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30 Day Beginner Challenge

Guitar Skills



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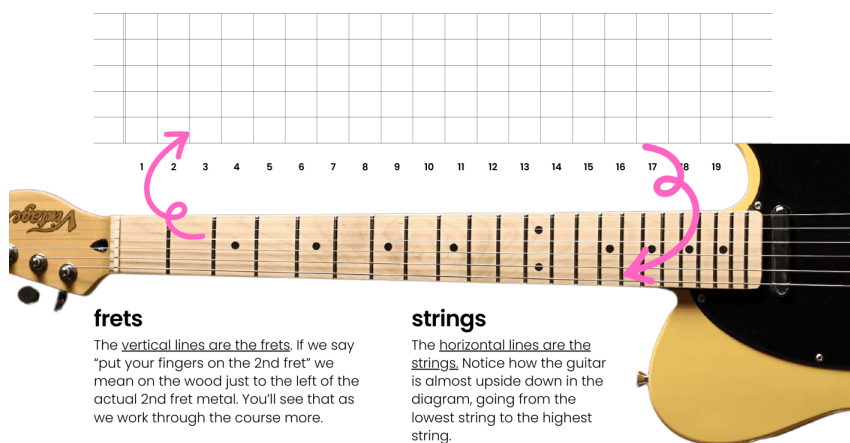
Smashing The Basics

UNIT 1 • **LESSON 2** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

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Chord Two!

In this lesson we will be adding a brand new chord shape and learning how to move between the two. First up, though, let's just learn those string names! If we zoom in on a fretboard shot, and compare that to the fretboard diagram you will see all over our site and on the web, it looks like this (notice that we've deliberately flipped the fretboard upside down):

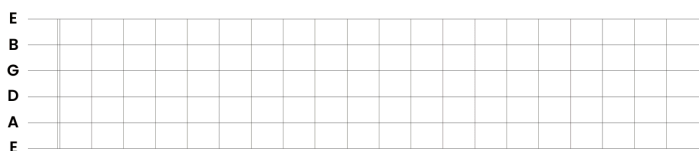


frets

The vertical lines are the frets. If we say "put your fingers on the 2nd fret" we mean on the wood just to the left of the actual 2nd fret metal. You'll see that as we work through the course more.

strings

The horizontal lines are the strings. Notice how the guitar is almost upside down in the diagram, going from the lowest string to the highest string.



elephants and donkeys grow big ears

The strings, in order of the diagram are, E A D G B E. We can remember Elephants And Donkeys Grow Big Ears to get this memorised!

Course navigation

UNIT 1

Smashing The Basics 0% ^

Welcome to the 30 Day Beginner Challenge! In our first unit we will now tackle the basic knowledge you need to get off to the best possible start. This is where you'll learn how to read the diagrams, hold the guitar and more!

Lessons:

- Getting Started
- Chord Two!
- Timing
- Strumming Patterns
- Notes On The Neck

UNIT 2

Let's Hit The Gym 0% v

UNIT 3

Getting Musical 0% v

UNIT 4

The Nitty Gritty 0% v

UNIT 5

Second Song 0% v

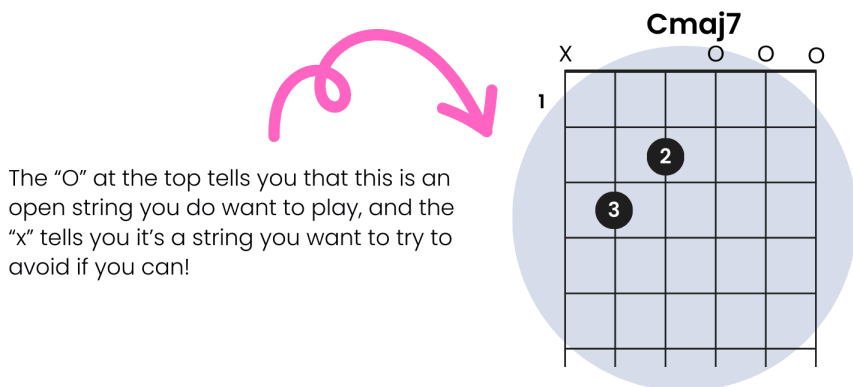
UNIT 6

Getting Ready 0% v

This can take a bit of getting used to, but take your time with it, following along with the video at the same time.

The Cmaj7 chord.

With that out of the way, let's tackle our brand new chord... C major 7. At this point, don't spare a thought for why this is called a C major 7, just know that we will get to that later and that this is a nice, relatively easy, chord shape to start with. The chord shape looks like this:



Spend a bit of time getting that chord shape 'under your fingers' (that's guitarist talk for getting familiar with the shape!). Pay careful attention to the fingers you use to fret the notes. The finger you use won't change the note you hear, but it's important for our next part of the lesson.

Changing chords

We will now try going between the two chords (E minor and C major 7) while keeping all of your fingers as close as you can to the strings at all times. This is very challenging at first, but keep at it, and keep taking regular breaks!

Top tips

🔥 The key to getting your chord changes sounding good is to, first of all, take it slow. You're training your muscle memory here. Eventually your fingers will be able to change without any thought, but to begin with you'll need to take it slow enough that you can control what they do! You'll probably find that your fingers want to jump all over the place, – that's totally fine and normal – it just takes a bit of focused practice to reign them in!

we're getting into some real playing here, so it's a great time to start building your practice habit! Try to **spend 10 minutes practicing** your chord changes today!



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