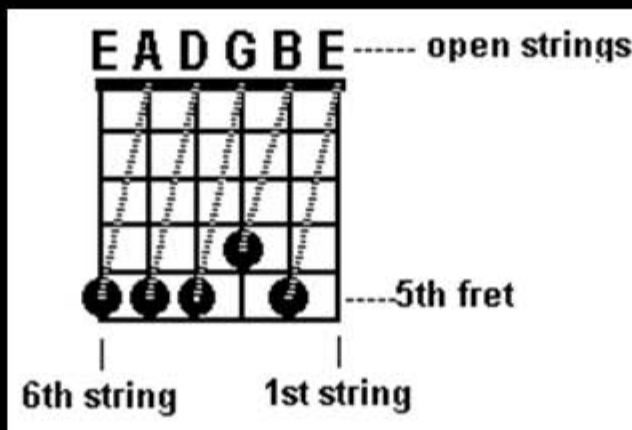


The MIT Live Music Connection presents...

Open Source Music

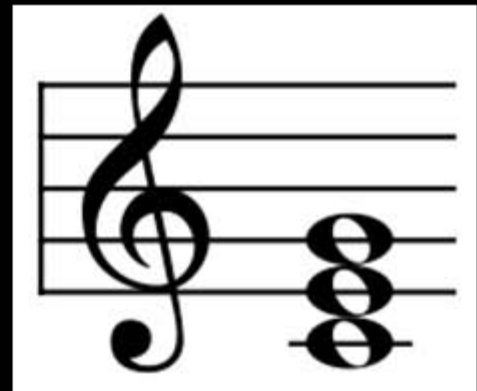
Lesson 5:

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

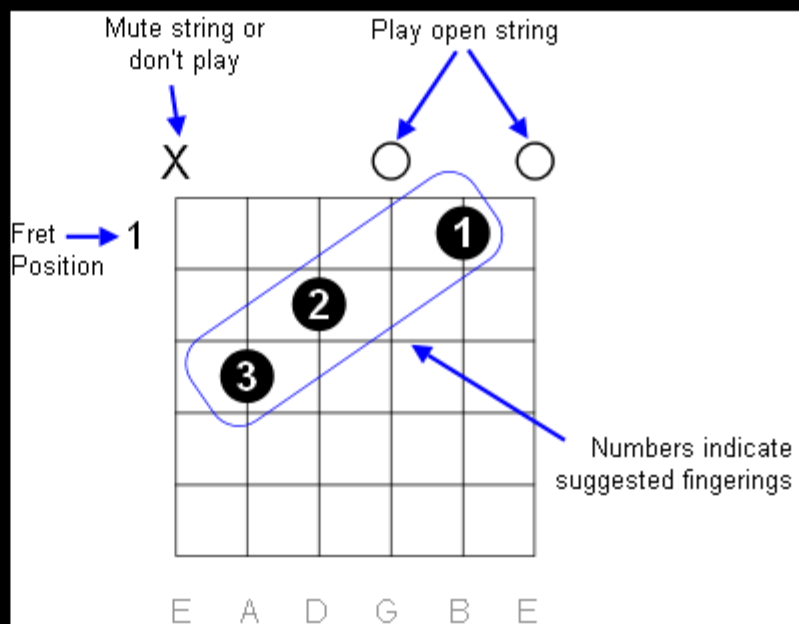
Root Note
A
A#
B
C
C#
D
D#
E
F
F#
G
G#

+

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.

