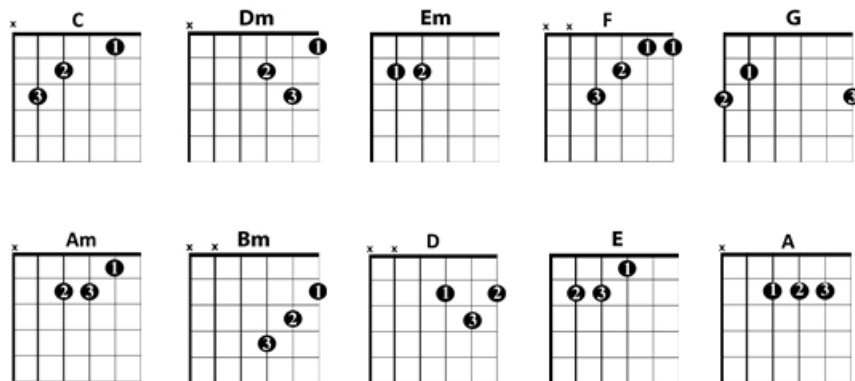


The Ultimate “Quick Start” Guide To Guitar Chords

Here are the 10 chords you need to learn **first**... I’ll explain *why* in a minute.



[Download the full size PDF](#)

With These 10 Chords We Can Form 2 Keys

A key is like a family of chords where they all sound good together. All songs are written inside a key.

The Key Of C

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

The Key Of G

G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII

Make sure you memorize each key including which chord belongs to each number. Musicians tend not to call out chords in a progression, instead they'll simply say something like

"It's a I, VI, IV V progression in the key of C"

And everyone would know that it meant C, Am, F, G

Test Question: What would a I, VI, IV, V progression be in the key of G?

Next We Add A Capo Into The Mix



Capo's are wonderful things for beginners because they instantly open up a wide range of new keys you can play songs in without having to learn any new chords.

You simply place the capo on your guitar and play the open chords you already know in front of it.

Abracadabra... You Now Know Enough To Play 100's Of Songs!

But... there IS a catch (isn't there always!).

Memorizing the shapes of chords is easy... anyone can do that, but being able to change from one chord to the next fast enough to keep up with songs is another can of worms.

The majority of your practice time will be spent working on this problem so pay attention to what I'm about to tell you!

3 Rules To Make Your Chords Sound Perfect

Many beginners hold the right shapes for their chords yet they still sound horrible! It's that's you then you need to focus upon the **quality of your chords**.



Hold a chord and pick down each string individually. Whenever you find a string that isn't sounding clearly use the 3 point checklist below to correct the problem.

1. Press down hard enough (duh) but it's surprising how many beginners don't do this because it hurts!
2. Place each finger directly behind the fret wherever possible
3. Use the very tips of your fingers (forming 90 degree right angles)

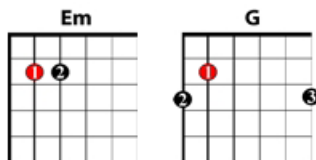
3 Steps To Dramatically Speed Up Your Chord Changes

This stuff works like gangbusters!

1. Use Connectors

A chord connector is where one of your fingers can remain stationary i.e doesn't have to move, when you change from chord to another.

For example, look at this...



Whenever you change between E minor to G (or vice versa) your first finger can remain stationary. That's a **connector**.

