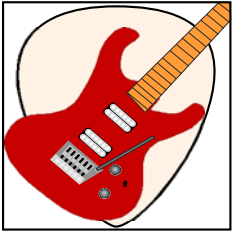




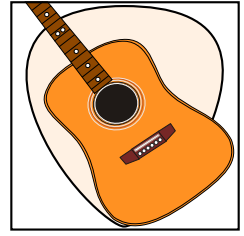
How to play fingerstyle



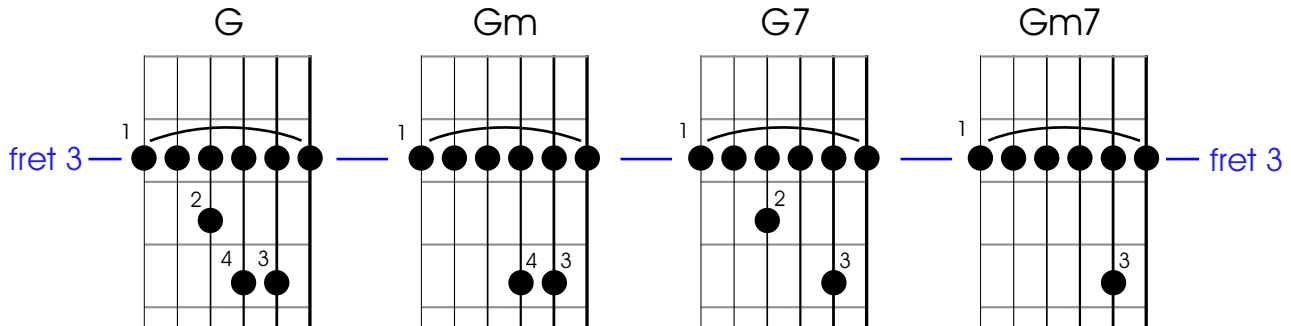
lesson 24



How to play fingerstyle lesson twenty four



'E' string rooted or first position barre chords

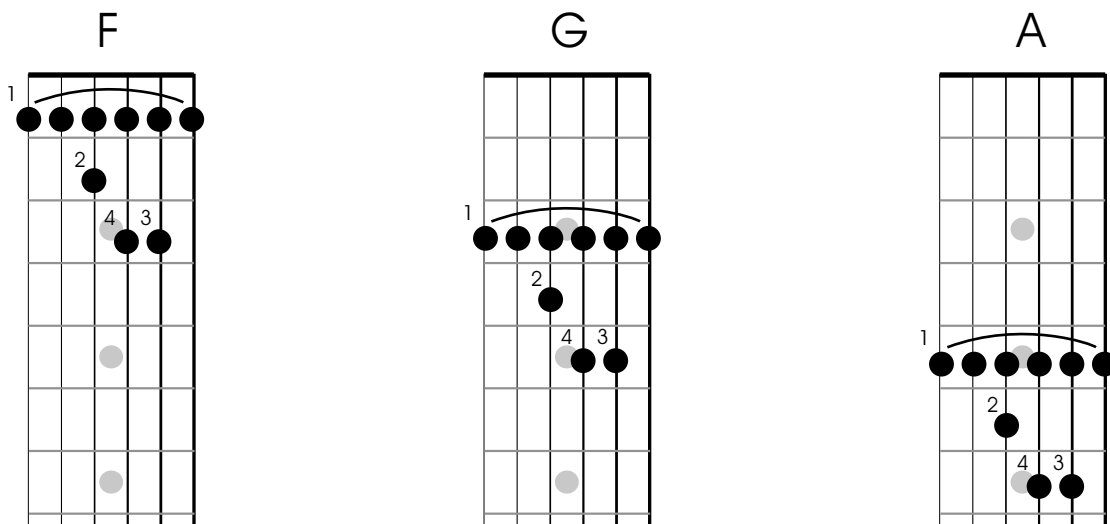


Exercise. Try playing these chords a few times, but if you can't get them perfect, don't worry as you play them they will get better as your hand gets stronger (it may take weeks).

'E' string rooted barre chords are so called because the 'root' of the chord is on the 'E' string. The root of a chord (or scale) is the note that gives the chord its name. For example, Looking at the chords above you will see that the first finger is in the third fret of the bottom 'E' string. If you then look at your fret map or if you can remember the names of the notes on the 'E' string you will see that the name of this note is 'G'. This is why the chords above are all 'G' chords, because they start on the 3rd fret..

If you play one of the chords above on a different fret it will take on the name of the note in the 'E' at that fret. For example, playing the 'G' major shape in the fifth fret is 'A' major, and playing the 'Gm7' shape in the fifth fret is 'Am7'.

Exercise. Try playing these chords a few times.



IMPORTANT HINTS

1. The position of the thumb is important, so if you are having difficulty playing these chords look at the illustrations below and try changing your thumb position.
2. Do not push too hard with the thumb, the pressure should be applied by the fingers.
3. Do not tense your first finger too much, otherwise it will curve away from the strings.

The thumb position



WRONG

The position of the thumb should not be allowed to go around the guitar because the fingers will be restricted.