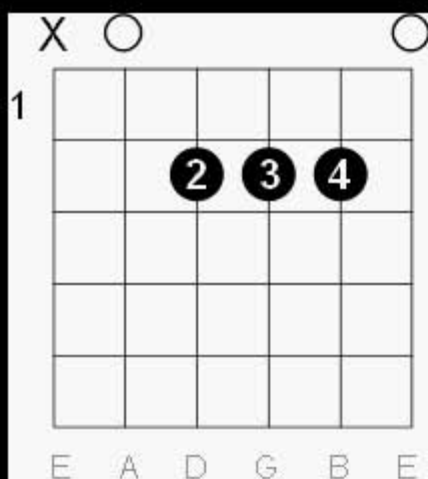


Strumming

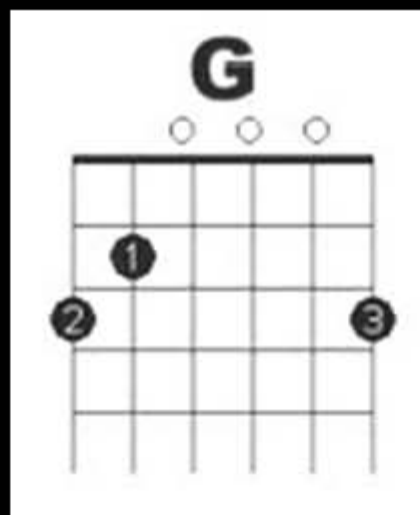
- Strumming differs from picking!
 - Use motion at your elbow (versus wrist) to generate volume on the strum



