

Only a few hours left! 25% off yearly membership

[Click here to grab our best price](#)

Offer ends May 29th 23:59 GMT

Back to all courses

# Electric Guitar

LEVEL 3 • Guitar Skills



Recently viewed



Theatre mode

Practice summary

+ Add

You haven't logged any practice time for this lesson yet. There's no time like the present to [start](#)

## The Em Shape

UNIT 3 • LESSON 2 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Diagrams

### Why Two Shapes?

Now that we have an E shape minor barre chord and an A shape minor barre chord, it is worth talking about why we need both of them. As we mentioned before, with either of those shapes you can play any minor chord you want, so if that's the case why bother learning two shapes?! Well, the answer is twofold:

#### 1. convenience

Let's say that you had a chord progression that went Am /// G /// Dm /// Am ///. This is a very common progression and one you will definitely have to play at some point. If you started the A minor chord using the E shape version, you would be on the 5th fret. If you then used only the E string version to play the rest of the chords, you'd be jumping up and down the fretboard like a wild monkey! Especially when it comes to that G to Dm change, which looks like this:

## Course navigation

### UNIT 1

#### The E Shape Chord

0%



### UNIT 2

#### The Am Shape Chord

0%



### UNIT 3

#### The Em Shape

0%



At this point in the barre chord quest, we will be tackling the third shape, the Em shape. However, there is still a lot to be done on the previous shapes to get them confident and clear, so in the song at the end of this course, we use all 3 shapes!

Lessons:

- The Em Shape
- Why Two Shapes?
- "Minor Blues"
- Rhythm...
- The Chords

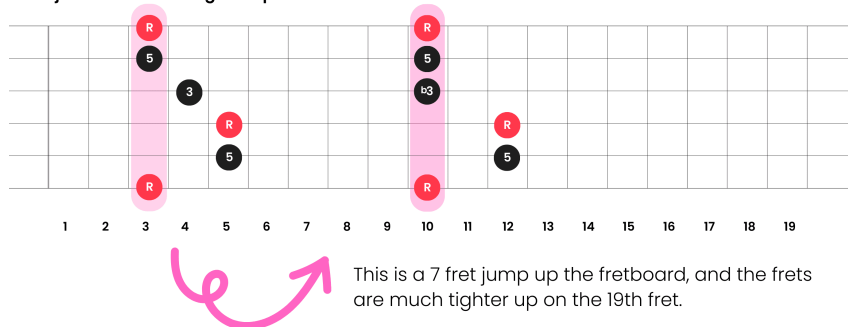
### UNIT 4

#### The A Shape Chord

0%

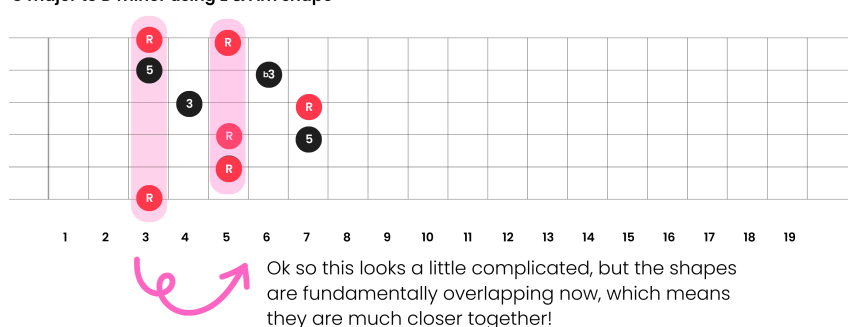


G major to D minor using E shape



As you can see, the jump from G major to D minor takes you a long way up the fretboard! This is really not what you want to be doing, especially if you are singing at the same time! You are far better off moving the Dm chord onto the A string and using the following shapes:

G major to D minor using E & Am shape



## 2. sound

The other key point is that you may prefer the sound of one chord over another. If you have a D minor chord to play, using these barre chords, you can play one on the 5th fret A string or one on the 10th fret E string. As the latter is higher up the fretboard you will get a different vibe and tone from it than the A shape chord which is further down. So the second point is that creatively you may want one or the other.



**All  
done?**

Click here to mark this lesson as complete.

Not quite done? Check the toolbox for more practice options.

Next lesson

**guitar club**

Made with ❤️ by Your Guitar Academy © 2025



## COURSES

Guitar Skills  
Player Studies  
Theory Lab  
Challenges  
Masterclasses

## TOOLS

Scale Builder  
Practice History

## PRICING

Subscriptions  
Prepaid

## BLOG

Latest Posts  
All Posts

## ACCOUNT

Settings  
Manage subscription  
Order history  
Logout

## COMPANY

Terms & Conditions  
Privacy Policy  
Cookie Preferences

## GET IN TOUCH

contact@guitarclub.io

Currency: £GBP \$USD