

Learn to Play Guitar the Easy Way

Module 6

To use the words of the closing song, it IS a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll; but, hey, it's the trip of a lifetime. And it's never-ending. There'll always be another number to write and practise, one more tune to play; some revered artist you just have to emulate. And one day you may even find your own unique style that will secure you a place in the annals of fame.

Whatever. My wish is that you'll not stop trying and will always be open to inspiration. And if music truly is your life-blood, keep it hot and keep it pumping!

This final two-song set closes the tutorial with a ballad and a timeless AC/DC classic.

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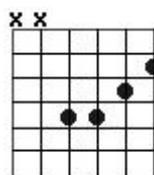
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Easy Listening and Ballads – Left-hand fingering

Please don't cringe! In the main, ballads are generally a slower tempo which makes chord changes easier; and some have quite beautiful tunes. The one I've chosen here is well-known and I've heard people singing along with Louis Armstrong's gravelly rendition. Not until I first tried it did I realise how many chords were involved. Most of them I already knew; but I was so intent on getting it right that I persevered and eventually managed to find them all. I encourage you to do the same – stick at it and you'll not only learn a few new chords, but will discover, as I did, some wonderful chord-transitions that can make your music something special.

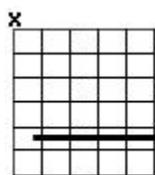
I've found Bm very useful in other songs – Mark Knopfler and Paul McCartney seem to like them. Am7 is easy to play, just barring 5 strings with the index finger; whereas Eb can be a bit hard at first; but this again is another handy one.



Bm



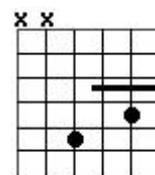
Bm



Am7



Am7

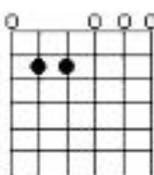


Eb



Eb

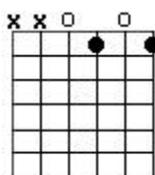
The Key signature Em sounds pretty normal, whereas the other two seem ones to avoid whenever possible. Not true. If you look at the fingering just two strings are trapped in all three and the rest of the strings are played open. How easy is that? Try them out, stroking the individual strings in the chords and listen to the mellow harmonies they produce for very little effort on your part.



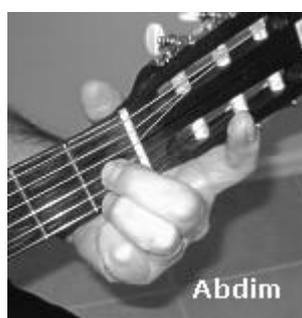
Em



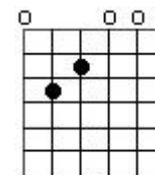
Em



Abdim



Abdim



Cmaj7



Cmaj7

I do hope you'll give "Wonderful World" a go. It's a magic song and, once you can master the chord transitions fluidly, it will prove to the olds that you can play something other than rock and roll.

On the learning front, moving from one chord to the next is excellent practice, much better than that boring back and forth which hardly makes a recognisable tune. In fact, by picking through the chords, you'll have an instrumental that doesn't really need words at all.

Left-hand fingering for:

What a Wonderful World (Weiss/Douglas)

Intro: Cmaj7 D7 Cmaj7 D7

G Bm C Bm
 I see trees of green, red roses too
 Am7 G B7 Em
 I see them bloom, for me and you,
 Eb Am7 D7 G Abdim / Cmaj7 / D7
 And I think to myself, What a wonderful world.

You can lazy-strum this one; or try picking to add some background magic.

G Bm C Bm
 I see skies of blue and clouds of white,
 Am7 G B7 Em
 The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night,
 Eb Am7 D7 C G
 And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

One last new chord Cdim for the last line of the song. You can leave it out if you like, but I think it rounds it off nicely.

D7 G
 The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
 D7 G
 Are also on the faces of people goin' by

Em D Em D
 I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"
 Em Abdim Am A7 D7
 They're really saying, "I love you."

