

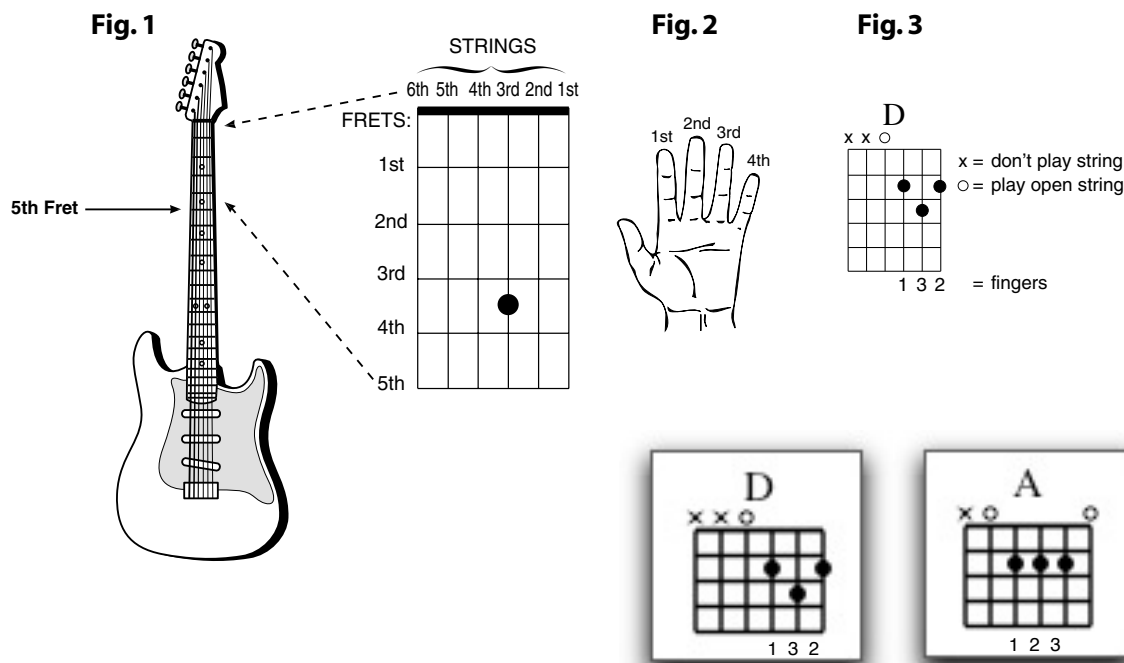
CHORDS - DIAGRAM and FIRST TONES

Firm placement of finger tips is the key



STEP 1 - Understand 'The Diagram'

The Diagram is simply a representation of the frets, strings, and finger placement for a chord. The dots represent where you firmly place your finger TIPS.



STEP 2 - Good hand and finger placement

Using a nice rounded (C shape) hand position, the thumb should rest gently at the center of the underside of the guitar neck (never the top). Your hand position should be curled, so that fingers approach strings at an approximate "right angle", using the tips of the fingers to make firm contact with each string. Your palm should NOT be touching the guitar. This will help to eliminate accidentally touching two strings with one finger, and go a long way towards eliminating muffled, buzzed or dead notes.

If you're still having issues with BUZZY notes, then isolate your problem, and try to come up with a solution. For example, Play each string in the chord, one by one (called a 'roll-out'), noting which strings do or do not ring.

- Are you not pressing the strings hard enough?
- Is one of your fretting fingers not curled enough, and is touching two strings?
- Is an unused finger lazily touching the fretboard?

When you've isolated the problems, try to correct them, one by one. Chances are, the same problems are occurring whenever you play that chord. Divide, and conquer.

