

Text



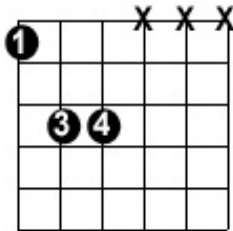
## POWER CHORDS – AN INTRODUCTION

A power chord is a slang term for a chord that only contains the root and the fifth. The root is the letter name of the chord (A, B, C etc.). The fifth is the fifth note in a major scale. They are called power chords (as you might guess) because they have a very heavy, powerful sound, especially when distortion is used.

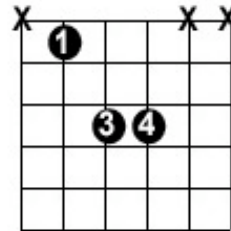
Power chords are not really chords. Chords are 3 notes or more, whereas power chords only have 2 different notes. A more correct name would be "power intervals" because they only contain two *different* notes. Usually power chords are composed of the root, a perfect 5th interval, and the root note doubled at a higher pitch (called an octave).

POWER CHORDS ARE USUALLY NOTED AS THE ROOT AND 5: E5, D5, etc.

SIX STRING ROOT  
POWER CHORD



FIFTH STRING ROOT  
POWER CHORD



You can easily form power chords by using the “**Root – 2 Up – 2 Over**” rule. Simply find the root note on either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> string and place your fingers on the next 2 strings over, two frets up from the root.

Using the diagram for a Six string root power chord above, find the F on the sixth string in the diagram below. Now find the C and the F on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> strings two frets up the neck. Viola!... an easy power chord of Root (F), 5<sup>th</sup> (C) and Root octave (F).