RIGHT

The position of the thumb should be either in the center of the back of the neck or towards the floor. This will allow your fingers to stand off the fingerboard.

The finger position



WRONG

The first finger should be as straight as possible across the fingerboard and the fingers should be as close to possible to the center, between the frets.



RIGHT

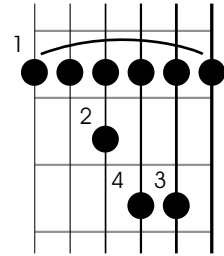
If you can keep your first finger parallel to the frets the tone will be easier to maintain. If the fingers are as central as possible between the frets then you will not need to press as hard on the strings.

IMPORTANT HINTS

These chords will become important to your guitar playing as they appear in so many tunes that they can't be ignored and therefore it is a good idea to memorize them at this stage. To help you memorize these chord shapes you can use the following technique.

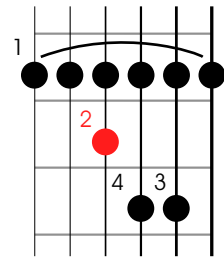
Major

1. Memorize the Major chord shape.
All the other shapes can be found using the major chord shape as a starting point.



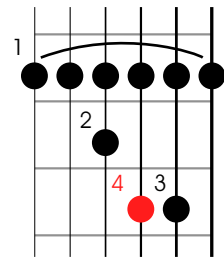
Minor

2. Removing the 2nd finger from the major shape makes the minor shape.



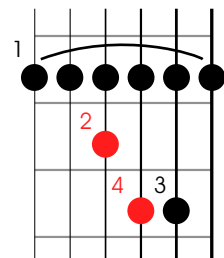
Seventh

3. Removing the 4th finger from the major shape makes the seventh shape.

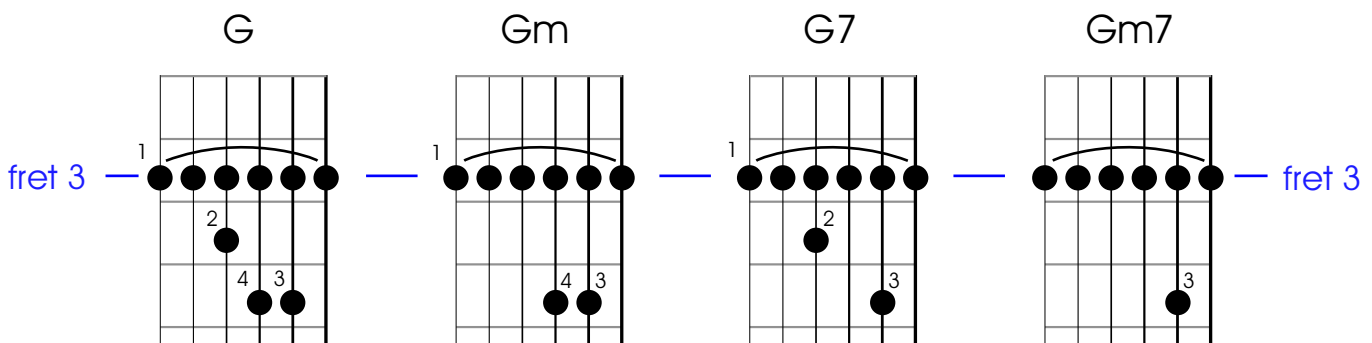


Minor seventh

4. Removing both the 2nd and 4th finger from the major shape makes the m7 shape.
In other words, removing the minor finger and the seventh finger makes the minor seventh.



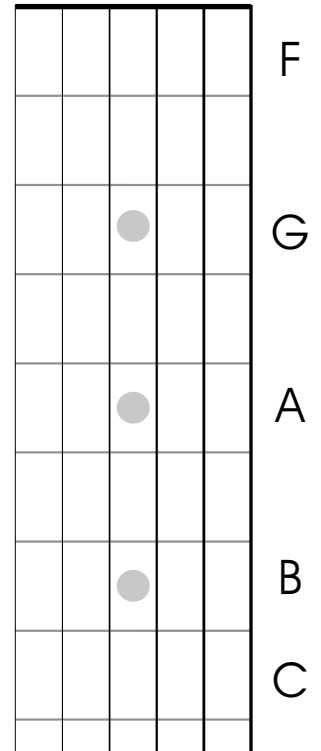
'E' string rooted barre chord shapes



'E' string rooted barre chords - cont.

Once you can play the four barre chord shapes you can easily play them in different positions on the neck, making them very useful. By playing them in different frets you're playing different chords. For example, if you play the major chord shape in the 5th fret it becomes 'A' major or if you play the minor shape in the 5th fret it would be 'A' minor. Therefore by memorizing the positions of F, G, A, B and C you will have already learned 20 new chords. Once you've learned these chords completely you will have 32 new chords that you can easily be memorized.

Practise each of these exercises, repeating them until you are happy with them. If your hand, thumb or wrist starts to hurt take a rest, but don't be concerned because this is quite normal when learning barre chords.



exercises

exercise 1

Diagram 1: C major, fret 8. Diagram 2: Am, fret 5. Diagram 3: F major, fret 1. Diagram 4: G major, fret 3.

