

# Music Theory For Guitar

## Part 1

Issues Discussed Here Include...

- Tablature
- Notes On The Guitar
- Repositioning
- Power Chords & Octaves
- Chord Charts
- General Open Chords
- Bar/Moveable Chords
- Basic Rhythm Ideas

### 1. The Very Basics(*tablature, notes, octaves*)

#### A. Tablature

The guitar is made up of six strings. On the guitar neck are lines that are called frets. The first string, is the thinnest string, the sixth string is the fattest string. Tablature simply tells you which string, and which fret to play. The top line represents the first string, while the bottom line represents the sixth string. Lets look at some examples.

```
| -1-2-3-4-----|
| -----|
| -----|
| -----|
| -----|
| -----|
```

This means play fret number one on the first string, then play fret number two on the first string, then play fret number three on the first string, and finally play fret number four on the first string. Lets look at another example.

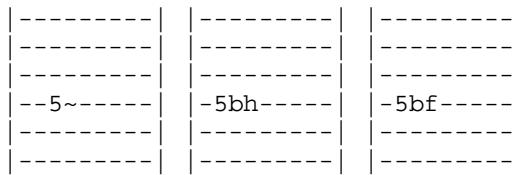
```
| -0-1-2-----|
| -----3-----|
| -----4-5-----5-----|
| -----6-7-----|
| -----|
| -----|
```

This tablature means, play the first string but do not fret any notes. In otherwords, when you see a **0**, it means play that string as an open string. Ok, after that you play the first fret on the first string, then the second fret on the first string. Now look what happens, we have changed strings. So play the third fret on the second string now. Look again, we have changed strings once more. Play the fourth fret on the third string now, followed by the fifth fret on the third string. Again, the string has changed, so play the sixth fret on the fourth string, then the seventh fret on the fourth string, now play the fifth fret on the third string. I think you are getting the point now. One last example.

```
| -----3-----|
| -----0-----|
| -----0-----|
| ---4---0-----|
| -2--2--2-----|
| -0-----3-----|
```

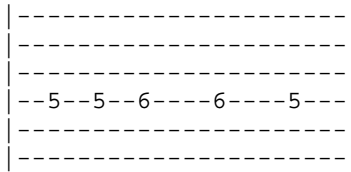
This is how chords are represented. The first chord means play the open string on the sixth string and at the same time play the second fret on the fifth string, you may recognize this as an E5 chord, or an E power chord. The second chord means play the second fret on the fifth string while playing the fourth fret on the fourth string. You may recognize that as a B5 chord or a B power chord. Now lets see if you can figure out the next chord on your own. Lets

go over some basic tablature notations.



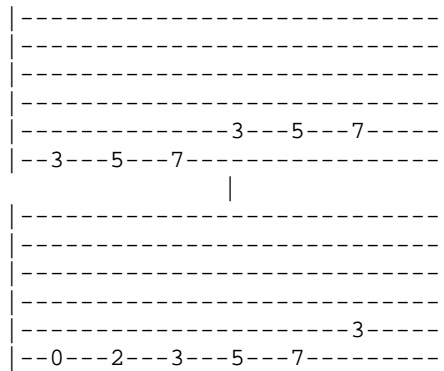
The ~ symbol means to vibrato the note by shaking it with your hand. The notation **bh** means bend the note half a step, and the notation **bf** means to bend the note a full step. Now most people use their own notations and will usually explain it in their tablature what they mean, so there is no point in showing any more notations.

You may be wondering how rhythm is represented with tablature. Well in general, it is assumed you already know the tune in your head or that you have a copy of the tune and can play along with it with the tablature. However, rhythm is usually indicative of how far the notes are apart, for instance



In this instance you would probably hold out the note on the 6<sup>th</sup> fret twice as long as the time the note on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret is held out. However, sometimes the position of the numbers do not represent the rhythm at all and in this case you either need the tune or the accompanied music staff(explained in future lessons.)

What if two guitars are playing? Well in that case multiple staves are presented.



In this case, one guitar would play what's represented on the first staff while a second guitar would be playing what is represented on the second staff.

