

The MIT Live Music Connection
presents...

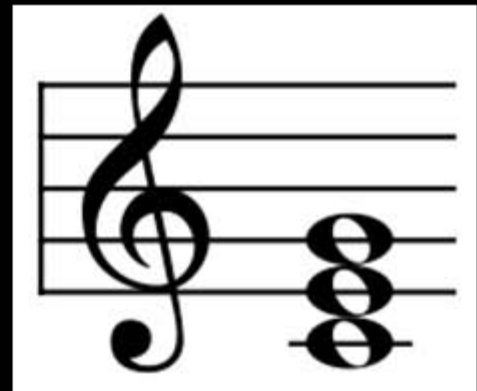
Open Source Music

Lesson 4:

Introduction to Major Chords

What do we mean by “major” chords?

- A major chord is formed from three notes
 - The tonic note is the key that the chord belongs to
 - The other two notes are a 3rd and 5th above the tonic, respectively.
 - The “happy” sounding chords



So...what does that mean for you?

- Chords are the basis for most pop songs.
 - Knowing chords lets you strum a tune and people can sing along!
- Sequences of chords are used to form verses:
A very common one: E – B – C#m – A
- The Axis of Awesome shows us that many pop songs can be sung/played around this.

Chord Construction

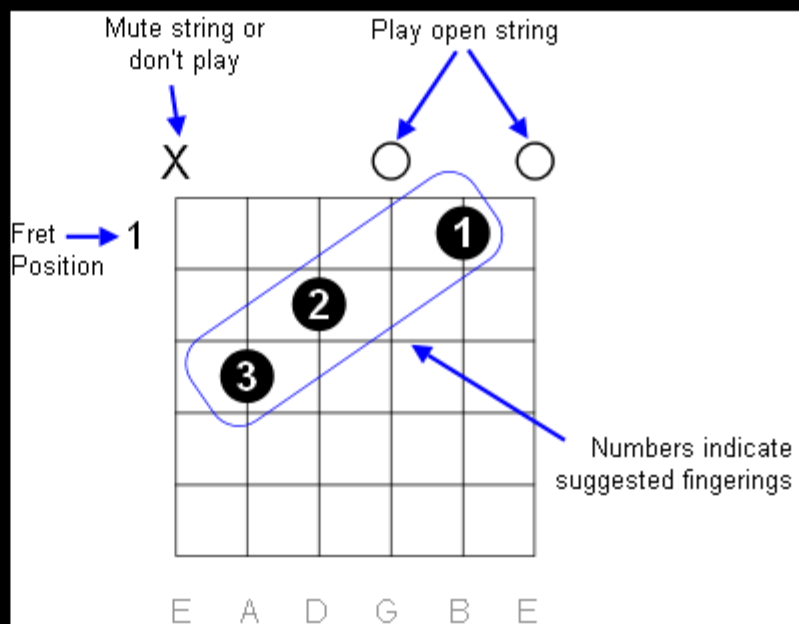
Root Note
A
A#
B
C
C#
D
D#
E
F
F#
G
G#

+

Chord Type, or "Color"
5th (Power Chord)
Major
Minor
Dominant 7th
Add9
Etc...

Chord Diagrams

- Just another way to read music for guitar.
- Follow suggested fingering, they are the most widely used and typically easiest.
- 1 = index, 2 = middle, etc.

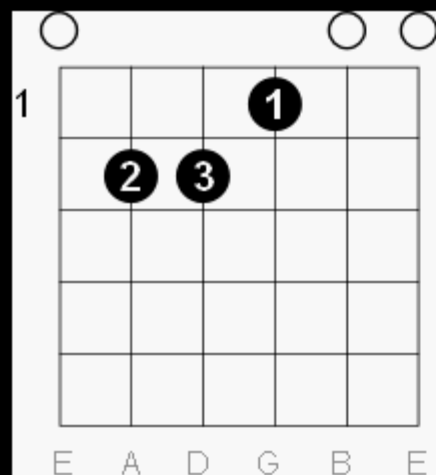


Strumming

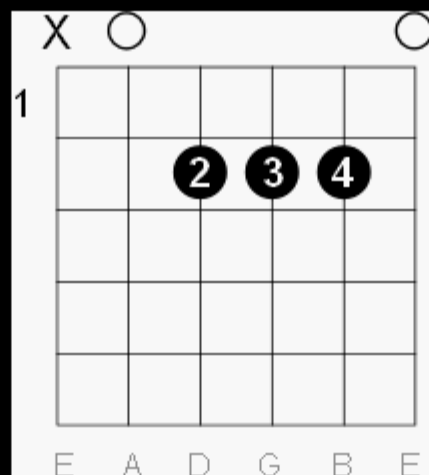
- Strumming differs from picking!
 - Use motion at your elbow (versus wrist) to generate volume on the strum