G Bm C Bm
 I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
 Am7 G B7 Em
 They'll learn much more than I'll ever know,
 Eb Am7 D7 G (F / E)
 And I think to myself what a wonderful world
 C Cdim C G
 Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Cdim

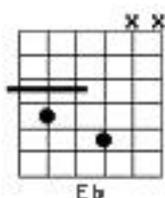
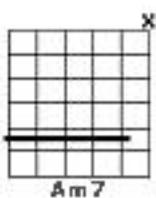
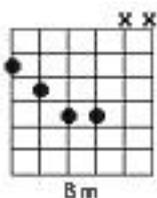


The Intro and chord-changes at the end of the first verse are simply the lead-in and a transition respectively. They are easy on the fingers and make a great song sound even better. You can leave them out to begin with, but plan on introducing them once you get used to the other chords.

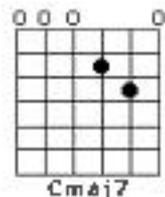
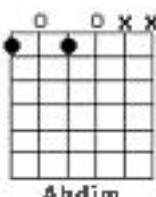
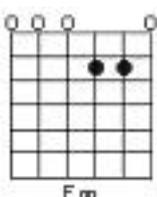
Right-hand fingering for Easy Listening and Ballads

I've elected to give you right-handed fingerers your own pages for this exercise because there are quite a few new chords and this will save you having to keep skipping back. Don't be intimidated by the apparent complexity. Although there are 16 chords in all, you already know some, and most of the others are relatively simple. They make the song "What a Wonderful World" progress so beautifully; and I'm sure you'll not only find a future use for them in those numbers you wish to experiment with. They may even provide the incentive to seek out new chords. You might also fancy doing what I do a lot of the time and create your own chords by playing single notes until you get the combo that sounds good. Then, if you can be bothered, you can hunt through chord dictionaries to figure out what to call them.

I've found Bm very useful in other songs – Mark Knopfler and Paul McCartney seem to like them. Am7 is easy to play, just barring 5 strings with the index finger; whereas Eb can be a bit hard at first; but this again is another handy one.



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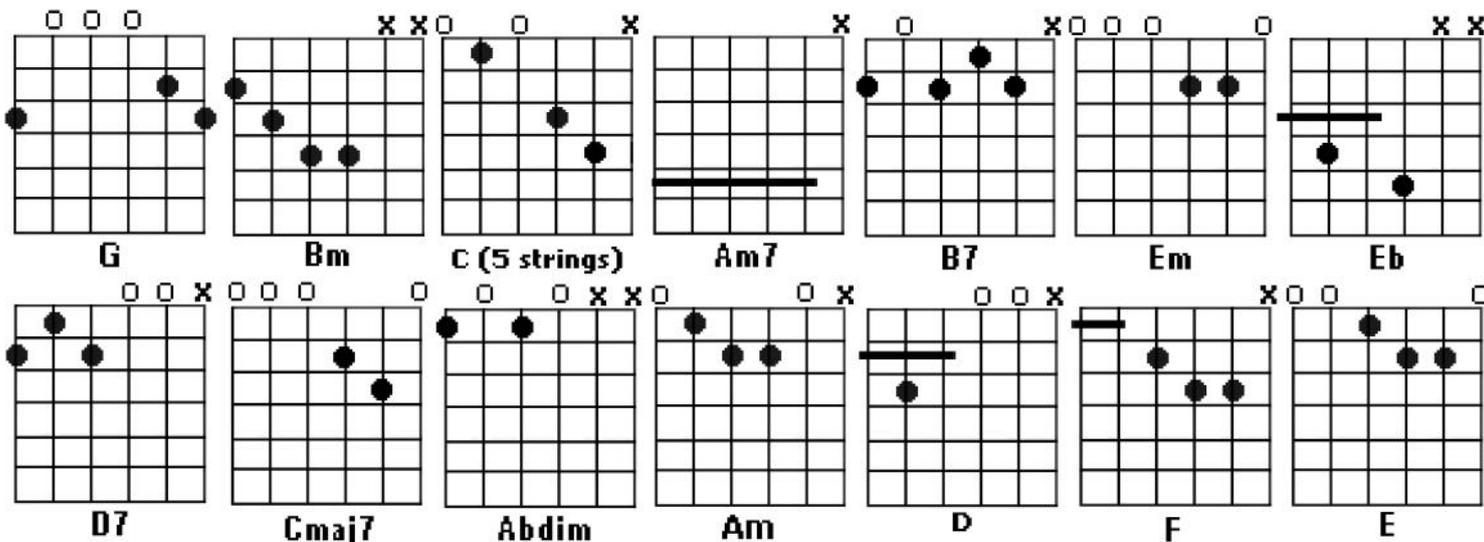


I do hope you'll give "Wonderful World" a go. It's a magic song and, once you can master the chord transitions fluidly, it will prove to the olds that you can play something other than rock and roll.