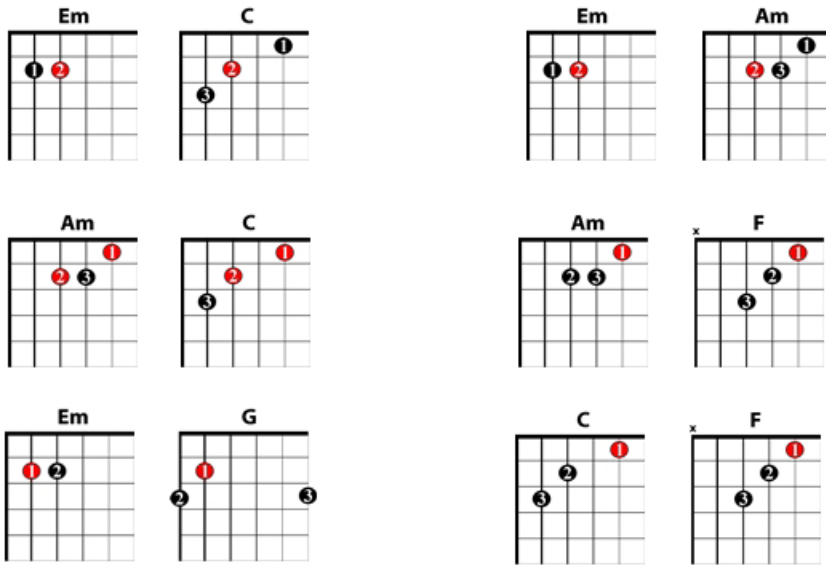
The good news is that there's **lots** of them we can take advantage of. Check this out...

The Six Most Common Chord Connectors

Practice the following 6 essential chord connectors until they become second-nature.

- No need to strum, simply flick your fingers back and forth on each pair
- Keep your hand nice and relaxed

- Avoid looking at the fretboard while you are doing it

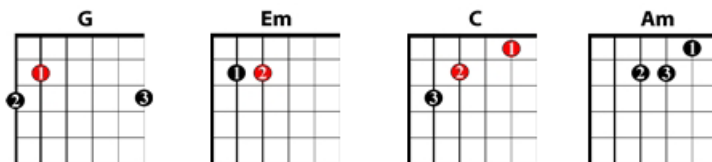


Got It? Great. Try Out These Example Song Progressions

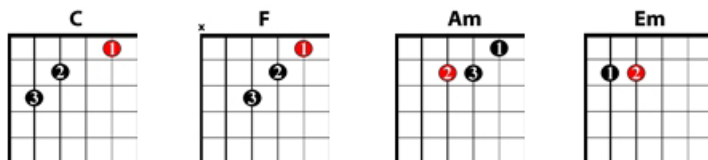
The following two examples are the types of chord progressions you'll typically run across in songs. Using connectors you can see just how much smoother, easier and faster your changes become.

Remember, the finger is red is what you **don't** move.

Number 1:



Number 2:

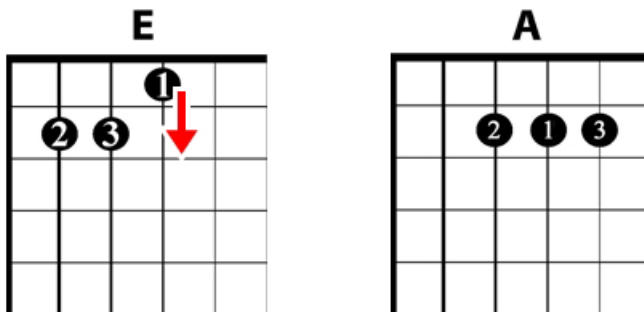


The Next Thing We Can Use Are Called “Train Lines”

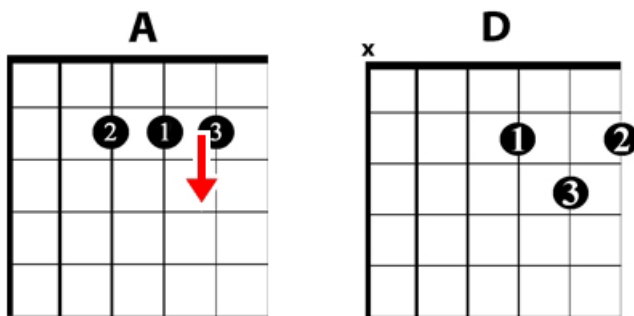
Whereas with connectors we could keep certain fingers completely stationary between pairs of chords, train lines we need to move them but only a short distance along one string.

In other words, you move your finger it simply slides a short distance either up or down same string.

