

Learn to Play Guitar the Easy Way

Module 2

In the first module you learned about strumming and timing, plus how to play a few basic chords. In this part you'll be adding three new chords to your repertoire as you practise the rhythm backing for the slow number "imagine" and then pick up the pace with Eddie Cochran's "Weekend".

Whether you finger the strings with left or right hand, scan through those sections which you think don't apply to you; otherwise you could miss something. Just a quick look, mind – you don't need to fill your head with too much stuff. Focus mainly on the instructions for your own style of playing.

Here are some new chords for your second two-song set:

- 12 Using Minor Chords**
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- 14 Learn to play John Lennon's "Imagine"**
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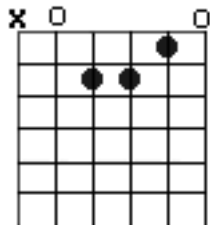
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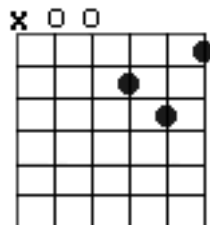
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Using Minor Chords

Not all songs have just three chords. Most, in fact, use more because this makes them sound better. Minor chords are often used to move from one Major chord to another and tend to create a different mood. Sometimes this movement seems to soften the jump from one Major chord to the next. By going from one Minor chord to another Minor chord, the "sad" tone is extended and is necessary to accentuate what the words are saying.



Am



Dm



In the ones above, Am isn't a lot different to its Major Chord A; it just sounds a little sadder. Try it out, listening as you change from one to the other, then back again. Do the same with Dm and D. After this, play from Dm to Am and notice how you are using the same fingers and only shifting them slightly as you move from the top string to the second string.

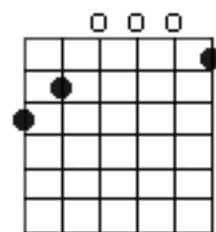
Also, here's a new Seventh Chord which you'll need for the next number. Like the Minor Chords, it is only slightly different to its Major equivalent. Seventh Chords are often used as a transition between two other chords. Try this out and see how it sounds. For example:

F > G7 > C > G7 > G

Once again, you can just play the top 4 strings, but if you can manage to finger the base strings too, this adds more scope for you to play the stuff that's coming up later

Meanwhile...

With these three new chords along with the ones learned from the previous songs, you'll be able to play John Lennon's "Imagine" on page 14.

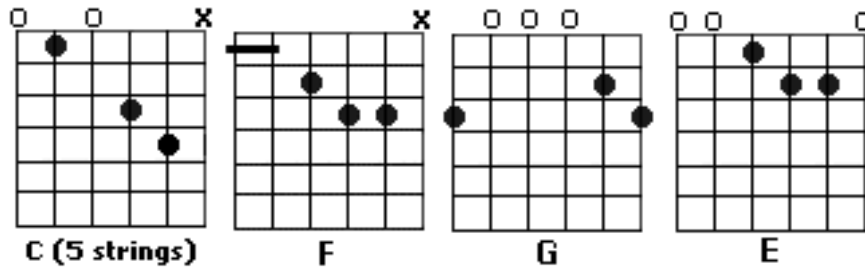


G7

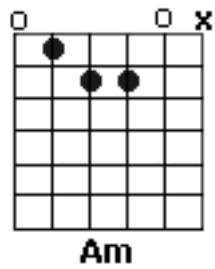


Right-hand fingering for John Lennon's "Imagine"

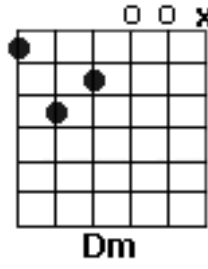
These are the basic chords which you should already know from Module 1:



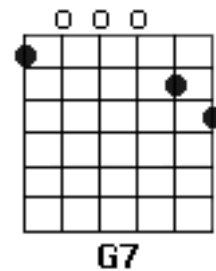
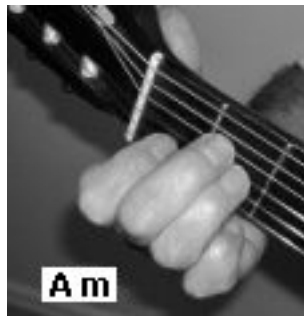
Now we introduce some Minor chords discussed on page 12. Here's the fingering:



Am

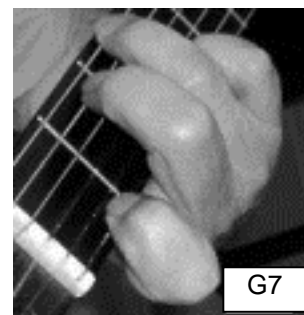


Dm

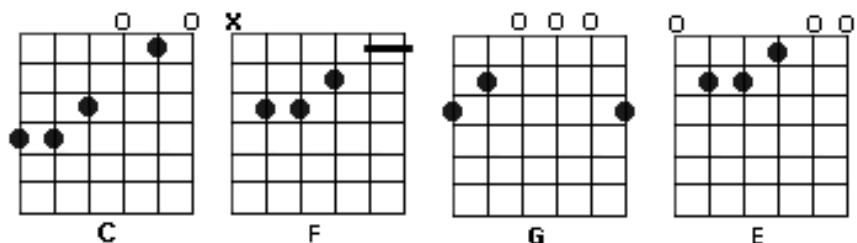


G7

Plus a new Seventh chord.
It's not much different to the Major chord G, but these seventh chords are important variations.
They help to move a song from one musical phrase to the next; almost like a: "wait, there's more."



Imagine (John Lennon)



C F
 Imagine there's no Heaven:
 C F
 It's easy if you try;
 C F
 No Hell below us,
 C F
 Above us only sky.
 Am Dm F
 Imagine all the people
 G G7
 Living for today

C F
 Imagine there's no countries:
 C F
 It isn't hard to do;
 C F
 Nothing to kill or die for,
 C F
 And no religion too.
 Am Dm F
 Imagine all the people
 G G7
 Living life in peace

Chorus:

F G7 C E F
 You may say I'm a dreamer,
 G7 C E F
 But I'm not the only one.
 G7 C E F
 I hope someday you'll join us
 G7 C
 And the world will be as one.

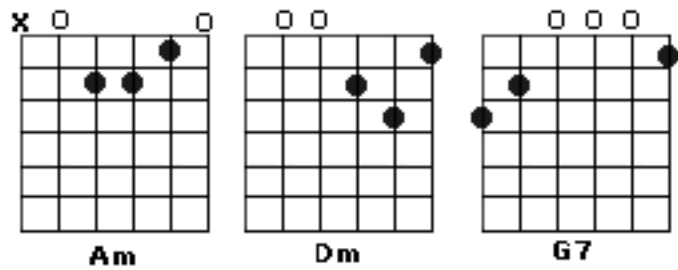
C F
 Imagine no possessions:
 C F
 I wonder if you can;
 C F
 No need for grief or hunger;
 C F
 A brotherhood of man.
 Am Dm F
 Imagine all the people
 G G7
 Sharing all the world.

Chorus

The John Lennon classic "Imagine" is a slower number, and if you listen to the original recording you'll hear that the backing instrument is piano. To simulate this with the guitar, instead of a hard strum with a back beat (up-strum), use single strokes from the base note to the top string, playing 4 lazy strokes to the bar.

John has included two Minor chords, which are like the sad version of a Major chord. Before trying out this song, play the A chord you already know, then change to Am and notice the difference. Without these new chords, the song wouldn't sound the same.

