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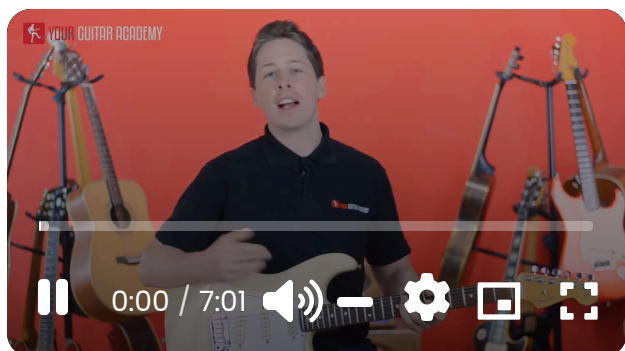
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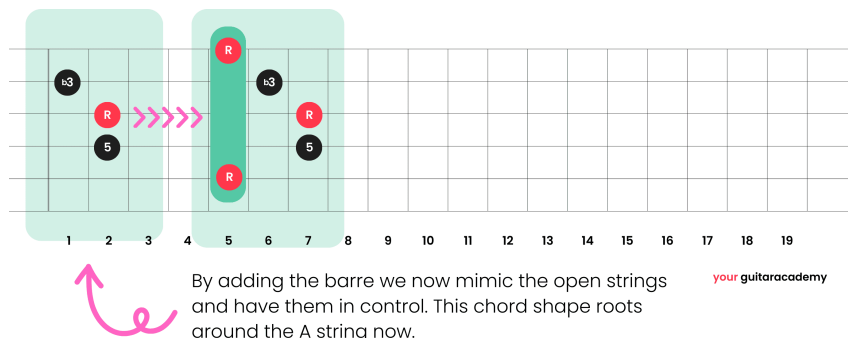
The Am Shape Chord
UNIT 2 • LESSON 1 ≪ PREVIOUS   NEXT ≫

Lesson notes   Diagrams

The Am Shape

Our second chord shape is based on the Am open chord. The main difference here, as well as the shape, of course, is that the root note is now on the A string. Just as with the E shape chord, you can move this shape up and down the fretboard, but the root will always be on the A string. Here's a diagram to see how this is built from the Am open shape...

By adding the barre we now mimic the open strings and have them in control. This chord shape roots around the A string now.

Moving the chord

To practise this chord, as well as making sure you push down hard and it sounds as clear as possible, we will also move it around the neck. Remember that this chord shape is always a minor chord, but depending on what fret you place it on, you get a

different root note. For example, if you put the shape on the 3rd fret you get a C Minor chord. If you put it on the 7th fret, you get an E minor chord, and so on! Let's try this progression:
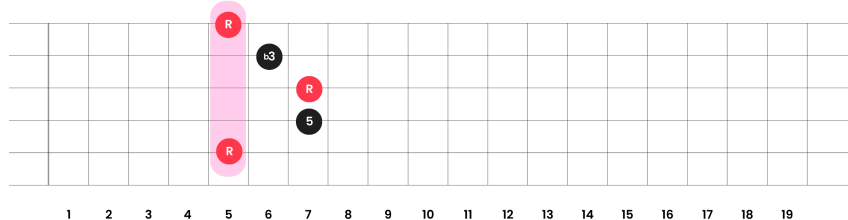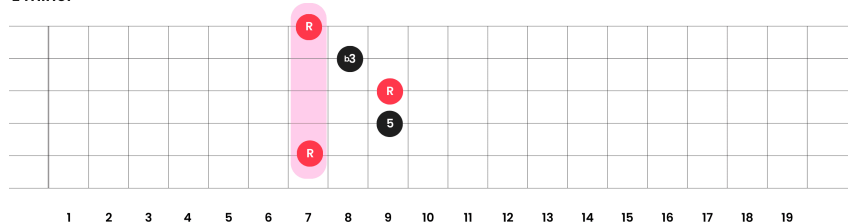
| Dm | Em | Bm |

Super simple progression, but great exercise for moving these chord shapes around the neck!

To help you with this, here are the fretboard diagrams for each of these chords.
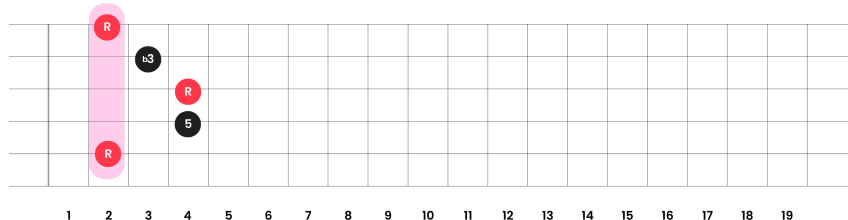

D minor

E minor

B minor

Work with this exercise for as many sessions as needed for you to start getting a feel for moving the shape around. Then move onto the next lesson!

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