

Chord Review

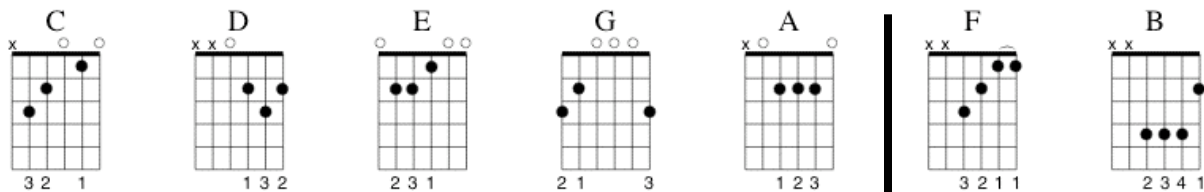
Natural Chords - OPEN POSITION CHORDS (1st position chords)

Chords are 3 or more notes played at the same time. There are all types of chords, but all will fall under three categories: major or minor, and dominant chords.

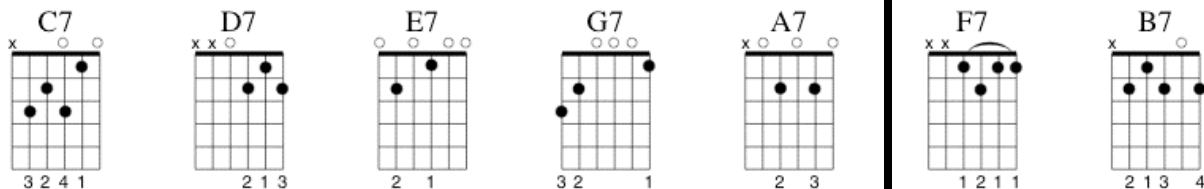
Be sure you've reviewed the "Diagram" or "Chord Diagram" sheet to understand how to read the following chord diagrams.

The first chords we'll learn are built from the seven natural root notes (A-B-C-D-E-F-G).

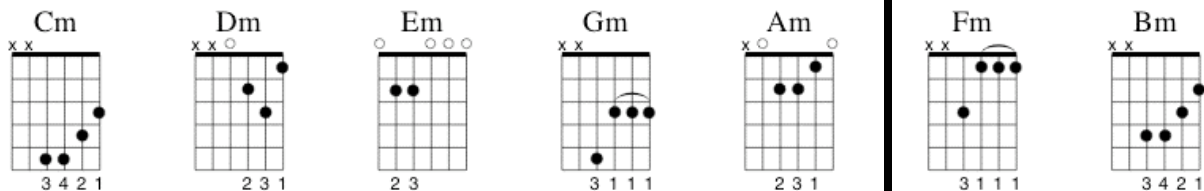
Major



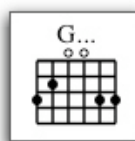
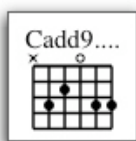
Dominant 7th



Minor



Alternate



Troubleshooting the Fretting Hand

Most obvious flaws can be attributed to one of the following problems:

1. **Missed note** with right hand pick

SOLUTION: Be sure to strum through all the string notes in the chord.

2. **Wrong placement of your finger in the fret**

SOLUTION: Always place your finger in the middle of the fret, or towards the front part just behind the next fret.

3. **Part of one finger is blocking another (or two fingers on the same string)**

SOLUTION: Arch your fingers more by bringing your wrist further under the fingerboard.

4. **String(s) not pressed down hard enough.**

SOLUTION: Use leverage from both your fingers and thumb to press down harder.

Practice Tips

- Play each chord pair as many times as possible in one practice session; pick up the next day where you left off. (The band on the CD in the book only plays each pair four times due to time restraints.)
- Check the fretting hand regularly. If you hear a bad note, pluck through the chord one string at a time to find the troublesome string. Wiggle your fingers into place, don't muscle it.
- After a couple of weeks, try making up more pairs. Find some that sound good and some that sound a little unusual. This is the start of your composition and improvisation skills.
- Work on keeping the "time" steady. Relax and make music out of a simple exercise. Also, try varying the dynamics (loud and soft).

**Practice and relaxation are your friends;
laziness and frustration is the enemy!**

CHORD PAIRS: These are chords you will usually find together in many songs. Practice playing with simple quarter-note strums (one strum per beat). Try different rhythms as you become more comfortable. Use a metronome and practice daily!

A D A D



B C G C



C E D E



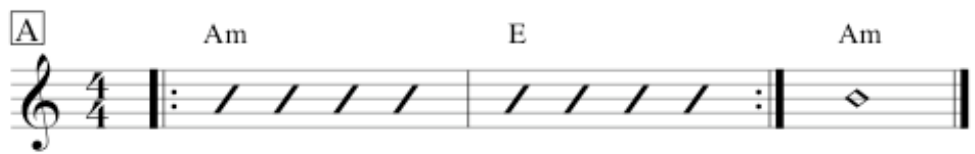
D A E A



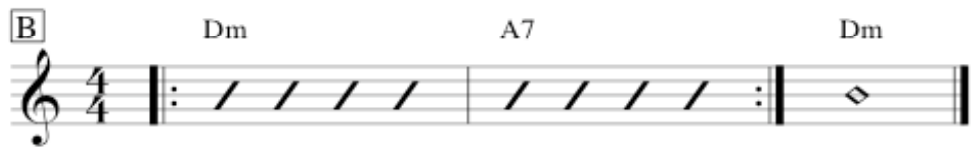
E Am Dm Am



A Am E Am



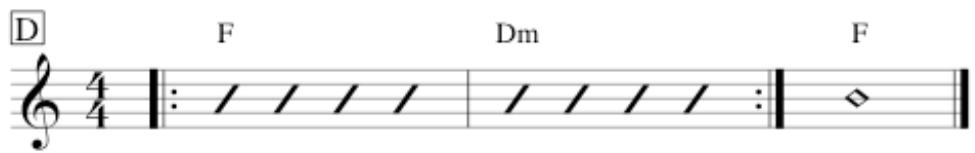
B Dm A7 Dm



C F C F



D F Dm F



E Fm C7 Fm