On the learning front, moving from one chord to the next is excellent practice, much better than that boring back and forth which hardly makes a recognisable tune. In fact, by picking through the chords, you'll have an instrumental that doesn't really need words at all.

Right-hand fingering for:

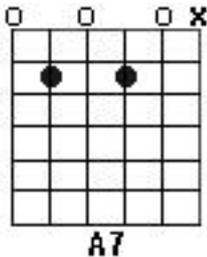
What a Wonderful World (Weiss/Douglas)



Intro: Cmaj7 D7 Cmaj7 D7

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 I see trees of green, red roses too
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 I see them bloom, for me and you,
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 They're really saying, "I love you."

G Bm C Bm
 I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
 Am7 G B7 Em
 They'll learn much more than I'll ever know,
 Eb Am7 D7 G (F/E)
 And I think to myself what a wonderful world
 C Cdim C G
 Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

The Intro and chord-changes at the end of the first verse are simply the lead-in and a transition respectively. They are easy on the fingers and make a great song sound even better.

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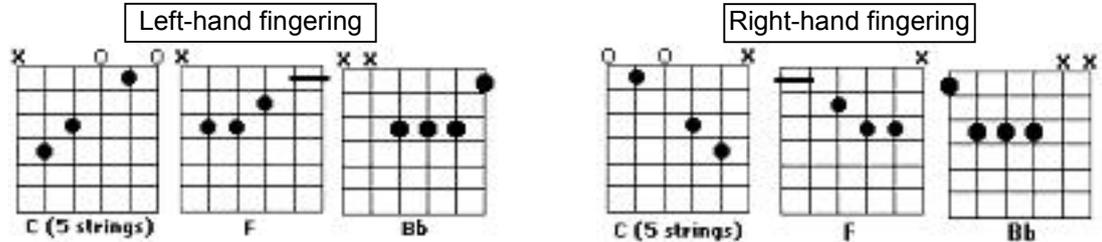
Get into Some Hard Rock

It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll) (A. McKinnon Young, Scott, M. M. Young)

C

Ridin' down the highway
 Goin' to a show
 Stop in all the byways
 Playin' rock 'n' roll
 Gettin' robbed
 Gettin' stoned
 Gettin' beat up
 Broken boned
 Gettin' had
 Gettin' took
 I tell you folks
 It's harder than it looks

How easy is this? Download the Itunes Mp4 version and, as long as your guitar's tuned right, you'll be able to jam with AC/DC.



C Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.
 C Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.

C
 If you think it's easy doin' one night stands,
 C F
 Try playin' in a rock roll band:
 F Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.

Instrumental - (bagpipes if you've got 'em)

C
 Hotel motel
 Make you wanna cry
 Lady do the hard sell
 Know the reason why
 Gettin' old
 Gettin' grey
 Gettin' ripped off
 Under-paid
 Gettin' sold
 Second hand
 That's how it goes
 Playin' in a band

C Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.
 C Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.
 C
 If you wanna be a star of stage and screen,
 F
 Look out it's rough and mean.

F Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.
 F Bb F C
 It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll.
 C
 It's a long way; It's a long way; well it's a long way; It's a long way... **Repeat over instrumental to Fade.**

I've just played along with AC/DC's recording and it was a blast. I recommend you do the same.

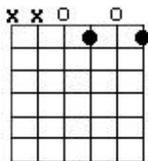
Simple chords, an infectious funky beat; and play as loud and as raw as you like. If you're plugged in, try out some of the different sounds and get with the program.

This is serious hard rock, and if your delivery takes the roof off it will have the neighbours complaining for months !!!

That's it for the tutorial, folks. It's over to you now. Carry on as fast or as slow as you like. It doesn't matter if you don't touch the guitar for months, years even: once you've started, you'll keep coming back to it.

So, if it's likely to be a long time before the next session, make yourself up a song book; and put in the chord diagrams in case you forget how to finger them.

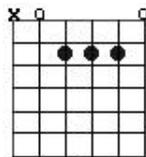
Meanwhile, don't just listen to the words, take notice of the backing that makes a song so great; then play it.