## B. Notes and Octaves

In the music scale you have 12 different tones, and then octaves which are the same tones except doubled in frequency or half the frequency. For instance the note "A" as played on the 5<sup>th</sup> string open fret, is 440Hz. Now if you play the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, that note too is an "A", but is at 880Hz. That note is considered an octave up from the open string on the 5<sup>th</sup> string since its tone is double. The notation Hz stands for Hertz and means vibrations per second. Ok, let's list all the notes

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

Notice how there are 12 different notes. The # symbol is pronounced as sharp. Therefore the note **D#** is pronounced as **D Sharp**. Those same notes can be written as

C Db D Eb E F Gb G Ab A Bb B

The symbol **b** is pronounced as flat. Therefore **Gb** is pronounced as **G Flat**. Let's look at those notes on a guitar

0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10--11--12-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

Notice that the 12th fret is the same as the open string. This is because the 12th fret is one octave upwards. Lets look at those notes again but instead of using sharps lets use flats.

0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10--11--12-  
E F Gb G Ab A Bb B C Db D Eb E

Hopefully you can see now that a **Gb** is the same as **F#**. You may be wondering now when you should use a flat or a sharp to represent a note, well lets not worry about that now, just understand that you can have different notations for the same note. Different notations for the same note is called an **enharmonic**. Therefore the enharmonic of a **Bb** is an **A#**. Lets look at the notes on a guitar again

12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-  
E F Gb G Ab A Bb B C Db D Eb E

Ok, lets look at those same notes again but written with sharps instead of flats just so you get the point.

12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

And finally, if you haven't noticed yet, these are the same notes as before, but are the octaves of the notes. Lets look at the notes back to back if you dont understand what I mean.

12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10--11--12-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

See, its the same notes. You can easily find an octave of a note on a string by adding or subtracting 12 frets. The octave upwards of the 5<sup>th</sup> fret, would be the 17<sup>th</sup> fret. I figured that out by adding 12 to 5, which equals 17. Now, the octave below the 13<sup>th</sup> fret will be the 1<sup>st</sup> fret. I got that by subtracting 12 from 13(13-12=1). Now that we understand

octaves, lets look at all the notes on all the strings(I will use only sharps instead of flats, but you should now be able to convert it yourself.)

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
G G# A A# B C C# D D# E F F# G

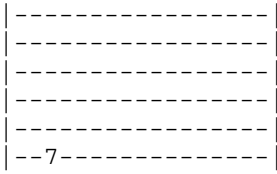
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
B C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-0--1--2--3--4--5--6--7--8--9--10-11-12-  
E F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E

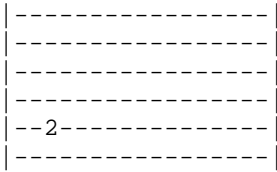
No need to tell you what the notes are past the 12<sup>th</sup> fret since its just the octaves as explained earlier. Now that you see all the notes, you can easily see what the tuning of the guitar is(each open string).

- 1<sup>st</sup> string is an **E**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> string is a **B**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> string is a **G**
- 4<sup>th</sup> string is a **D**
- 5<sup>th</sup> string is an **A**
- 6<sup>th</sup> string is an **E**

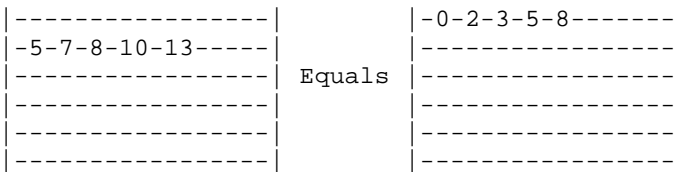
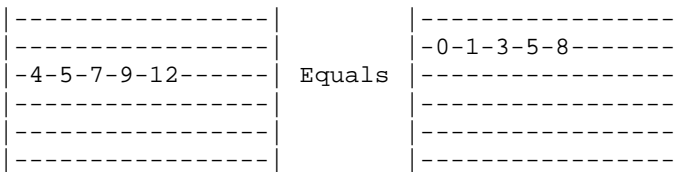
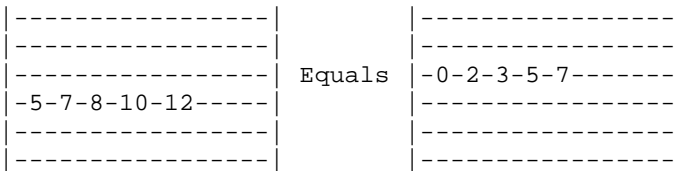
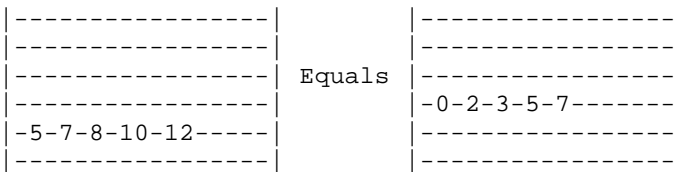
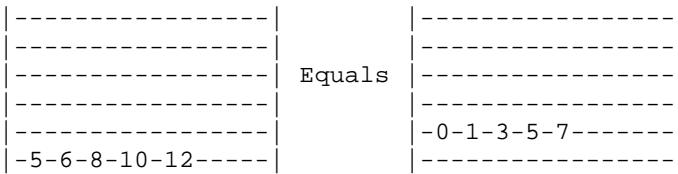
Also notice that the 5<sup>th</sup> fret on the sixth string is an **A**, and that the 5<sup>th</sup> string open is an **A**. This shows you how to tune your guitar. If you have the sixth string tuned correctly to an E, then all you have to do is play the 5<sup>th</sup> fret on the sixth string and get the fifth string to sound the same when it is open. Also, notice that every note on the fifth string is exactly the same as the note on the sixth string 5 frets up. Therefore if you play