C			Am			F			G		
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exercise 2

Diagram 1: Am7, fret 5. Diagram 2: Gm7, fret 3. Diagram 3: F major, fret 1.

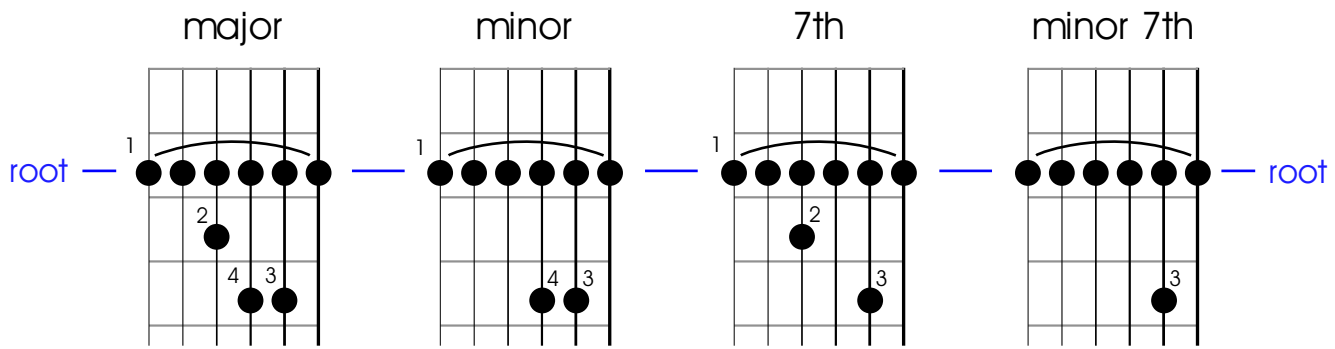
Am7			Gm7			Am7			F		
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exercise 3

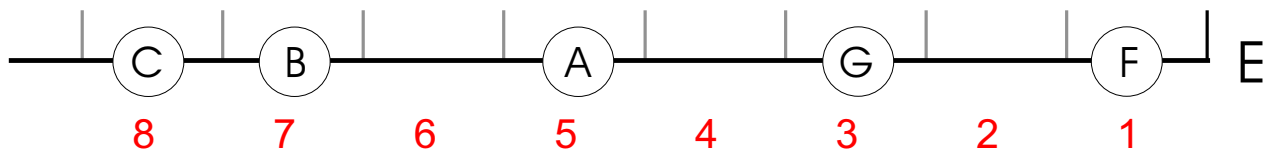
Diagram 1: Am, fret 5. Diagram 2: G, fret 3. Diagram 3: F major, fret 1. Diagram 4: E major, OPEN.

Am			G			F			E		
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1st position barre chord reference maps



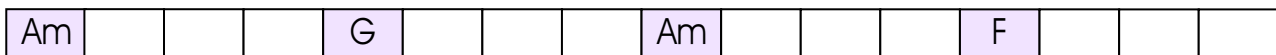
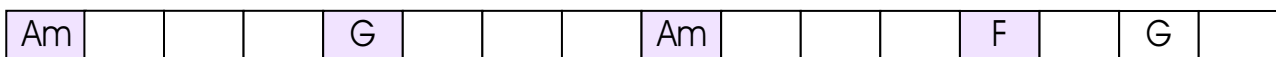
The names of the notes on the 'E' string.



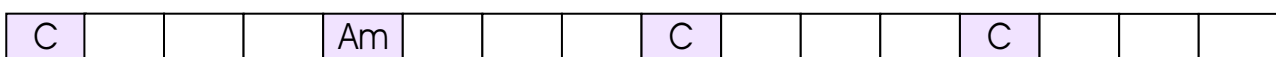
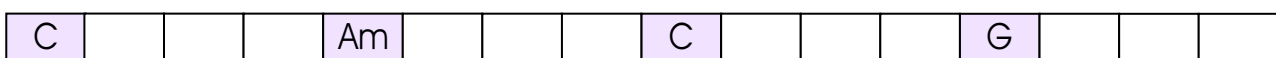
exercises

By remembering the four first position barre chord shapes and the names of the notes on the 'E' string, you should be able to play the following exercises. However for the time being, to help you memorize the chords you should use the above reference maps to play the following exercises. The best way to commit to memory these shapes and fret names is to practise these exercises at least several times.

exercise 1



exercise 2



exercise 3

Bm				A				G				Bm		A	
----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	----	--	---	--

Bm				A				G				G			
----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

exercise 4

Am7				Gm				Am7				Bm			
-----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--

Am7				Gm				Bm				Am7			
-----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--

exercise 5

Am				Bm7				C				Bm7			
----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--

Am				G				Am				Am			
----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--

exercise 6

Gm				Am7				Gm				F			
----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Gm				Am7				F				F			
----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Gm				Am7				Gm				F			
----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Gm				Am7				C				C			
----	--	--	--	-----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

exercise 7

C				Am				F				G			
---	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

C				Am				F				G			
---	--	--	--	----	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

C				G				C				C			
---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

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