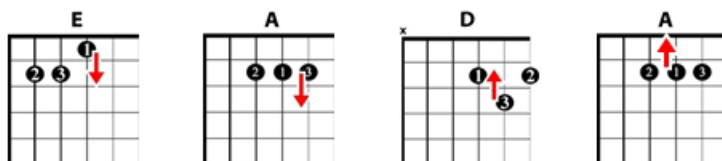
Let’s look at some examples... when going from E major to A major your first finger can simply **slide up** one fret, never actually losing contact with the string.



Now staying on the A chord we can use another train line to get into D major. Your third finger slides up on fret on the B string.



We can put this into a 4 chord sequence like this...



And Lastly, You Need To Invest In A Metronome



A metronome will give you an audible “click or beep” at whatever speed you set it at. The speed is measured in BPM or beats per minute.

What I’m going to show you next is a very powerful practice technique which will send your rate of improvement through the roof. However you **need** a metronome in order to do it.

I do recommend that you buy your own metronome however you can [use an online one here in the meantime](#).

A Super Powerful Practice Technique Called Pressure Points

The secret to making rapid progress in how fast you can change between chords is to put your fingers under some pressure.

Here’s how we do that

1. Start by picking two chords you’re having trouble changing between
2. Set the metronome to a slow speed of about 60 BPM and go between the chords doing one strum on each in time with the metronome click
3. Gradually increase the speed of the metronome in increments of 5 – 10 beats per minute until you find you can no longer keep up
4. That exact point where it breaks and falls apart is your **pressure point**

It’s very important information for you because...

That’s Exactly Where You Should Spend The Majority Of Your Practice Time!

Let’s suppose that it all fell apart for you at 110 BPM. Reduce the metronome by 15 BPM and work your way back up to breaking point then back down again.

You should feel under some pressure to ‘make’ the chord change in time but not so much that it becomes impossible.

That’s the sweet spot.

By spending your time practicing chord changes within that “zone” you’ll make the fastest improvement possible.

Remember that each set of chords will have their own unique pressure point so keep a record as you find them.

How To Make Your Chords Sound Deeper And More Interesting

Some people stay stuck in what I call BEGINNER CHORD PURGATORY for years. They learn the early chords then... stop. Maybe that's you?

Inevitably, chords become boring over time especially if you're always playing them in the same progressions over and over again but there IS a way out.

The key is to start learning different family's of chords so you can introduce new color and depth into old and tired progressions.

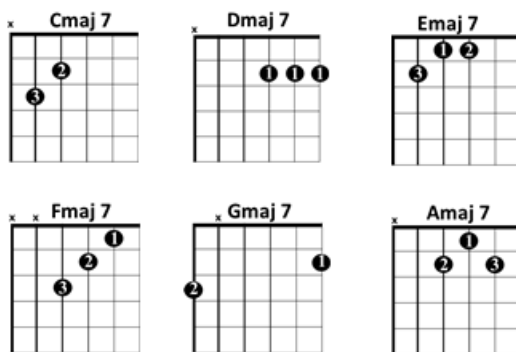
First: Learn Different Family's Of Chords

The most important ones to start off with are...

1. Major 7 chords
2. Minor 7 chords
3. Dominant 7 chords
4. Suspended chords

Major 7 Chords

The sound quality of these chords is very beautiful and smooth. Here are the 6 shapes you should know...



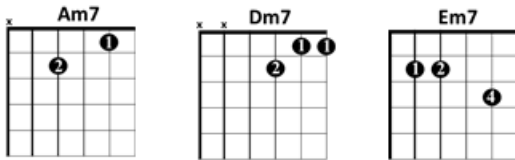
Try putting some of them together, the goal is to memorize the particular **sound quality** of major 7 chords so you can recognize them in the future.