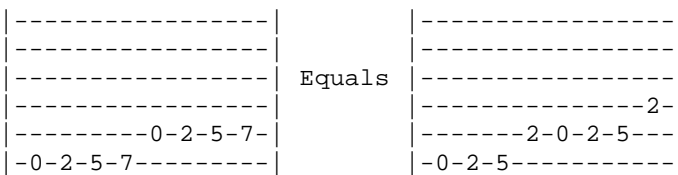
It is the same thing as playing



since it is the same note. The pattern holds true up to the second string, where the 4<sup>th</sup> fret on the third string is now equal to the open string on the second string. But once again, the fifth fret on the second string is equal to the first string played openly. Here are some more examples so that you fully understand



I believe people learn by examples so here are some more



-8-7-3-2-----	Equals	-8-7-----
-----		-----8-7-----
-----		-----7-9-----
-----12-14-----		-----
-----		-----

-----	Equals	-----
-----4-----		-----
-----2--7-----		-----9--7-----
-10-----5-----		-10--7--5-----
-8-----		-8-----

-----	Equals	-----
-----		-----
-----		-----9-----
-----9-12-14-----		-----9-9-12-----
-9-12-14-----		-9-12-----

Hopefully now you understand that you can re-arrange anything you want on the guitar to make it easier to play. However there are some general rules of thumb. For instance, if something is an open string you should leave it as an open string, and vice versa(if something is fretted, you should not change it to an open string). This is because an open string has a very unique sound to it compared to a fretted string eventhough it is the same note. Playing the same notes on a guitar but in different positions is called **voicing**. You can play different **voicings** of the same notes or the same chords. The reason you might want to come up with a different voicing for a chord is because different voicings hold slightly different tonal qualities. For instance, here are some examples of different voicings of chords.

-0-----	Equals	--0-----
-3-----		--0-----
-4-----		--7-----
-----		-----
-----		-----

-3-----	Equals	-----
-5-----		-8-----
-4-----		-9-----
-2-----		-9-----
-----		-7-----

Eventhough those chords are exactly the same and have the same notes, they sound slightly different because they are in different voicings.

Before we go onto the next lesson, here are some terms you should be familiar with.

- **Half Step** - moving one note, or one fret.
- **Whole Step** - moving two notes, or two frets.
- **Cent** - one cent is equal to 1/100 of a half step.

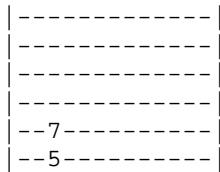
Therefore moving a half step upwards from the 6<sup>th</sup> fret takes you to the 7<sup>th</sup> fret. Moving a whole step backwards from the 4<sup>th</sup> fret takes you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret.

