

Essential Barre Chords

With these 10 chord forms, a guitarist can play any major chord, minor chord, seventh chord, minor seventh chord, or suspended chord in any key anywhere on the neck of the guitar.

GUITAR FUNDAMENTALS

beginner

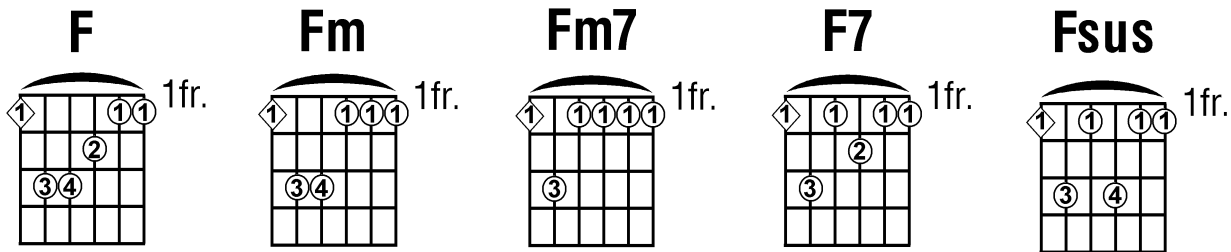
Barre chords do not use any open strings. Since they do not use any open strings, they can be moved to any place on the neck for the same chord in a different key. So, by simply learning a few of these “moveable” barre chord forms, you can play in any key using only a few different chord forms.

All of these chords are based off of a root. The root is notated with a diamond on the chord diagram. The curved line indicates that one finger plays more than one string.

Let's look at two different types of barre chords—barre chords with a root on the 6th string root and those with a root on the 5th string.

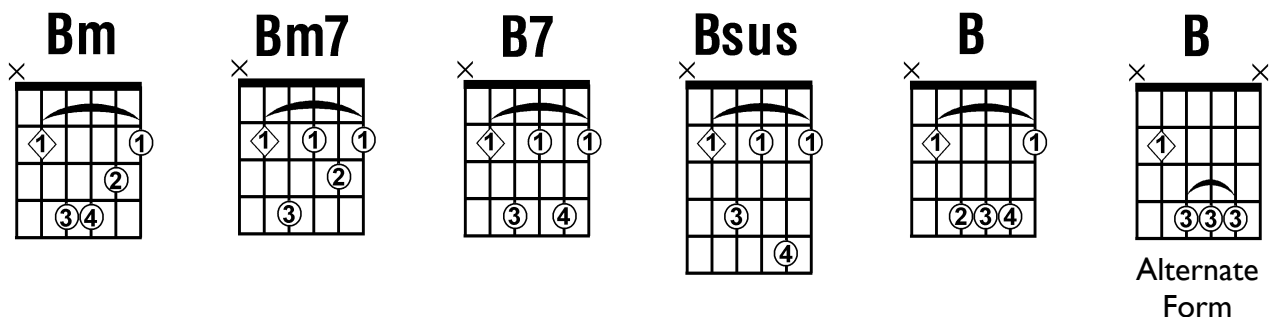
Barre Chords with the 6th String Root

Each of the forms is based off a root on the 6th string F, but they can be moved to any key by forming the same shape off a different 6th string root.



Barre Chords with the 5th String Root

Each of these forms is based off a root on the 5th string B, but they can be moved to any key by forming the same shape off a different 5th string root.



Barre chords take time to develop because of the finger muscles that you need to strengthen. Don't give up on them if you can't get them in a few days. Give yourself a few weeks or a month or two to develop the hand strength needed to play barre chords effectively.

Check out the Barre Chords Workout in the Guitar Power Workout section on www.Gibson.com to get practice playing these chords!