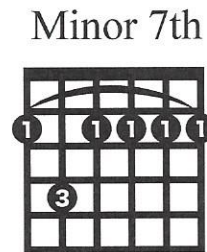
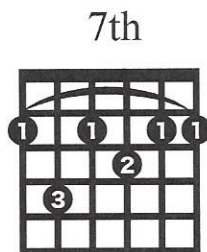
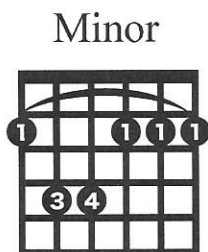
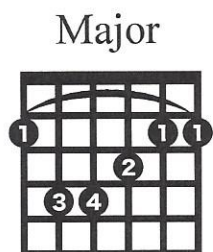


Barre Chords

Form 1

Based on open "E" shapes

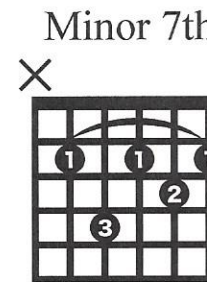
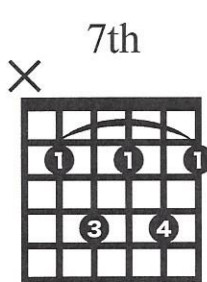
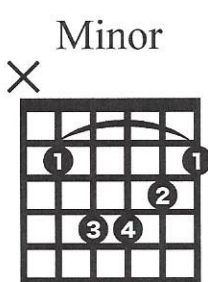
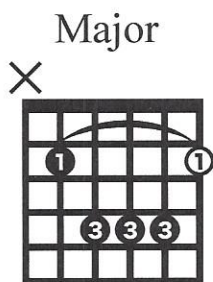


6th String	Chord:	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
	Fret:	0	1	3	5	7	8	10	12

to flat a chord go down one fret
to sharp a chord go up one fret

Form 2

Based on open "A" shapes



5th String	Chord:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
	Fret:	0	2	3	5	7	8	10	12

to flat a chord go down one fret
to sharp a chord go up one fret

Barre Chords

Barre chords are some of the most physically challenging things to play on the guitar. Having the proper strength and technique is essential. Most people have to build up the strength and stamina to play them so don't over do it in the beginning.

There are two main forms of barre chords. Form one barre chords are based on open "E" chord shapes. Your index finger will barre (cover all six strings) while your other fingers make the shape of an open E, E minor, or E7. Essentially you are moving an E chord up the neck, and your barre finger is taking the place of the nut. The second main barre chord family are based on open "A" chord shapes, and the process is the same.

Lets start with an A minor barre chord, with the root note on the sixth string.

Step 1 – Make the shape *without* pushing the strings down.

You want to get your hand in the proper position before applying pressure. Lay your index finger over all six strings. When you do this your finger should be almost completely straight. Any bend in your finger will make it much harder to push all the strings evenly. A slight turn of the finger back towards the headstock can help a great deal. The side of your finger is much harder and flatter and therefore better to barre with. Use your pinky and ring finger to form an E minor shape 2 frets above your barre.

Step 2 – Push down with all your fingers at the same time and strum.

Just like an open chord, you want to train your fingers to get to the chord at the same time. This is a much better way to practice than playing only with the barre finger, then adding the others. Push down the whole chord, give the guitar a strum, and release the chord. The longer you hold the barre chord down, the harder it will be to play it well.

Step 3 – Get all the notes to ring.

This is the hardest step. Repeat step 2, but hold the chord for slightly longer and play each string individually. How many notes ring out? About 3 is normal for the first try. Identify which strings are not ringing and make adjustments to your chord. If you can't figure out why the notes don't sound, ask your teacher.

A Few Tips

- Don't overdue it, these are hard!
- Take breaks and give your muscles time to rest between strums.
 - o Strum every other beat, while relaxing the hand in between.
- Start with these exercises before using barre chords in a song.

One Final Thought

Don't get discouraged! Barre chords are very challenging for most people. It can take many months before you feel comfortable playing them. Just keep at it and they'll start to get easier.