## 2. Simple Chords(*power chord, octave chord*)

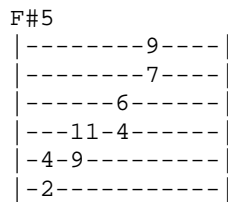
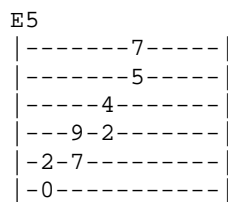
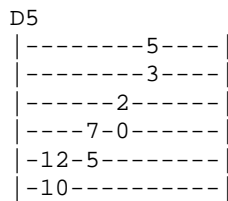
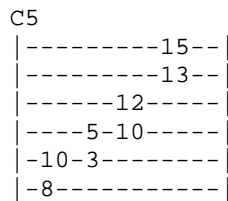
The power chord is one of the most common chords used in music, especially in metal and pop music. The reason it is so popular is because it doesn't contain the sound of a major or minor chord(this will be explained in the future.) A power chord(which is also called a 5<sup>th</sup> chord) is written as a note followed by the number 5. Therefore an **E** power chord is written as **E5**. A **G#** power chord is written as **G#5**. A power chord is created by fretting the note plus whatever note occurs 7 half steps upwards. Therefore if you play an **A5** power chord, you form it playing the **A** and the **E**. Lets see how I got that **E**.

A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

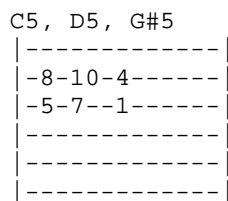
See how the **E** occurs 7 half steps above the **A**. You may be wondering what this looks like on the guitar, so here you go.



See the 5<sup>th</sup> fret on the sixth string is an **A** and the 7<sup>th</sup> fret on the fifth string is an **E**. Now, you might be thinking that this is a pain to figure out the note that occurs 7 half steps above the note of the chord you want to play. Well, you are correct, so here is a trick. To form a power chord on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and second 2<sup>nd</sup> string just follow this formula. Fret the note of the chord, then fret two frets up on the next string over. Therefore if you are playing a **B5** power chord on the fifth string, you fret the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the fifth string since that note is a **B** and then fret the 4<sup>th</sup> fret on the fourth string since that is one string over and 2 frets upwards. Here are some examples.



The pattern should be quite obvious now. See how the first note is also the note of the chord and the next note is the next string over plus 2 frets. What about the 3<sup>rd</sup> string? Well, its almost the same pattern but instead of 2 frets upwards its 3 frets upwards. Why you ask? Well remember that when you tune your guitar, tuning from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> string requires you to match the note on the 4<sup>th</sup> fret instead of the 5<sup>th</sup> fret like all the other strings. Well, here are some more examples.



Easy enough, right! You may now be asking yourself, why I grouped octave chords with power chords, well its because just like power chords there is a simple formula to follow. Lets look at octaves again.

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-5-----|

```

an octave upwards is 12 frets higher

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-17-----|

```

Lets take that octave and reposition it to the 5<sup>th</sup> string instead.

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-12-----|
|-----|

```

ok, lets reposition one more time to the 4<sup>th</sup> string.

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-7-----|
|-----|
|-----|

```

Now, lets combine the octave with its original note.

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-7-----|
|-----|
|-5-----|

```

Looks, exactly like the power chord pattern except an extra string over! This pattern holds true for the sixth and fifth string, however for the fourth and third string, the pattern moves one fret upwards. Here are some examples.

6th string

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-----|
|-12--7--8-|
|-----|
|-10--5--6-|

```

5th string

```

|-----|
|-----|
|-2-3-6-13-|
|-----|
|-0-1-4-11-|
|-----|

```

```

4th string
|-----|
|-3--7-16--|
|-----|
|-0--4-13--|
|-----|
|-----|

```

```

3rd string
|-5-6-9-19-|
|-----|
|-2-3-6-16-|
|-----|
|-----|
|-----|

```

So now you should be able to form any power chord and any octave chord instantly.

### 3. General Chords(*open chords, charts*)

To tell you how to play chords, I first must explain how to use a chord chart. A chord chart allows you an easy way to show someone how to play a chord. Lets look at this example below

```

- - - - -
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

A guitar chart is trying to look like the neck of your guitar. The verticle lines going down represent your strings, while the lines going across represent your frets. Now the string all the way on the left is suppose to be the 6<sup>th</sup> string and the one on the right is the first string. Now, if you have just a chart like this, that means the top line is representing the top of your neck, therefore the next line down would be the first fret. Sometimes if the person wants to say that top line is somewhere else they will mention it by saying,

