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Turn It Up To 11!

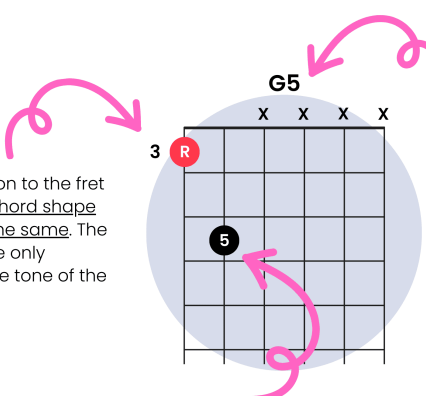
UNIT 1 • LESSON 1 NEXT >>

Lesson notes Diagrams

Powerchords

It's time to take a big step into rock, pop and punk guitar by learning our first powerchord shape. These chord shapes will take you out of the open position chords and open up a new world of guitar songs, so let's get learning! We will begin by learning the two-fingered versions of E string powerchord. The chord looks like this:

Pay close attention to the fret number, as the chord shape will always look the same. The fret number is the only indicator as to the tone of the chord.



We call it an G5 chord rather than "A powerchord" because it is literally a root (G in this case) and the 5th. Hence, A5!

On the chord diagram now, rather than the finger you use, we're putting in the interval from the scale. So "R" means Root note, and "5" means a 5th above the root. More on this below.

So it's worth quickly talking a little more about the whole "root and 5th" thing! If you're new to music theory, that simply means that we are playing those

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Turn It Up To 11! 0% ^

We will be taking a step away from the open chords and venturing further up the neck by learning power chords! Powerchords are the foundation of thousands of rock/punk songs, and we will learn how they work and play two awesome powerchord riffs!

Lessons:

- Powerchords
- Riff 1 Introduction
- Riff 1 Teaching
- A String Powerchords
- Riff 2 Introduction
- Riff 2 Verse Section
- Riff 2 Chorus Section

UNIT 2

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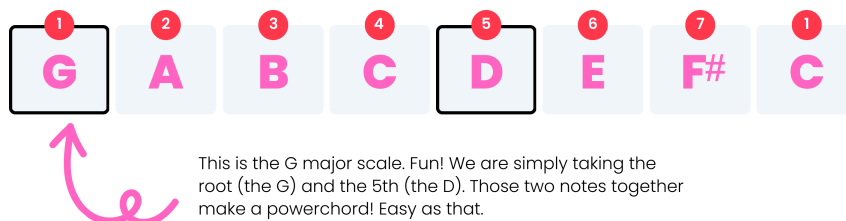
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UNIT 4

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Part 2

intervals from our major scale. Let's take a look at that in the key of G major:



Want to understand more?

If you love getting to the bottom of the theory behind the chords, check out the Theory Lab section of our site when you have time. The course you will need is Essential Theory. Enjoy!

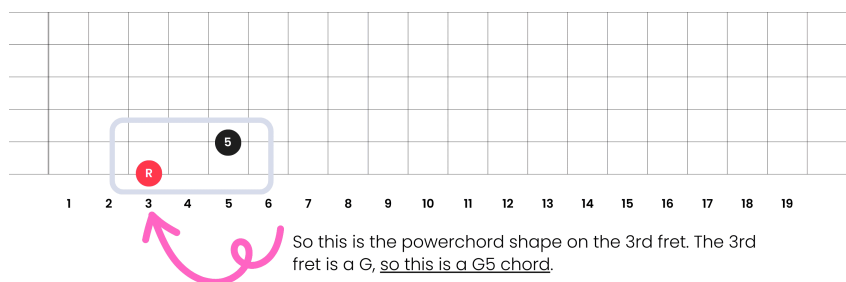


Essential Theory

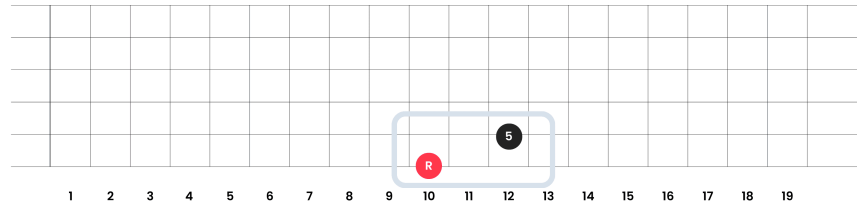
Theory Lab

Finding the chords...

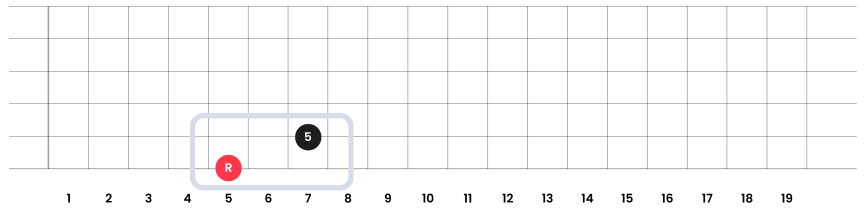
The great thing about this shape is that you can move it up and down the fretboard to get different powerchords. All you need to know are the notes on the E string. Here are three examples of the chord moving, using a G5, A5 and D5, reached by just moving the shape up and down the neck.



I'm sure you can see where this is going! Let's take a look at the other two chords – the A5 and D5. Then I want you to try your own!



So this is the powerchord shape on the 10th fret. The 10th fret is a D, so this is a D5 chord.



So this is the powerchord shape on the 5th fret. The 5th fret is an A, so this is an A5 chord.



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