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Acoustic Fingerstyle

LEVEL 3 • Guitar Skills



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Chord Breakout

UNIT 1 • LESSON 1 NEXT >>

Lesson notes

Interactive tab

Diagrams

Big To Little Chords

Before we fully dive into the song, it's worth having a quick discussion about the way we're going to be moving our chords around the fretboard. We will be using the CAGED chord system to do this, and as we won't be going into a huge amount of detail on that system here, please make sure you check out our full courses below.

CAGED system

If you've never tackled CAGED, then this is an important side quest you will need to take at some point. You don't need to study deeper for this course, but it's a good thing to bear in mind going forward.



Unlocking Major CAGED

Guitar Skills



Course navigation

UNIT 1

Chord

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Breakout

We're working with the CAGED chord positions to show you how to start breaking out of the first 3 or 4 frets of the guitar and create a far more expansive fingerstyle piece!

Lessons:

- Big To Little Chords
- Section A
- Section B
- Section C
- All Together!

UNIT 2

Celtic King

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UNIT 3

Travis Picking

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Ode To Tommy

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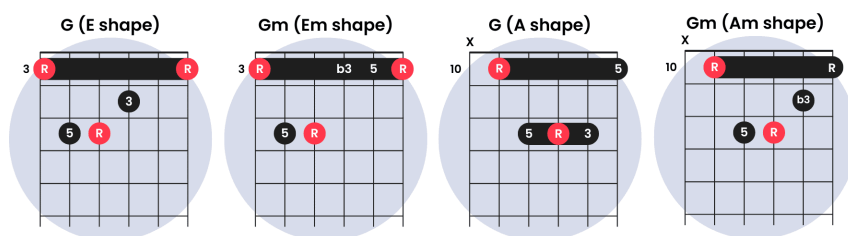


Unlocking Minor CAGED

Guitar Skills

E and A shape

So, in general, we will be using the E and A shape CAGED chords in this piece. You may know these better as barre chords! Here's a quick recap of the 4 shapes in major and minor.

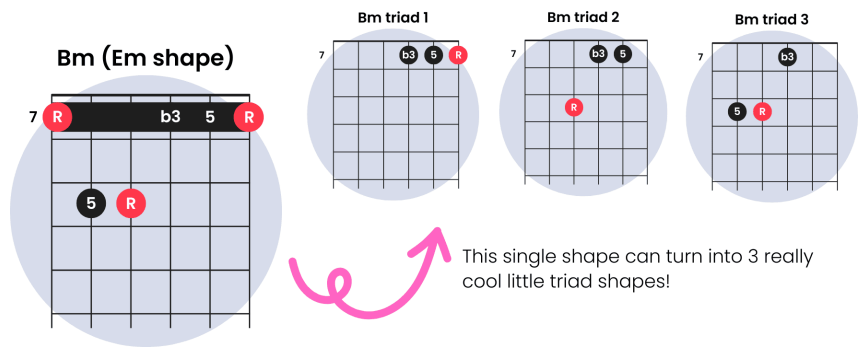


All these chord shapes are starting on G and, therefore, are G chords of some kind. If you want to make a B major, you need to move the major shape up to the B on the same string. **Also, we are now labelling the chords with intervals ("R, 3 5" for example).** So we can see that the major chords are root, 3rd and 5th, whilst the minor chords are root, b3rd and 5th!

Beyond the basic shape...

These chords are essential to know, but as we develop, we can start to break them down into smaller chunks! We do this in this track. As Thomas said in the video, it's important to explore this for yourself, but here are a few pointers and examples.

Let's take a B minor chord...



You can see how we can break this big barre chord down into little chord chunks. There are many reasons you might want to do this, but the most obvious are that it's easier to play than the barre shape, and the second that we can get far more creative with these mini versions of the chords, especially when songwriting.

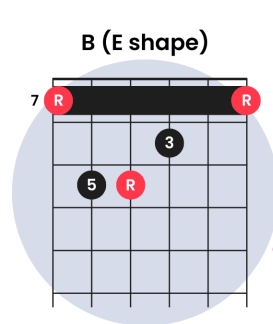


“ Take the major version of the E shape (or the A shape chords) and try this process for yourself. What can you come up with? You should be able to

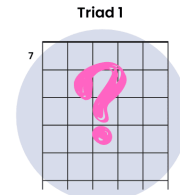
find 3
triad
versions
of the
chord.
Good
luck, have
fun with it,
and we'll
dig into
the song
next time.

Thomas ”

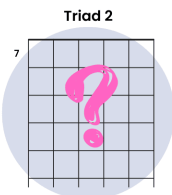
B (E shape)



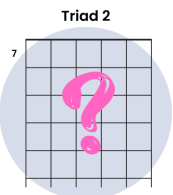
Triad 1



Triad 2



Triad 2



What three triads can this single shape turn into? Give it a try for yourself!



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