```

- - - - - 6th fret
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

Therefore, now that top line is representing the 6<sup>th</sup> and the line under that is the seventh fret. As a general rule of thumb, if the fret location is not mentioned then that means it is at the top of the neck. Ok, now lets look at a chord, the **Open C** chord.

```

o o
- - - - -
|_|_|_|_|_1_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_2_|_|_|
|_|_3_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

The numbers on the strings represent what finger you should use to play that string.

- 1 - Index Finger(1st finger)
- 2 - Middle Finger(2nd finger)
- 3 - Ring Finger(3rd finger)
- 4 - Pinky Finger(4th finger)
- T - Thumb

Also you may have noticed the **o**'s above the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> strings, this means play those strings as open strings. Now lets see that chord as tablature

```

| -0----- |
| -1----- |
| -0----- |
| -2----- |
| -3----- |
| ----- |

```

So if you look at the chord chart you see that you play the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the fifth string with your third finger, the second fret on the fourth string with your second finger, and the first fret on the second string with your index finger. Lets look at two more examples.

G Major Open Chord

o o o

```

|_|_|_|_|_|
|_1_|_|_|_|_|
2_|_|_|_|_|_3
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

A Minor Open Chord

o o

```

|_|_|_|_|_1_|
|_|_2_3_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

Therefore those chords as represented in tablature would look like(G, followed by the A minor)

```

| -3----0----- |
| -0----1----- |
| -0----2----- |
| -0----2----- |
| -2----0----- |
| -3----- |

```

If you are still having trouble understanding the chord chart then let me explain one more time in slow motion. Look at the **G Major** chord. The verticle line all the way on the left is the sixth string. Now, see the number 2? That number 2 is located 3 frets downwards, therefore that means play the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the sixth string with your middle finger! Now, look at the next string over(which is the 5<sup>th</sup> string). It has the number 1 on it. That number 1 is located 2 frets down from the top. That means play the second fret on the fifth string and play that note with your index finger since the number one means your index finger. Now, the next three strings, the fourth, third, and second have no numbers on them, but they have little **o**'s above them. That means play those three strings openly. Finally, the verticle line all the way on the right is the 1<sup>st</sup> string. It has the number 3 on it. That number three means you are going to use your ring finger. That number three is also located 3 rows down, or in otherwords, 3 frets down, therefore, all in all, you are playing the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the first string with your ring finger. Once you put all that together you get the G Major Chord. Ok, lets look at some more examples.

X

```

|_|_|_|_|_4th fret
2_|_3_3_3_3
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

This means, put your middle finger on the fifth fret on the sixth string, and lay your ring finger across strings 1 to 4. Also, that **X** above the 5<sup>th</sup> string means that that string does not get played. So lets look at this in tablature notation.

```

| -5----- |
| -5----- |
| -5----- |
| -5----- |
| ----- |
| -5----- |

```

Ok, I think you are getting it now. Lets look at some very popular open chord formations. You should memorize these chords and their names. I will put the tablature notation for the first few chords but will not for the rest.

E Major

o o o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|

```

```

|-0-----|
|-0-----|
|-1-----|
|-2-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|

```

E Minor

o o o o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|
|_6_|_7_|_8_|_9_|

```

```

|-0-----|
|-0-----|
|-0-----|
|-2-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|

```

C Major

o o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|

```

```

|-0-----|
|-1-----|
|-0-----|
|-2-----|
|-3-----|
|-----|

```

A Major

o o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|
|_6_|_7_|_8_|_9_|

```

```

|-0-----|
|-2-----|
|-2-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|
|-----|

```

A Minor

o o

```

|---|---|---|_1_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|
|_6_|_7_|_8_|_9_|

```

```

|-0-----|
|-1-----|
|-2-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|
|-----|

```

G Major

o o o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|

```

```

|-3-----|
|-0-----|
|-0-----|
|-0-----|
|-2-----|
|-3-----|

```

D Major

o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|

```

```

|-2-----|
|-3-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|
|-----|
|-----|

```

D Minor

o

```

|---|---|---|_1_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|
|_6_|_7_|_8_|_9_|

```

```

|-1-----|
|-3-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|
|-----|
|-----|

```

Dsus

o

```

|---|---|---|---|
|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|
|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
|_3_|_4_|_5_|_6_|
|_4_|_5_|_6_|_7_|
|_5_|_6_|_7_|_8_|

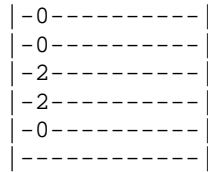
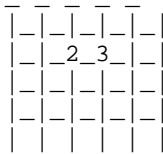
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```

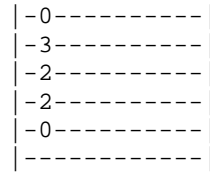
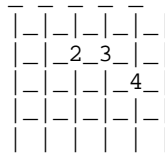
|-0-----|
|-3-----|
|-2-----|
|-0-----|
|-----|
|-----|