- Gmaj 7 – Cmaj 7
- Amaj 7 – Dmaj 7

- Fmaj 7 – Cmaj 7

Minor 7 Chords

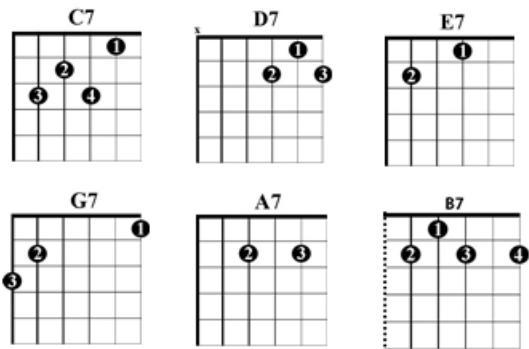
These are like “diet” minor chords, gentler and open than a standard minor triad. There are just 3 shapes you need at this stage...



Dominant 7 Chords

An extremely popular family of chords used in a hundred and one Beatles songs. These chords have an internal “desire” to resolve into other chords due to an inner tension created by a tritone interval inside them.

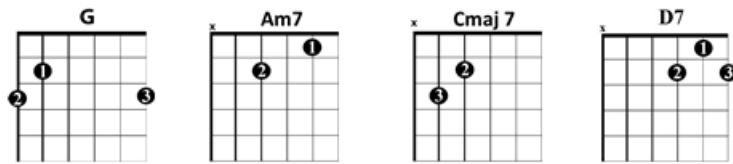
Here are the 6 most important shapes you need to know...



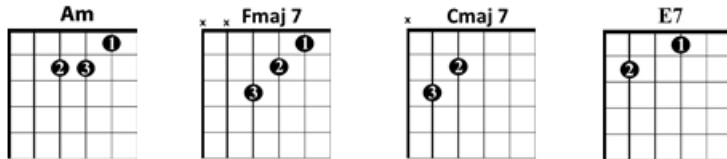
Second: Combine Them Together And Give New Life To “Boring” Beginner Chords!

This is really an exercise in substitution. We’ll begin with a typical chord progression then transform it into something much richer and deeper by substituting chords from the other families.

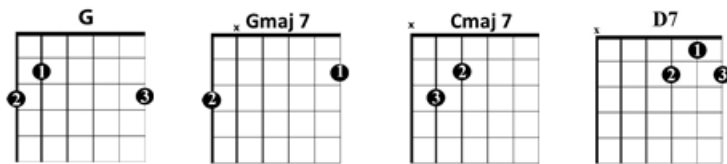
Progression 1:



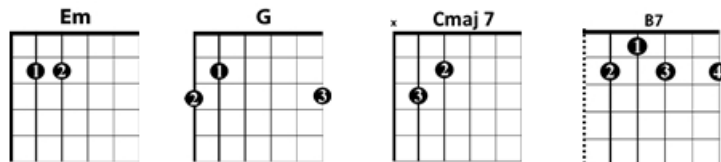
Progression 2:



Progression 3:



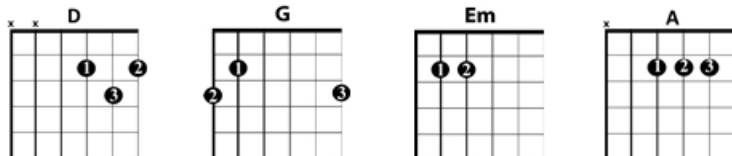
Progression 4:



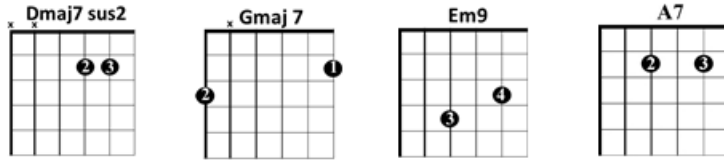
An Open Door Into Deeper Expression On Guitar

We can keep going deeper and deeper with this topic of chord family's and substitution.

Take a look at this, first I'll show you the basic "boring beginner" progression



And now I'll substitute the chords using a mixture of other chord families to create a deeper, more meaningful statement...



Let me know what you think...

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Written by - [Paul Perry](#)

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