Abdim



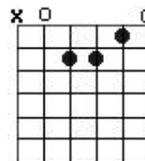
Abdim



A



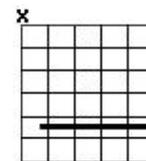
A



Am



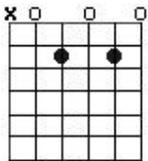
Am



Am7



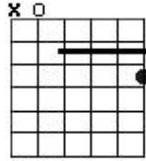
Am7



A7



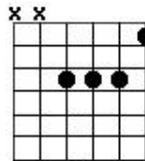
A7



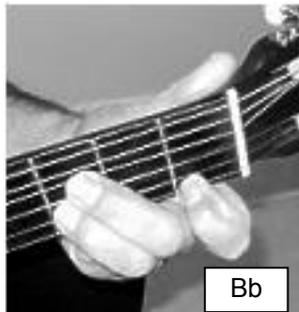
alternative A7



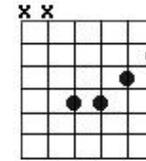
A7 alternative



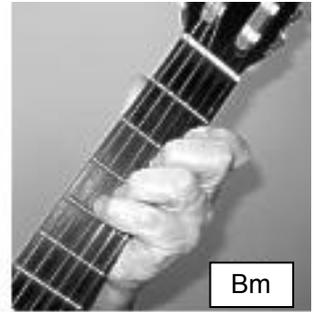
Bb



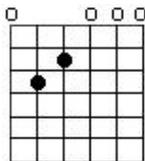
Bb



Bm



Bm



Cmaj7



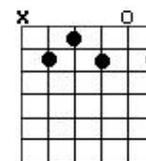
Cmaj7

Chord Dictionary for Left-handed fingering

Most guitars are strung for players who finger chords with the left hand. These illustrations show the fingering with the base E string uppermost and closest to the chin.

The top of the chord diagrams show the fingering from the top of the guitar neck.

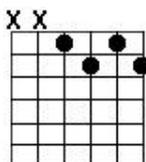
Tuning the strings is the same for both left and right hand players: See the section: "About Your Guitar".



B7



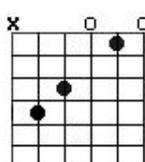
B7



Cdim



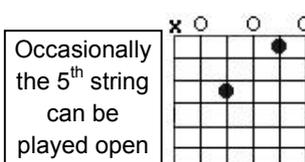
Cdim



C (5 strings)

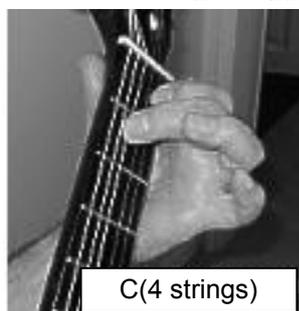


C(5 strings)

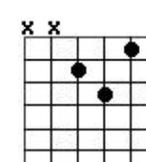


Occasionally the 5th string can be played open

C (4 strings)



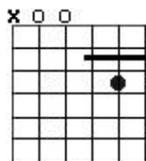
C(4 strings)



C7



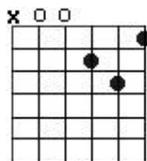
C7



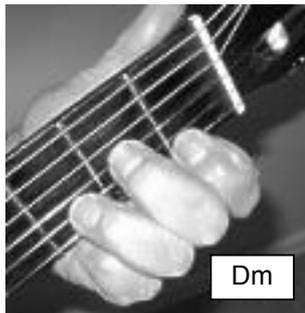
D



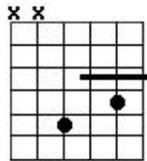
D



Dm



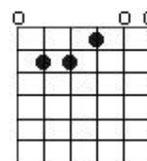
Dm



Eb



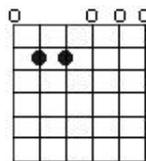
Eb



E



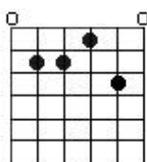
E



Em



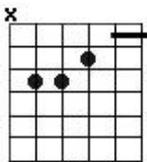
Em



E7



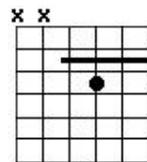
E7



F



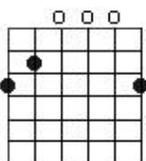
F



Gb7



Gb7



G

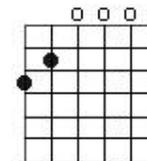


G

Chord Dictionary for Left-handed fingering

These are just the chords used in this tutorial. They cover most of the major keys, but there are many more. So, if you want to get really serious, pay a visit to your local music store.