```

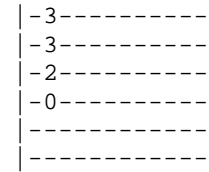
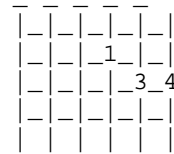
Asus  
o o o



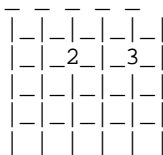
Asus4  
o o



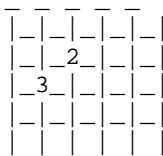
Dsus4  
o



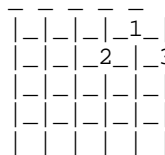
A7  
o o o



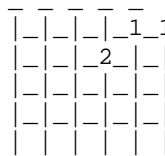
C Maj7  
o o o



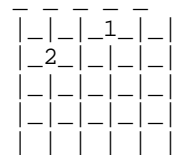
D7  
o



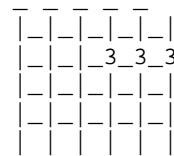
D Maj7  
o



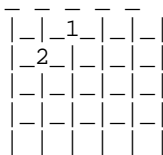
E7  
o o o o



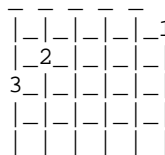
D Min7  
o



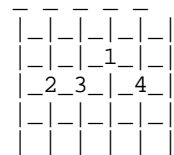
B+  
o o o



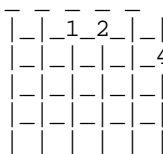
G7  
o o o



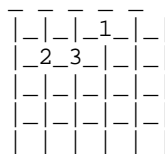
F6  
X o X



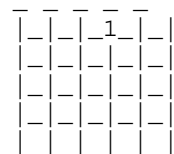
B6  
o



E/B  
X o o



E/G#  
X X X o o



Thats enough chords for now, there are thousands of chords.

## 4. Bar Chords/Moveable Chords(*formations*)

Another type of chord is the bar chord. Its probably one of the most widely used chords because once you master them you can play almost any chord you come across. But before we get to bar chords lets define the word **root note**. The root note is the dominate note or the dominate sound of the chord. For instance, with the **C Major** chord,

the root note is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the 5<sup>th</sup> string since that note is a C. Ok, back to the topic at hand!!! Now, bar chords are also sometimes called moveable chords, because you can move them anywhere on the neck of the guitar and get the same chord. Lets look at an example of a bar chord, lets say the G Major Bar Chord.

G Major

```

_ _ _ _ _ 2nd fret
1_1_1_1_1_1
|_|_|_2_|_| |
|_3_4_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

|--3-----|
|--3-----|
|--4-----|
|--5-----|
|--5-----|
|--3-----|

```

To form that chord you lay your first finger across the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret and make sure it is pushing down all the strings, then lay your other fingers in the correct positions. This type of chord is hard for beginners so you should try and practice by doing this

```

|--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----|
|--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----|
|--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----|
|-----| |--5-----| |--5-----| |--5-----|
|-----| |-----| |--5-----| |--5-----|
|-----| |-----| |-----| |--5-----|

```

First try laying(barring) your index finger across the first three strings and make sure all the notes ring out nicely. Try moving around to different frets to make sure you have it good. After you master that, try laying your index finger across 4 strings and make sure each note rings out clearly. Again try it on many different frets. Again, continue this until you are able to do all six strings and have all notes ring out nicely. Now, here is the nice thing about bar chords, once you know the formation, you can move it anywhere you want. For instance, a major chord with the root note on the sixth string has the formation

```

_ _ _ _ _
1_1_1_1_1_1
|_|_|_2_|_| |
|_3_4_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

```

You can put that formation anywhere you want and get a major chord. If you start it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret you get a G Major chord since the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret on the sixth string is a G. If you put it on the 7<sup>th</sup> fret you get a B Major chord. If you are not following, here are some examples.