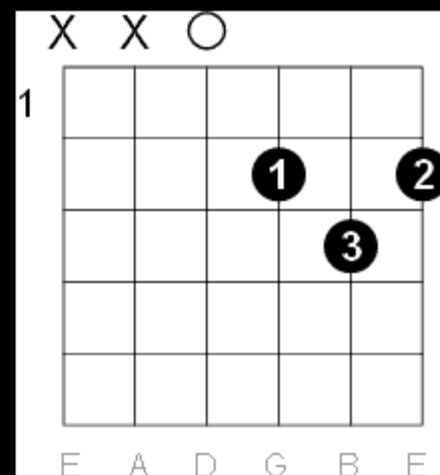
Common Chords, Part 1: E, A, D



E Major



A Major



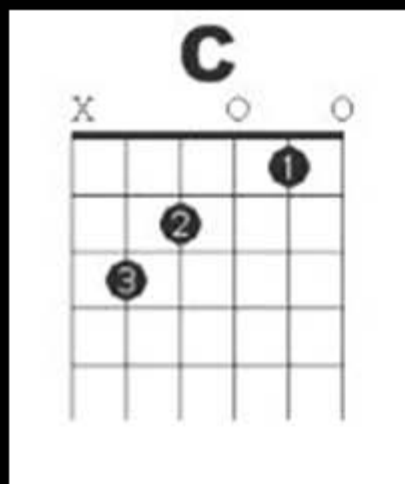
D Major

After you get good at shifting between these chords, try this:

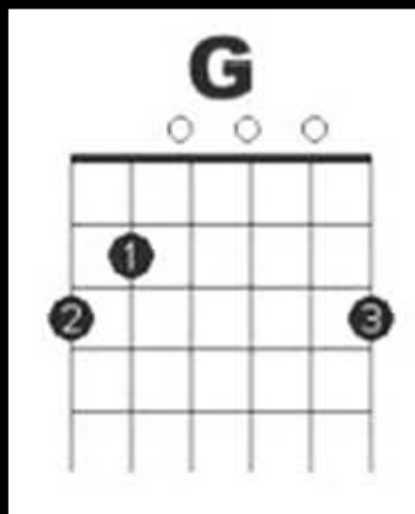
E – E – E – E – E – E – A – A – E

(Doo-Wah-Diddy by Manfred Mann)