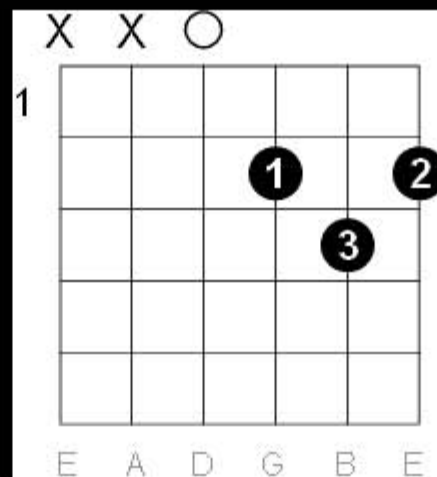
Common Chords, Part 1: A, G, F, D



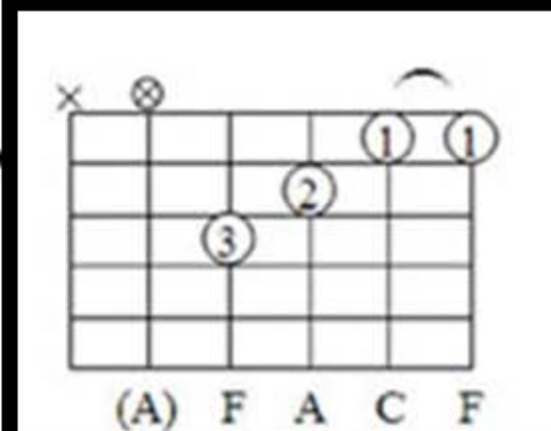
A Major



G Major



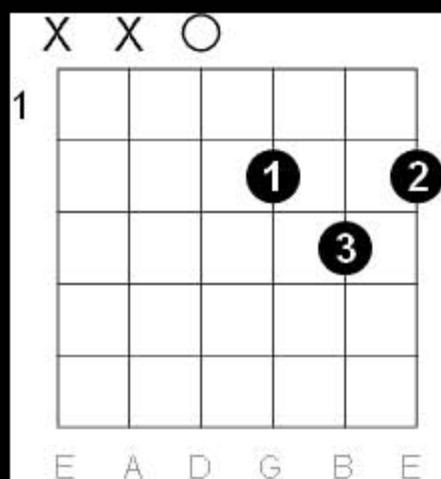
D Major



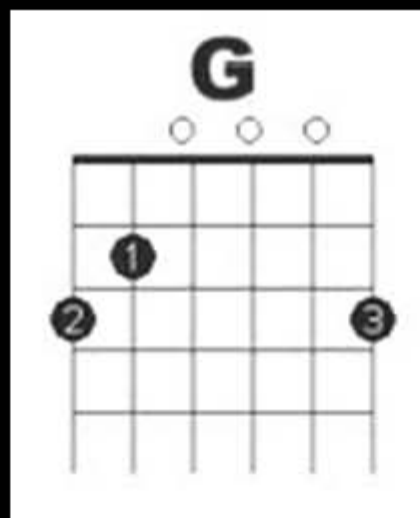
F Major

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

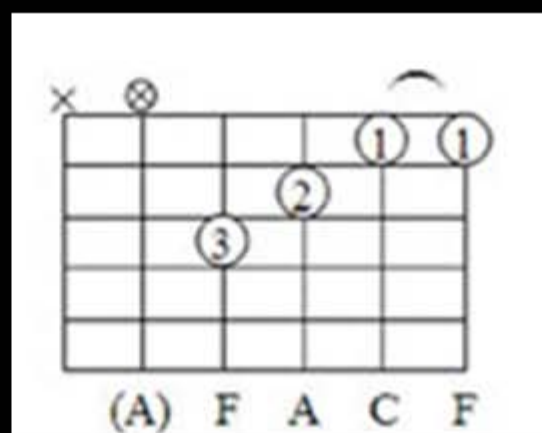
- The whole song is all chords!
- Dx3 – Gx2 – D (intro and main verse)
- Gx3 – Fx2 – G (“if you say that you are mine...”)
- Ax6 (“darling you gotta let me know...”)



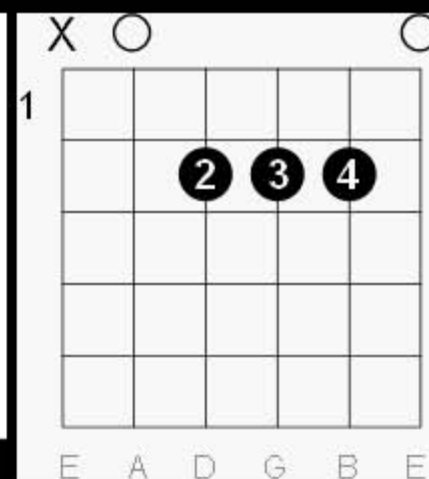
D Major



G Major

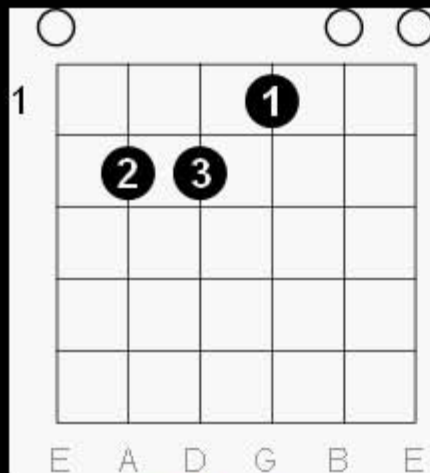


F Major

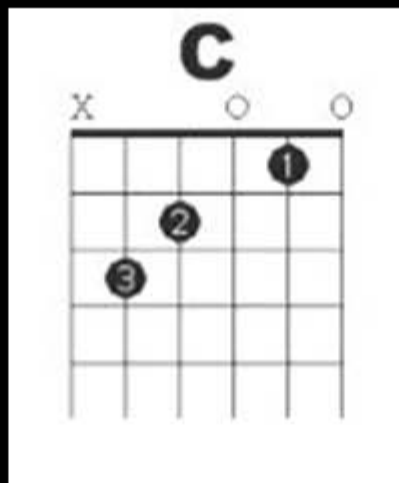


A Major

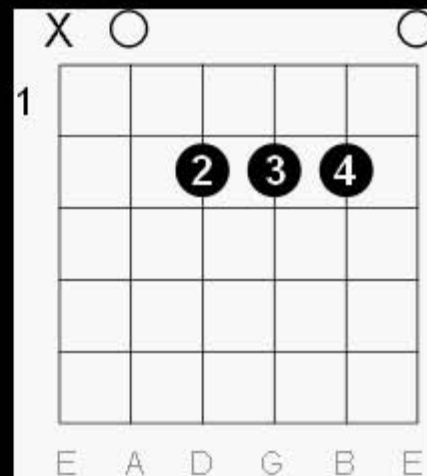
Common Chords, Part 2: E, C, (A)



