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Acoustic Beginners

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills

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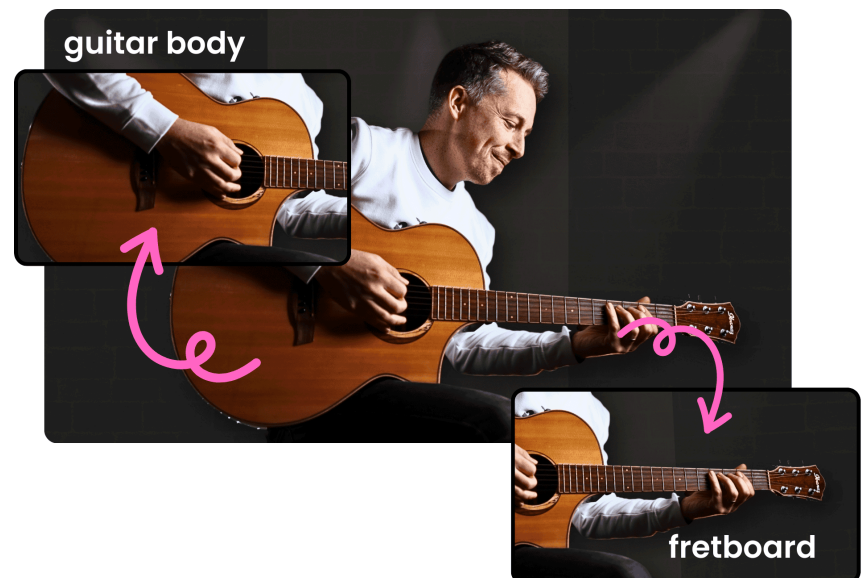
Essentials Part 1

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 1** NEXT >>

[Lesson notes](#) [Diagrams](#)

Your First Chords

Today we will be learning your first two chord shapes, which are the E minor and Asus2 chords. We won't be worrying about the names or theory at this point, simply the basics of how to play and find the chord on the fretboard. The first thing we need to start understanding is how chord diagrams work and what all the fretboard terms mean! To help us with this, here is a lovely picture of a Dan with a guitar...



Course navigation

UNIT 1

Essentials Part 0% ^

1

This course is all about laying the foundations. We will show you how to play your first chords, read chord charts and strum confidently in time. Follow this carefully and you won't have any bad habits moving forwards!

Lessons:

- Your First Chords
- Changing Chords
- Strumming
- More Chords
- Practice Habits

UNIT 2

Essentials Part 0% v

2

UNIT 3

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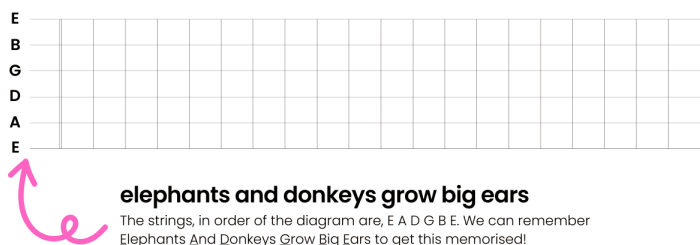
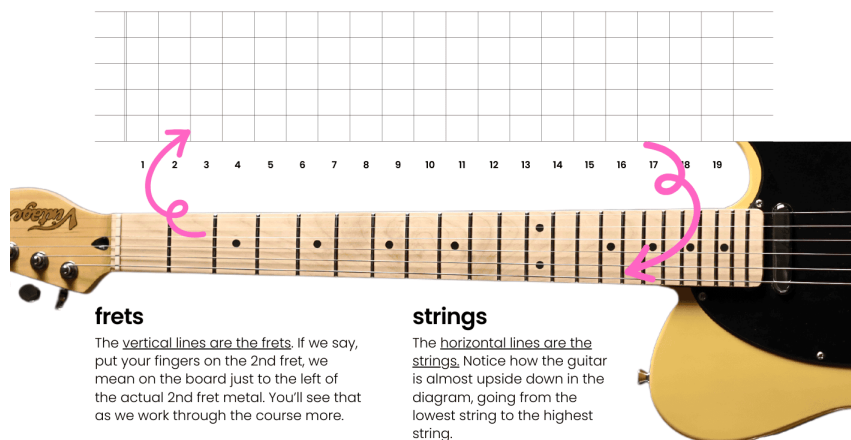
3

UNIT 4

Essentials Part 0% v

4

If we zoom in on that fretboard shot even more, and compare that to the fretboard diagram you will see all over our our site and on the web, it looks like this (notice that we've deliberately flipped the fretboard upside down):



This can take a bit of getting used to, but take your time with it, following along with the video at the same time. There's one more step we need here to get us to the chord diagram, and that's to flip up the fretboard like this:

Chord diagrams

To demonstrate chord diagrams, we flip the fretboard upwards like this. Here's the E minor chord as an example, starting from the guitar neck, and turning into a chord box:

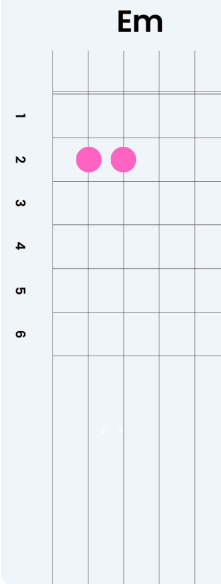
1

Here is the neck with the two pink “blobs” showing you where to put your fingers



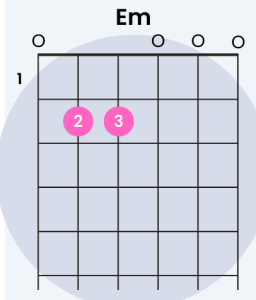
2

Now we turn that into a diagram, giving you fret numbers and the chord name



3

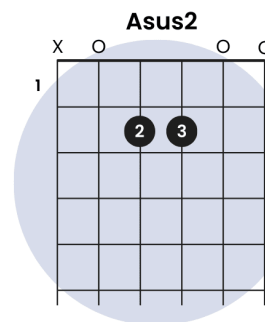
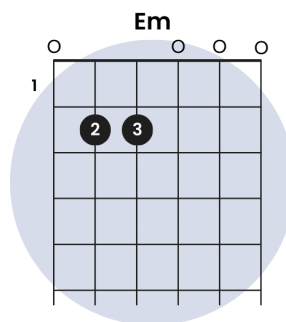
Finally here is a completed chord diagram, as you will see them on our site!



The numbers on the blobs represent the fingers you should be using to play the notes, as shown here:



So that final image details how all of our chord diagrams will appear across the whole site, and generally across the web (although they typically don't have the fancy grey circle... But we'll call that artistic license).



The “O” at the top tells you that this is an open string you do want to play, and the “x” tells you it’s a string you want to try to avoid if you can!



“

Phew! That’s a lot of information for your first lesson, so take your

time to
memorise it,
and
acknowledge
that it will
start to sink
in more as
you work
through the
course, so
stick with it
even if it's
not clicking
yet!

Dan

”



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done?**

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