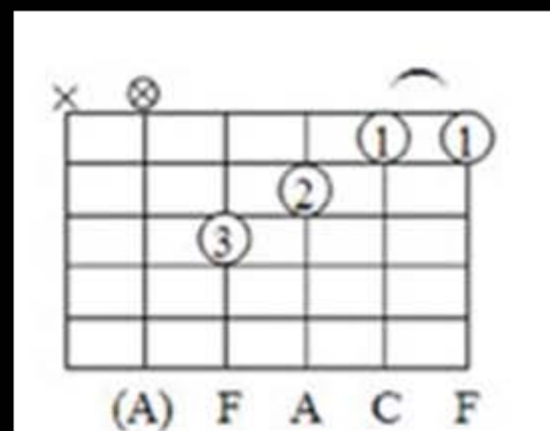
Common Chords, Part 1: C, G, F



C Major



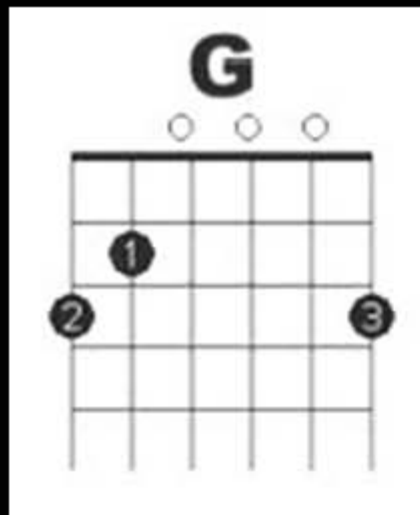
G Major



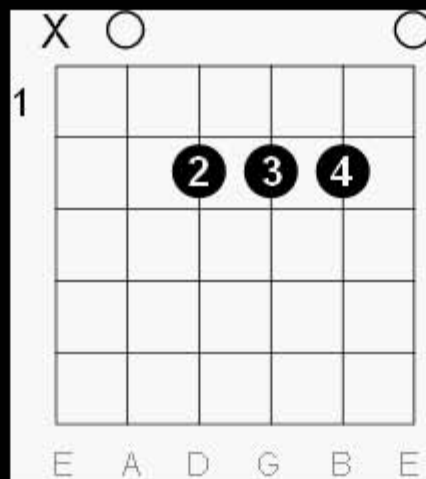
F Major

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

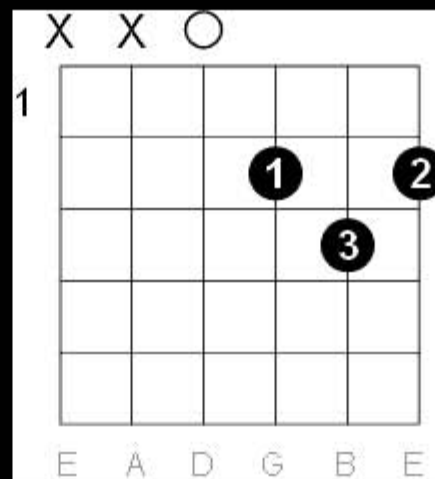
- The whole song is all chords!
- Dx3 – Gx2 – D (intro and main verse)
- Gx3 – Fx2 – G (“if you say that you are mine...”)
- Ax6 (“darling you gotta let me know...”)



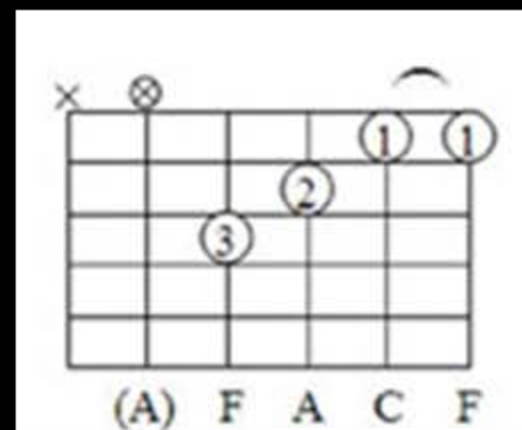
G Major



A Major



D Major

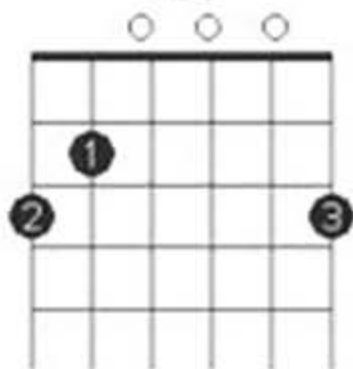


F Major

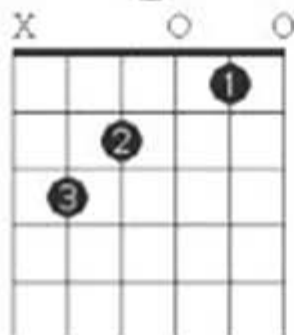
Brown Eyed Girl

G-C-G-D

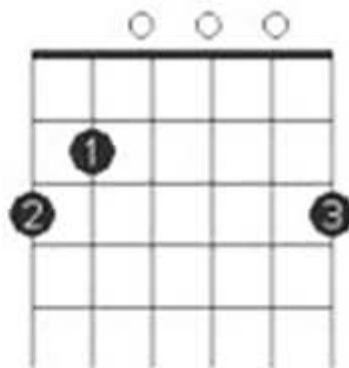
G



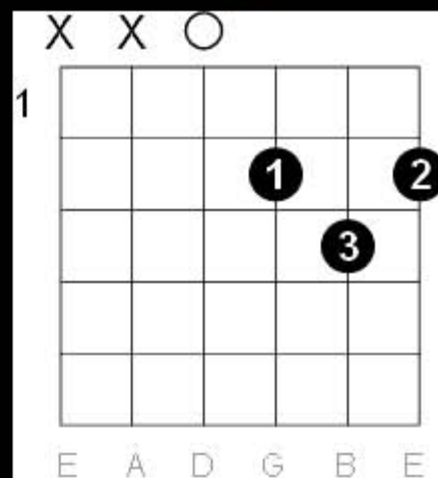
C



G



D

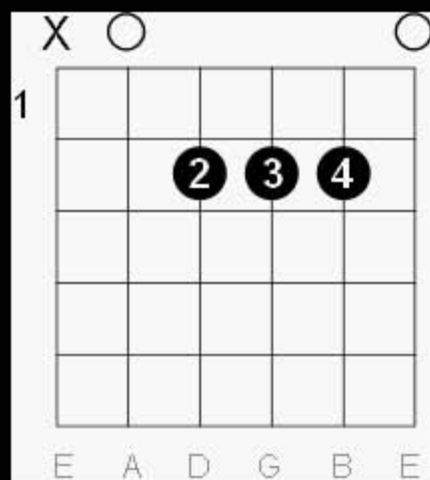


Last Note:

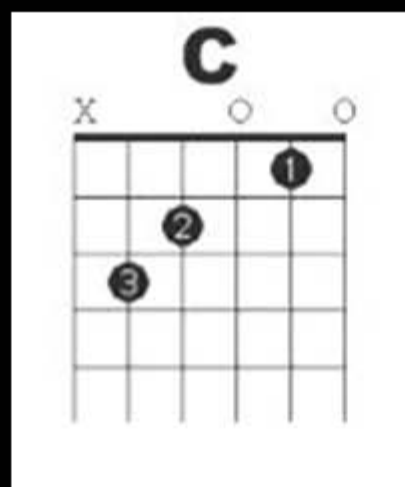
- Chords are frustrating, but keep at it! Practice, even if it's only for 15 minutes a day!
- Pro tip – again, short nails make it that much easier to play guitar, especially chords.
- Once you master these SIX major chords, you will be able to play 80% of all AC/DC songs (with previously acquired skills—practice!).