It is worth a mention, though, that all of the chords in this dictionary are played right at the top of the neck; but they can also be played further up towards the main body of the guitar. Needless to say, played this way they will sound higher in pitch.



G7



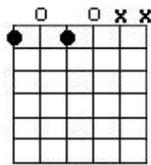
G7

Barring the strings

Any chord can be raised in pitch by barring all strings with a capo, then fingering the chord above this. Barring across the neck can also be done with the index finger. It isn't easy, but the professionals do it all the time.

What you must remember is that this method not only raises the Pitch of the chord, but also shifts it up to a higher Key. To see what I mean, try it with Am7 and move your finger up and down the neck, playing as you go. You can do the same with any chord if you bar the strings directly above first. Whatever you want to do, you can, with enough practice. And that's the answer – practice. But a word of advice: if it's getting you frustrated and uptight, give it a break. Playing guitar is supposed to be relaxing and fun. I wish you lots of both.

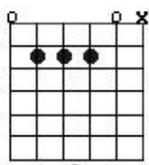
Dave Hawkins



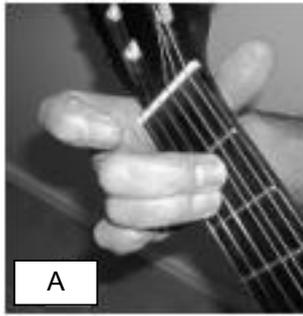
Abdim



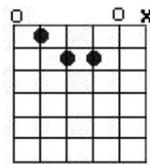
Abdim



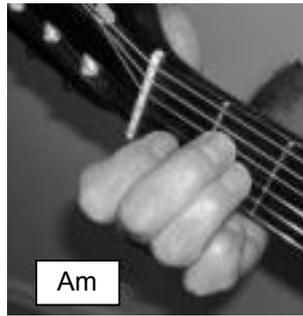
A



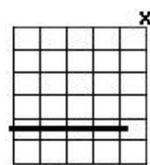
A



Am



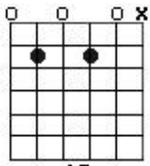
Am



Am7



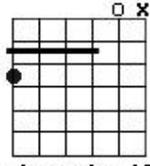
Am7



A7



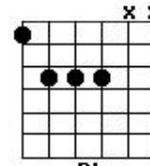
A7



alternative A7



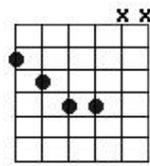
A7 alternative



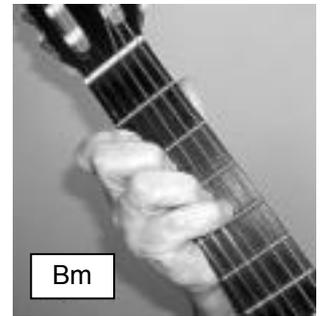
Bb



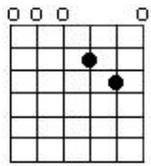
Bb



Bm



Bm



Cmaj7



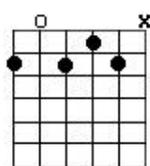
Cmaj7

Chord Dictionary for Right-handed fingering

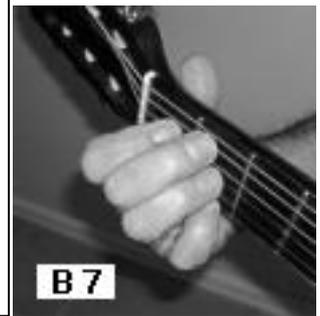
Although these illustrations show the guitar strung for players who finger chords with the right hand, the base E string is still uppermost and closest to the chin.

The top of the chord diagrams show the fingering from the top of the guitar neck.

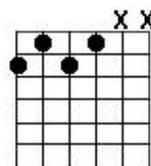
Tuning the strings is the same for both left and right hand players: See the section: "About Your Guitar".



