

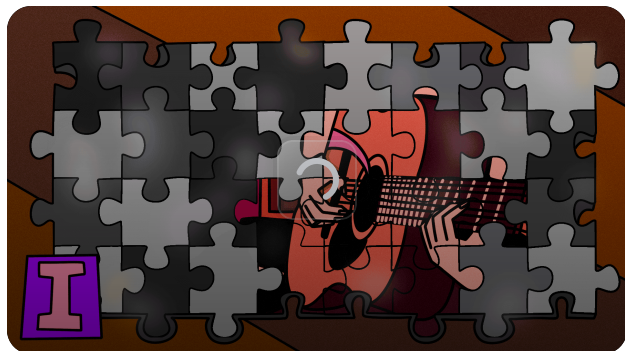
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# Fingerstyle Arrangement

**LEVEL 1** • Challenges

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## Fingerstyle Arrangement 1

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Lesson notes Diagrams

### The Chords

To get started we're going to dive into the typical chords we can use in the two main open chord fingerstyle keys. We use these keys as they lend themselves well to open chords, as we'll discover in the lesson. So let's dive in!

### Which keys?

The two main keys we'll be working with are C major and G major. The reason for this, rather than any other keys, is that we can play nearly all of the chords in these two keys using open chords. Why is this good? Well, the more open chords in fingerstyle guitar the better, as we'll have more fingers free to work with the melody notes!



“ So let's take the time now to get the chords in

UNIT 1

## Fingerstyle

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### Arrangement 1

Focus on the creative side of fingerstyle, and learn how Thomas builds his fingerstyle arrangements!

Lessons:

- The Chords
- C Major Scale
- G Major Scale
- Creating with C
- Creating with G

the key of  
C major  
and G  
major  
together,  
borrowing  
from the  
harmony  
theory  
we've  
discussed  
in the  
harmony  
course.

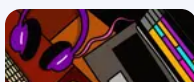
**Thomas**



The process of harmonising is to take the notes from the scale we are using, and use them to create chords. In our case, we are harmonising the 7 notes of the major scale. The first thing to mention is that if this concept is completely new to you, I recommend first checking out this theory course: [Scale Harmonisation](#). That course goes deeper into the subject if you would like to.

## More on harmony!

Outside of fingerstyle arrangement, this topic of harmony is really important to learn, so please do check out our full Harmony course to help you work through that.





## Harmony

### Guitar Skills

If you harmonise the major scale you end up with this formula: “major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, diminished”. Using that formula we can build a triad chord on top of each note in a major scale. Here’s how that looks on the C major scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
maj	min	min	maj	maj	min	dim	maj

Here’s the same thing for the key of G major:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
maj	min	min	maj	maj	min	dim	maj

So, once you know how it works for one key, you can do the same thing for every single major key! You know 12 keys immediately! How cool is that? The only final thing to note is that we often refer to those numbers using roman numerals, rather than the numbers, so taking that key of G major again, it would look like this:

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii	I
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
maj	min	min	maj	maj	min	dim	maj

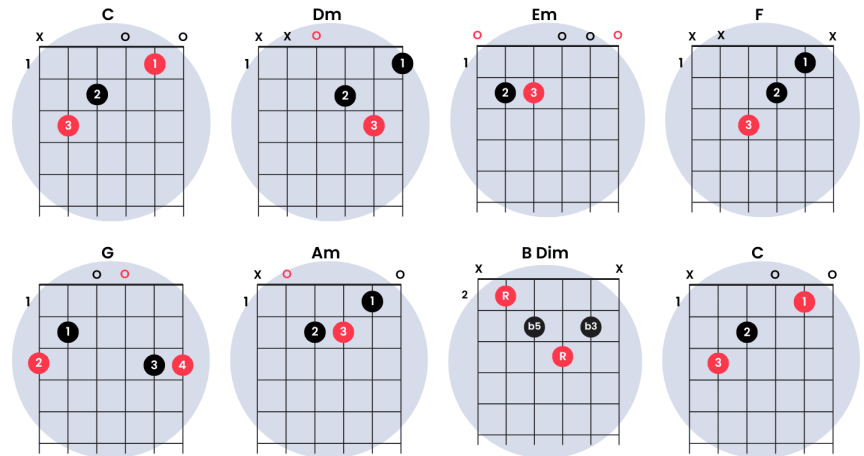
Note that we use lowercase numerals for minor, and uppercase for major.

## The chord shapes...

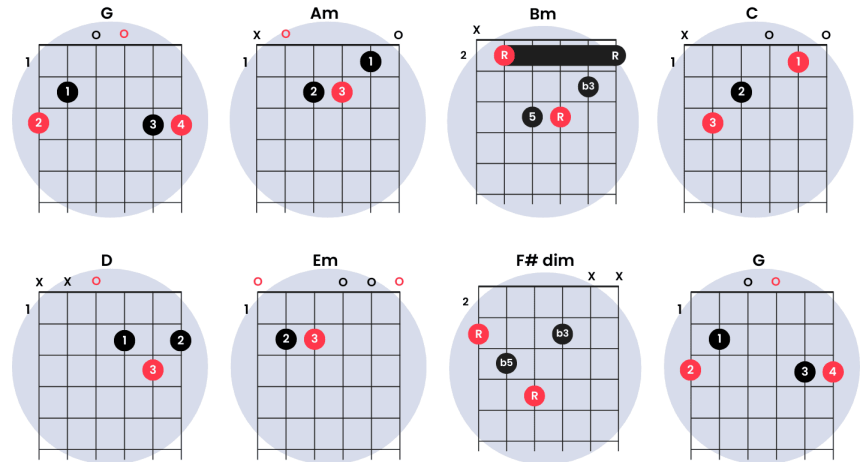
With the theory in place, let’s draw up all of those chord shapes as open chords on the guitar. It looks

like this:

## C major chords



## G major chords



So spend some time learning these patterns, and maybe play around with the chords a little to get a feel for how they all sound together. We'll then pick this up in the next lesson.



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