Lenny Kravitz!

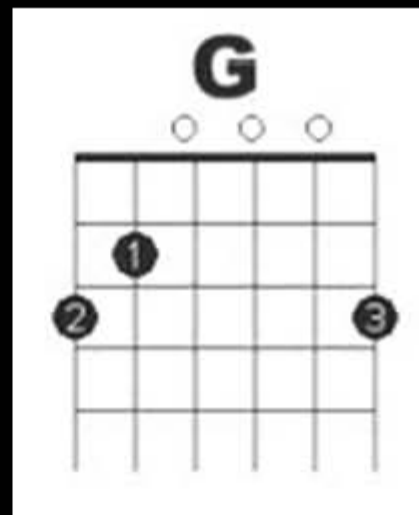
A-C-G-D



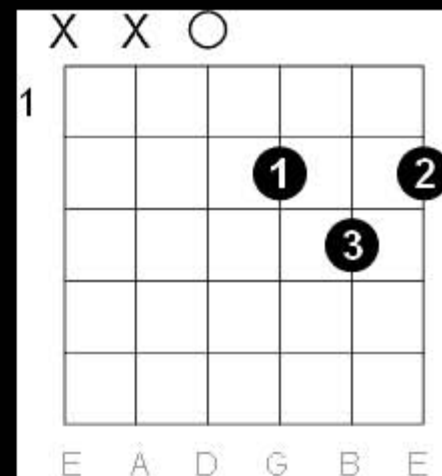
A



C



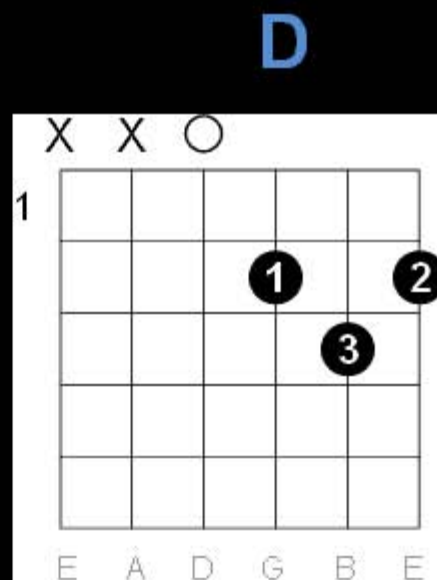
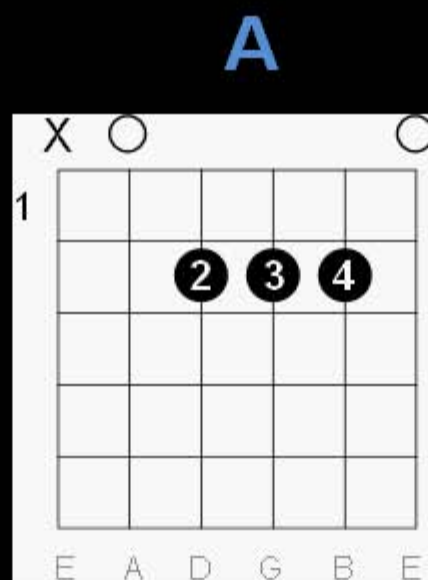
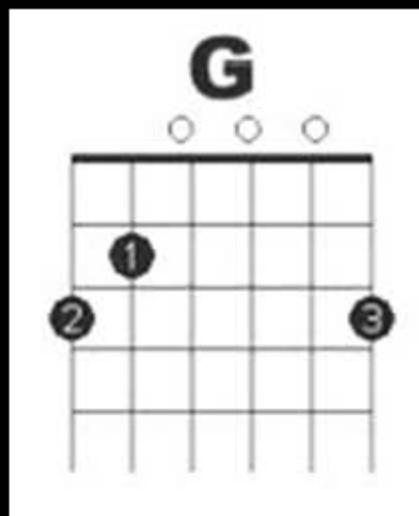
G



D

Moar Songs!

- Highway to Hell – AC/DC
 - Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_5kv8QeBBc



Ax3 – Dx2-G – Dx2-G-Dx2-G-D-Ax2