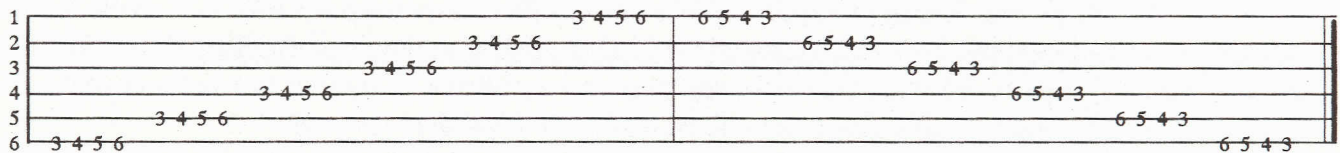


The Barring Chromatic Scale

The following exercise will help build strength for all of the future bar chords that you will be doing. The bar is a more advanced technique that requires a lot of practice and patience. In this exercise the goal is to maintain a bar in the third fret for the entire duration of the exercise. You will be playing a chromatic like scale while keeping the bar in place. At first you might not be able to play this exercise cleanly, but just through attempting it your hand will become more flexible and strong over time. The bar technique truly opens up a huge world of possibilities in playing chords. The theory behind how to use and apply bar chord will be explained later in the theory section.

Bar the third fret during the entire exercise.

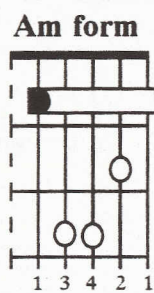
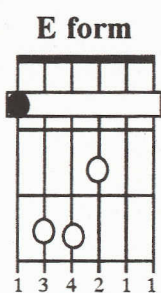


The Bar Exam

This chord exercise will use two of the most common bar chord forms. The two chords are based off of the E and Am chords. The bar acts as a capo, or in other words, it allows a chord to be transposed up or down the neck of the guitar to the desired pitch. The **darkened** in root note of a bar chord gives the chord its name. The root note of the E form bar chord is on the sixth string, and the root note of the Am form is on the fifth string. For example, if you are barring the fifth fret with an E form bar chord, your root note is the A note on the sixth string, fifth fret. Therefore you are playing an A major chord. Another example is barring the fourth fret with the Am form. The root note is the C# on the fifth string, fourth fret. The name of this chord is C#m. It should be understood that the E form bar chord is a major chord and the Am bar chord is a minor type chord. If you play a major bar chord it doesn't matter what fret you are barring, it will always be a major chord and it will get its name by the root note. Also, a minor bar chord will stay minor in any fret that you bar it in, and it receives its name by the root note.

When playing through the Bar Exam exercise, strum each chord once and then move quickly and cleanly to the next chord. Strum all six strings on the E forms and only strum five strings on the Am forms.

Speed goals are: 9 seconds = good, and 5 seconds and under = advanced!



Fret	Form	Chord Name
5	E	A
4	Am	C#m
3	E	G
2	Am	Bm
1	E	F
2	Am	Bm
3	E	G
4	Am	C#m
5	E	A

Practice playing all nine chords above with one strum on each chord.