E Major



C Major



A Major

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

E – E – E – E – E – E – A – A – E

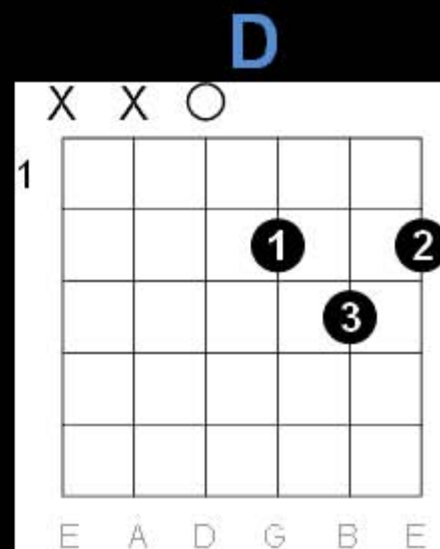
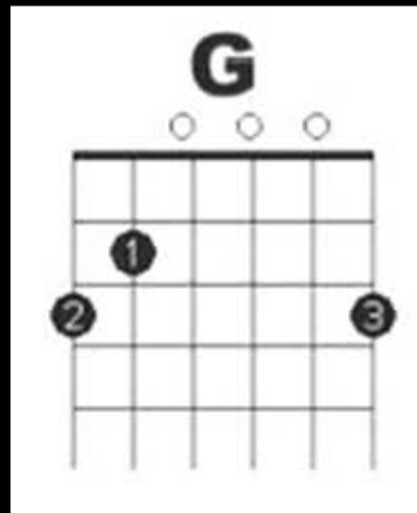
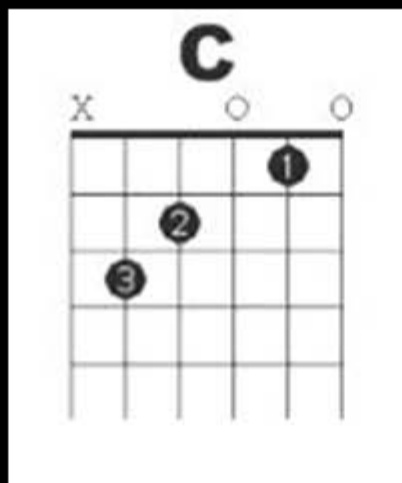
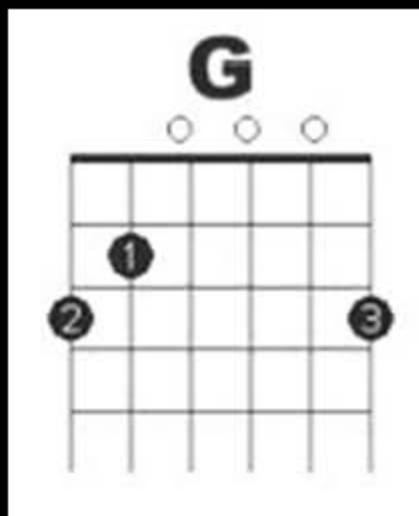
(Doo-Wah-Diddy by Manfred Mann)

Strumming Patterns!

	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
Pattern 1	v	^	v	^	v	^	v	^
Pattern 2	v		v	^	v		v	^
Pattern 3	v		v	^		^	v	^
Pattern 4	v	^	v		v	^	v	

Brown Eyed Girl

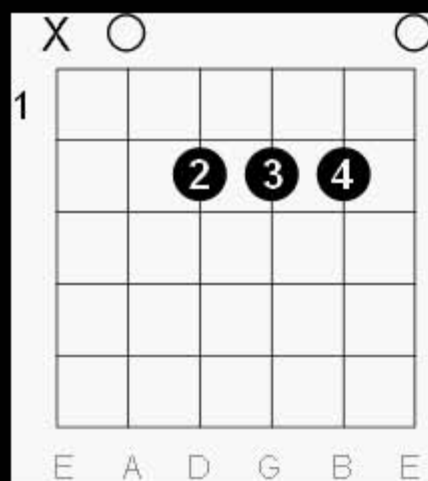
G-C-G-D (pattern 3)



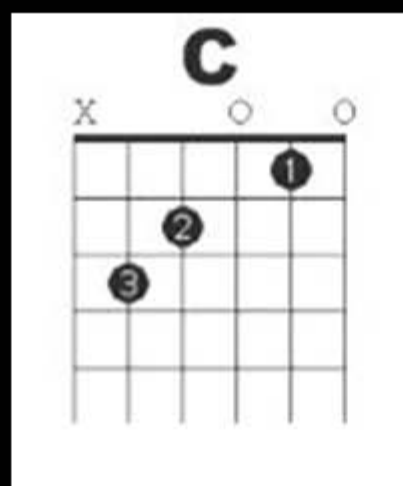
	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
Pattern 1	v	^	v	^	v	^	v	^
Pattern 2	v		v	^	v		v	^
Pattern 3	v		v	^		^	v	^
Pattern 4	v	^	v		v	^	v	

Lenny Kravitz!