A Major	C Major	F Major	F# Major
--5-----	--8-----	--1-----	--2-----
--5-----	--8-----	--1-----	--2-----
--6-----	--9-----	--2-----	--3-----
--7-----	--10-----	--3-----	--4-----
--7-----	--10-----	--3-----	--4-----
--5-----	--8-----	--1-----	--2-----

Ok, one more set of examples and I'll show you a bunch of chord formations. Lets do bar chords that contain the root note on the 5<sup>th</sup> string now. Lets do major chords. The bar chord formation for Major chords with the root note on the fifth string is.

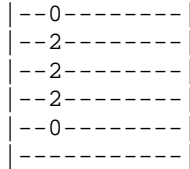
```

_ _ _ _ _
|_1_1_1_1_1_1
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_2_3_4_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|
|_|_|_|_|_|

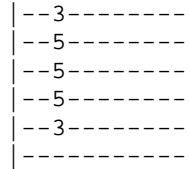
```

Here are some examples

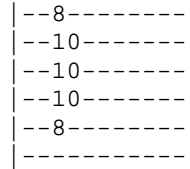
A Major



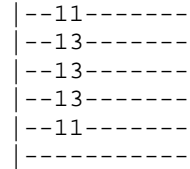
C Major



F Major



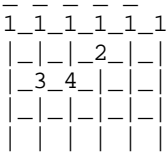
G# Major



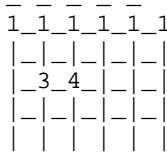
Hopefully you understand now. Here are a bunch of bar chord formations that you should memorize because you will use them over and over.

