7		7	7					7		7
7		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
7		7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
5	5	5	5											

C5                      A5                      D5                      E5

								7		7	7			9
5		5	5	7		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	9
5		5	5	7		7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	9
3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5							7

# exercise 2

A5      Db5      G5      Cb5      A5

		6			4									
7		6		5	4			7		7		7		7
7		4		5	2			7		7		7		7
5				3				5		5		5		5

# exercise 3

A5      D5      F5      C5      A5      D5      F5      C5

		7	7			5	5			7	7			5	5
7	7	7	7	3	3	5	5	7	7	7	7	3	3	5	5
7	7	5	5	3	3	3	3	7	7	5	5	3	3	3	3
5	5			1	1			5	5			1	1		

G5                      A5

								7		7				
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7		7				
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7		7				
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5		5				

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