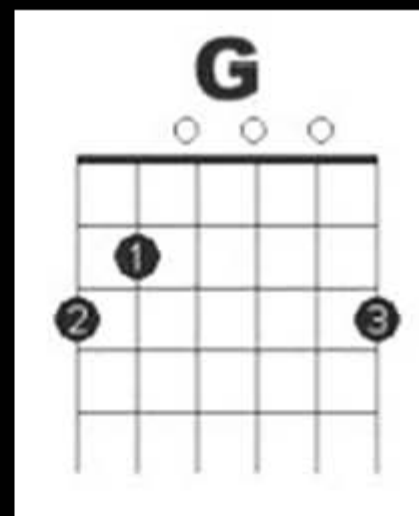
A-C-G-D



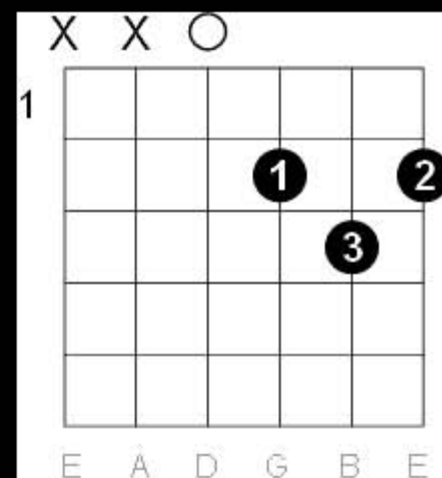
A



C



G



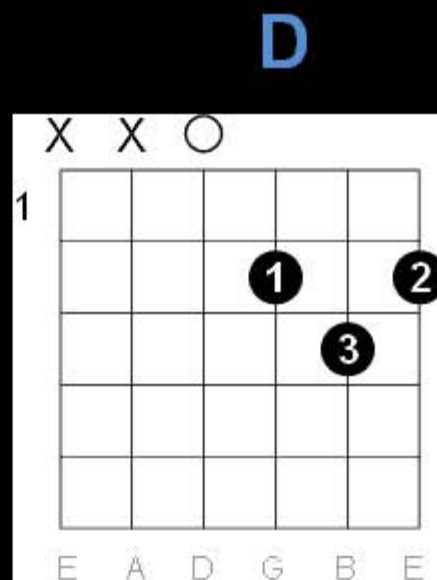
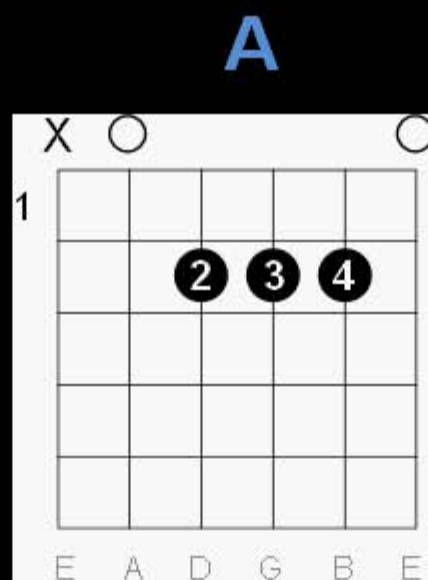
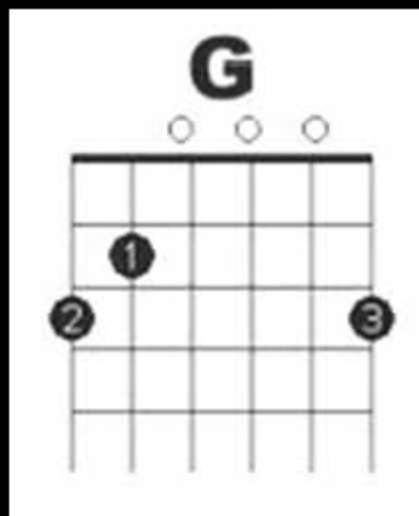
D

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!).

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