Bar Chords With The Root Note On The 6<sup>th</sup> String

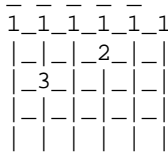
Major



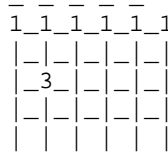
Minor



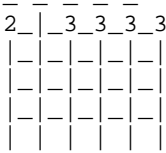
7th



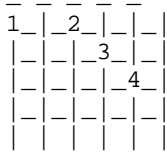
Minor 7th



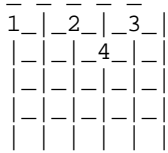
Minor 7th  
X



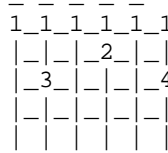
13  
X



7th  
X

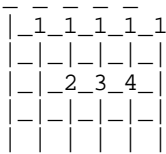


Dom. 9th

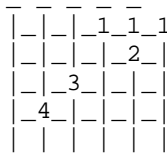


Bar Chords With The Root Note On The 5<sup>th</sup> String

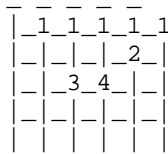
Major



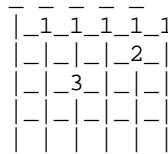
Major



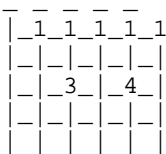
Minor



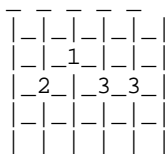
Minor 7th



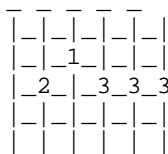
7th



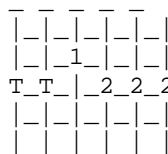
9th



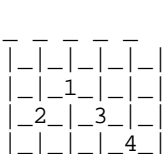
9th



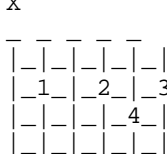
9th



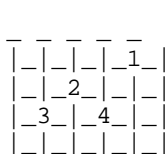
7+9



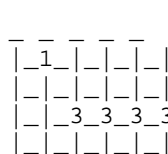
Minor 7th  
X



7th

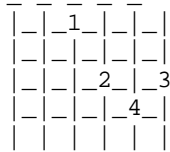


Major 6th

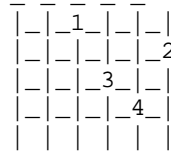


## Bar Chords With The Root Note On The 4<sup>th</sup> String

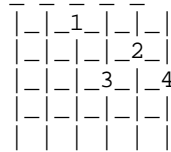
Major



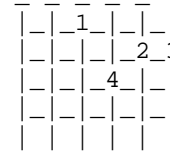
Minor



7th

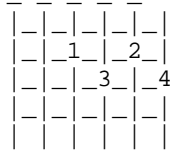


Minor 7th

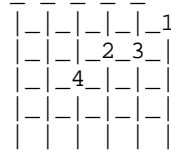


## Bar Chords With The Root Note On The 1<sup>st</sup> String

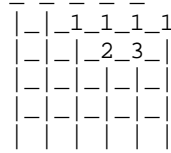
Diminished



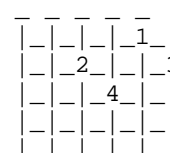
Augmented



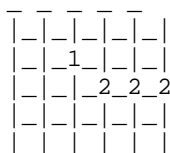
Augmented 7th



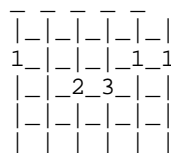
Dom. 7th w/ Flatted 5th



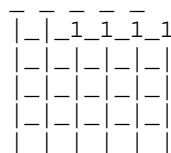
Minor 6th



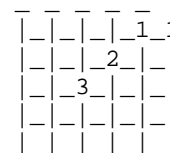
Major 7th  
X



Minor 7th



Major



Please note that a Dom. 7th chord is the same thing as a 7th chord. It is alright to leave the word Dom.(dominate) from the name of the chord when talking about a 7th chord. You may also be wondering why there are different shapes for the same type of chord. For instance, there might be 3 different shapes for a major chord with the root note on the 5th string. This is because each shape is a different voicing. They basically have the same notes but are in different positions. I will get into more detail with this in Music Theory For Guitar Part 3.

## 5. Rhythm(notations)

Not much is really needed to be said here. Just some clarification for people who have trouble with terms. A **down stroke** is when you strike the guitar in the direction of the 6<sup>th</sup> string towards the 1<sup>st</sup> string. An **up stroke** is when you strike the guitar in the direction of the 1<sup>st</sup> string towards the 6<sup>th</sup> string. When playing a tune that involves strumming chords, you should always keep your arm moving back and forth to the time of the song, thats why you should strike the guitar with up strokes and down strokes at certain moments. For instance, say you see this



Inwhich the arrows pointing downwards represent down strokes, and the arrows pointing upwards represent up strokes. You may think to yourself why you do two upstrokes in a row. The answer is simple. If you constantly move your arm back and forth(going upstroke, downstroke, upstroke, downstroke), to the tempo of the music, at that one point when there is a slight pause, when its time to start strumming again you are in the position to strick the guitar in an upstroke. So in that blank where nothing is playing, imagine an invisible down stroke inwhich you do not strike the guitar but rather move your arm.

If you've ever seen sheet music, there are notes called quarter notes, half notes, full notes, etc... Here is a definition(simple mathematics)

- Full Note = 4 quarter notes
- Half Note = 2 quarter notes
- Quarter Note = 1 quarter note
- Eighth Note = half a quarter note

Sixteenth Note = a quarter of a quarter note  
 32nd Note = an eighth of a quarter note  
 64th Note = a sixteenth of a quarter note

This represents a length of time. For instance, the whole note is 4 times longer than the quarter note. The 8<sup>th</sup> note is a quarter of the time of a half note.

A triplet means play three notes in the time it normally takes to play 2 notes. Therefore, a triplet of 8<sup>th</sup> notes means plays 3 notes in the time of 2 8<sup>th</sup> notes. Or you can think of it as 3 notes in the time of one quarter note. So, if you wanted to play 3 notes in the time of one 8<sup>th</sup> note, you would play a triplet of 16<sup>th</sup> notes. Triplet 16<sup>th</sup>=2 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 16<sup>th</sup>= one 8<sup>th</sup>

A Time signature are the numbers at the beginning of a staff of music(not to be confused with tablature.) As an example

```
|-----|
|-4-----|
|-4-----|
|-----|
|-----|
```

The time signature is 4/4. The bottom number represents the note and the top number represents the number of notes. Therefore 4/4 means 4 quarter notes per measure. A time signature of 5/4 would mean 5 quarter notes per measure. A time signature of 7/8 would mean 7 eighth notes per measure. It is standard that the first note of a measure is accented. Last but not least for today is repeats.

```
|-----|
|-----|
|:-----:|
|:-----:|
|-----|
|-----|
```

When you see dots like that it means repeat the measure. So if you see,

```
|---3-----3-----|
|---0-----0-----|
|:--0-----0-----:|
|:--0-----0-----:|
|---2-----2-----|
|---3-----3-----|
```

you should play 4 G Major chords.

Written by Richard Broadhead II(Displacer). Come visit Displacer's Death Tab

### Lesson 2 Includes

- Scales
- Key Signatures
- Modes
- Intervals