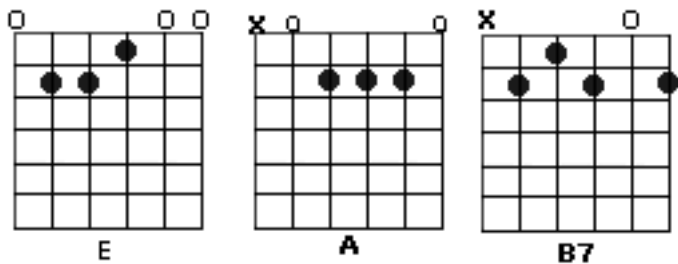
Seventh chords are another variation. Try playing G, then change to G7 – not much difference, but it's there. Seventh chords quite often lead back to the main chord, or take the tune on to another Key for a chorus. As an example, look at the G7 chord just before "**Chorus:**" It leads to the next chord F. To wind up the chorus, G7 takes the song back to C for the last verse.



As with many songs like this one, the words pause at the end of a line before they pick up again on the next one. This break is usually filled by an instrumental. Listen to a recording of "imagine" and count the beats to figure out how long to pause before starting the next chord on the following line.

Also, in some songs that you Google, a line may finish on a specific chord; but, unlike the versions I am giving you, a change to the next chord may not appear until part way along the following line. This simply means that you should carry on with the chord you are playing until you reach the change – sticking to the beat, of course!

Starting a Song on the Second Chord



Weekend (B & D Post)

E A E
(La la la la la la la la la) (female backing throughout verses)

A B7 E A E
Friday night and everything's right for the weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
Crazy clothes and anything goes on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7
John called Ann and Jim got Sue

A B7
And I made a date with little ol' you

A B7 E A E
Off we went to make a big dent on the weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
Boy, it's great just a-stayin' out late on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
Know a spot and like it a lot on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7
Took the road to Lookout Hill

A B7
The view up there was sure to thrill

A B7 E A E
What a night to hold you tight on a weekend (la la la la la la)

CHORUS:

A E
There we were just sittin' cool and cosy

A E
Just about to steal a little kiss

A E
The police with a flashlight bright and nosy

B7 (single strum, then start playing again next line)

He said (spoken): "Holy mackerel there, what is all this?"

A B7 E A E
Car top down, just ridin' around on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
Took a chance on crashin' a dance on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7
We were almost in-side the place

A B7
When somebody slammed the door in my face

A B7 E A E
"Hey, you guys you've gotta wear ties on a weekend!" (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
No harm done, just a-havin' some fun on a weekend (la la la la la la)

A B7 E A E
That was all, we had a big ball on the weekend (la la la la la la)

E A E
(la la la la la la la la la)

(repeat la la la's and fade)

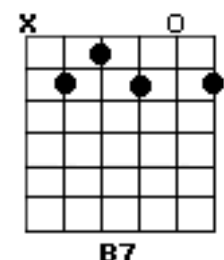
Not all songs start on the main (dominant) Chord. This Eddie Cochran number is an example. Although it is in the Key of E, it starts on the subdominant or second Chord A.

The "la la la" bit at the end of some lines is the wind-up of that line and a lead-in to the next. In the recording, girls' voices sing this part; but if you listen carefully, you'll hear the strummed guitar playing the same rhythm in the background.

So, if you can't recruit backing vocalists, just play it yourself – it still sounds good.

This new Seventh Chord B7 isn't as easy as some of the previous chords, but it will prove very useful later.

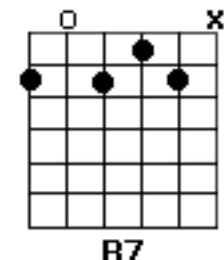
Don't expect to master it straight away. Just keep practising and you'll get there.



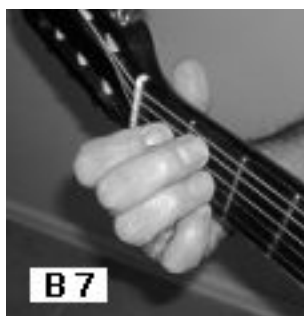
Left-hand fingering



B7



Right-hand fingering



B7