B7



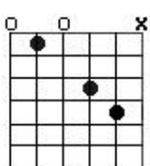
B7



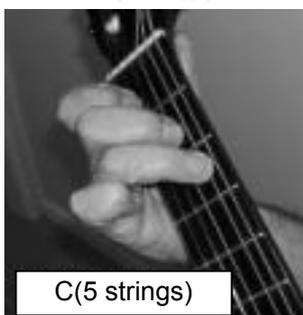
Cdim



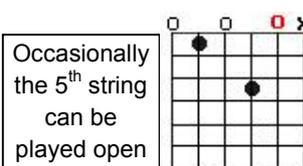
Cdim



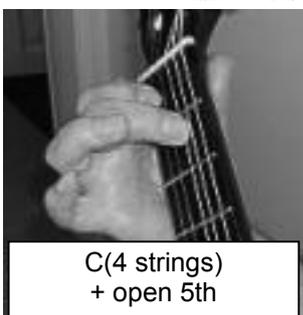
C (5 strings)



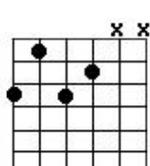
C(5 strings)



C (4 strings)



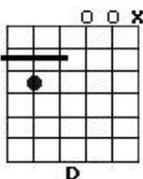
C(4 strings)
+ open 5th



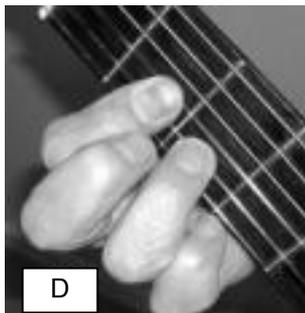
C7



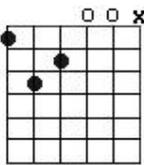
C7



D



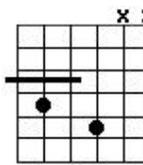
D



Dm



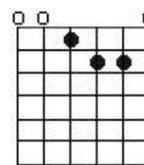
Dm



Eb



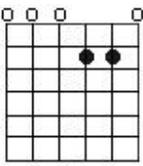
Eb



E



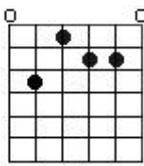
E



Em



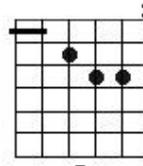
Em



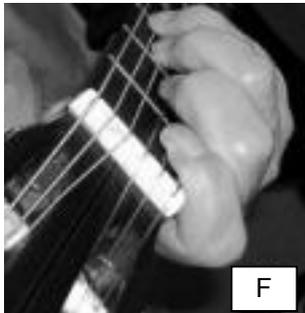
E7



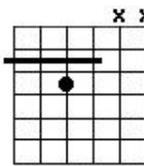
E7



F



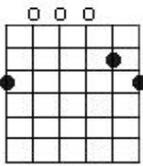
F



Gb7



Gb7



G

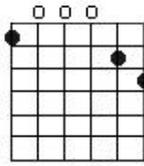


G

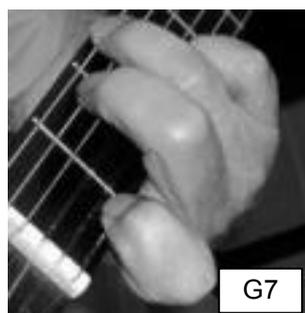
Chord Dictionary for Right-handed fingering

These are just the chords used in this tutorial. They cover most of the major keys, but there are many more. So, if you want to get really serious, pay a visit to your local music store.

It is worth a mention, though, that all of the chords in this dictionary are played right at the top of the neck; but they can also be played further up towards the main body of the guitar. Needless to say, played this way they will sound higher in pitch.



G7



G7

Barring the strings

Any chord can be raised in pitch by barring all strings with a capo, then fingering the chord above this. Barring across the neck can also be done with the index finger. It isn't easy, but the professionals do it all the time.

What you must remember is that this method not only raises the Pitch of the chord, but also shifts it up to a higher Key. To see what I mean, try it with Am7 and move your finger up and down the neck, playing as you go. You can do the same with any chord if you bar the strings directly above first. Whatever you want to do, you can, with enough practice. And that's the answer – practice. But a word of advice: if it's getting you frustrated and uptight, give it a break. Playing guitar is supposed to be relaxing and fun. I wish you lots of both.

Dave Hawkins