

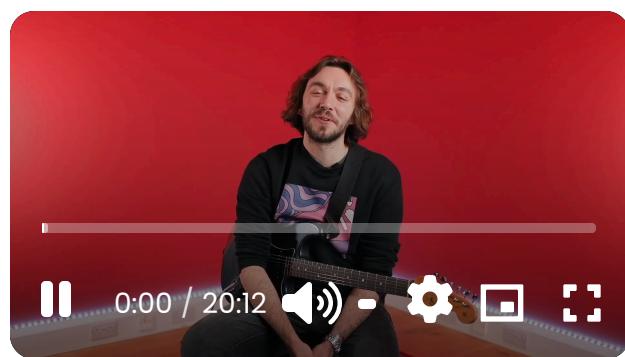
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Barre Chords

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Practice summary

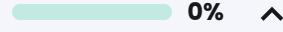
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UNIT 1

Barre Chords

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Master barre chords

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Barre Chords

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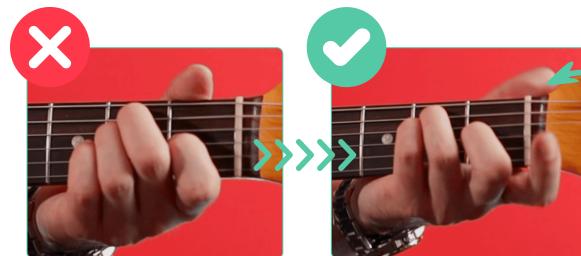
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The E Shape Chord

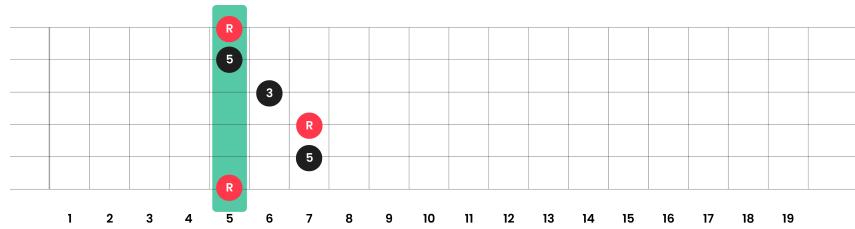
In this lesson we will tackle our first barre chord shape, the E major shape. It is by far the most common barre chord shape, and therefore it makes sense to start here. We'll go over the theory and tricks and tips to get it sounding amazing!

The concept

We call this an E major “shape” because it’s based on the E major chord shape. Our first job then is to swap the fingering in that E major open chord like this:

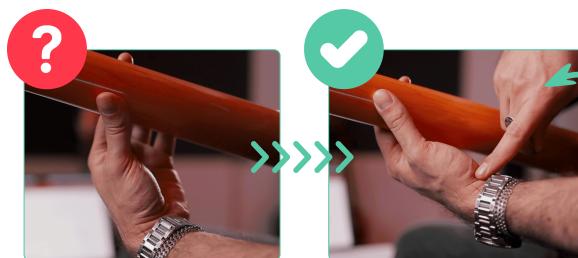


We can now move this chord up to the 5th fret, and create our first chord shape.



The wrist & thumb

Use the placement of the thumb as your guide. Try to get the thumb slightly horizontal, as shown below, to get a much more comfortable position.



There is no right and wrong here, but the second shot is more comfortable to play. Trial and error is the best way here!

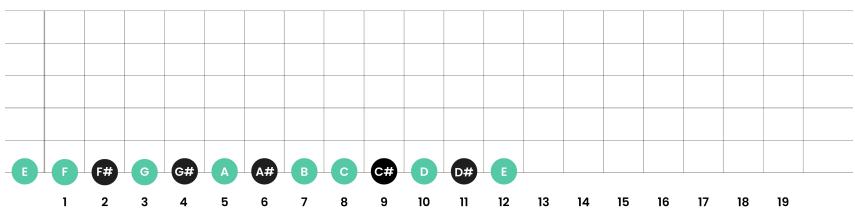
The theory

So why is this chord an A major? This is simply because the shape we are using is a major shape. That original chord contains a root, 3rd and 5th (and multiples of those same notes). So when you play a barre chord, you're not changing how this chord is built, we're just moving it to a different place on the neck. Knowing the new chord name is as simple as knowing the root note on the E string. We'll see this in action later on this lesson.

The notes on the neck

Finally, as you're now probably realising, we need to easily be able to find the right note on the E string. So, as a reference for you, here are all the notes on the E string in sharps and flats.

Sharps On E String (memorise notes in green)



Flats On E String (Notes to Memorise in Green)

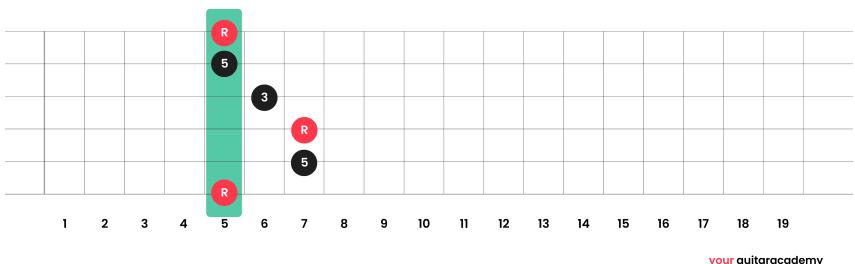


The track

To get this all into practice, we're going to be using a simple jam track to help you move this chord around the neck. The chord chart is:

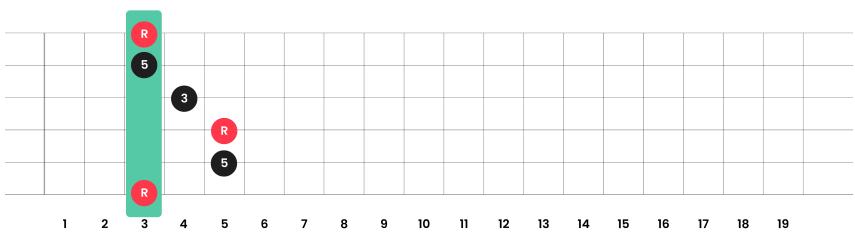


A major



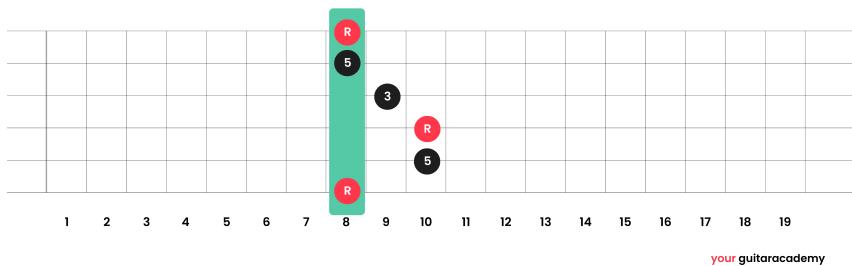
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G major



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C major



“ There we have it! Your first proper musical barre chord challenge. Take your time with it, it won't happen overnight. Over the next month or more keep returning to this over and over until it starts to get easier.

Franco

”



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