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# Barre Chords

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## Barre Chords

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# Barre Chords

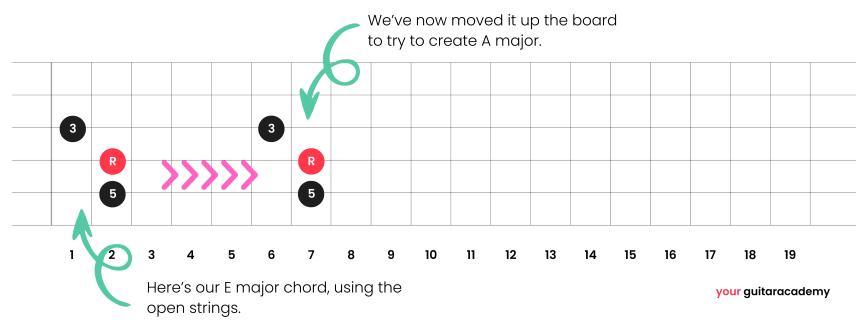
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## What is a Barre Chord?

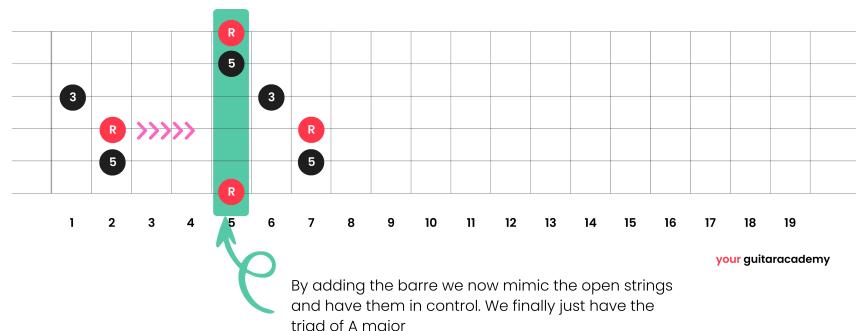
In our first lesson we're going to simply take a look at the definition of the barre chord, and understand the theory behind it. The better you know this, the more you can adapt these shapes in your learning. So, when you're ready, pick up your guitar and let's get started!

## The concept

The idea is very simple. We want to take a range of open chord shapes that we know and love, and start to move them up the guitar fretboard to transpose the chord. Of course, if we simply took an open chord shape and moved it higher up the board, we would get a completely different sounding chord. That's because you're changing the fretted notes while keeping the open string notes the same. Let's take an example here, assuming we would like to move the E major chord up the neck and transpose it to A major.

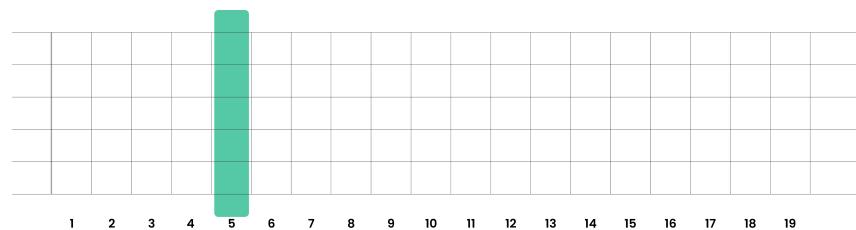


As you can see, the notes you are fretting are moving to the right place. However, the E, B and E string are still the same notes you had in E. This will give you a lovely mix of two chords, and although very pretty, it's not what we're trying to do. Our aim is to create the same major triad chord, but rather than E major, it will be A major. So instead we do this:



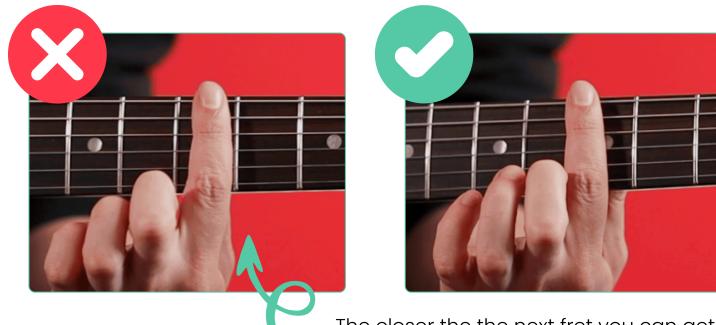
## Top tips!

Let's see if we can get a clean (ish) sounding barre, doing every single string. There are a number of tips that will massively help here, so let's dive into those. Our aim is to get this barre:



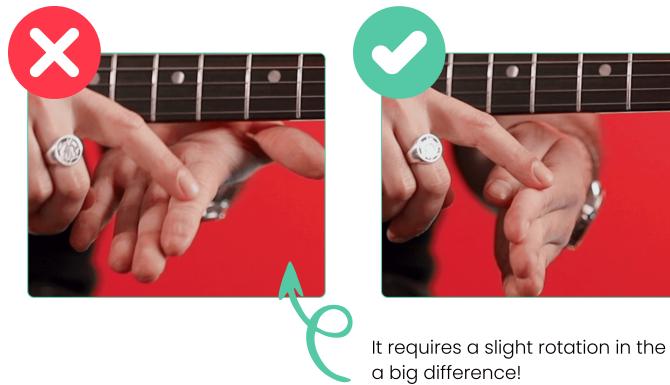
Firstly, make sure to aim your barre as far over the fret as you can, without moving to the next fret. For

example, with this barre, it may look like you're closer to the 6th fret than you are the 5th. Like this:



The closer the next fret you can get, the better the chord will sound!

Secondly, try to make sure you are using the correct part of the finger to get the sound as clear as possible. Don't use the "fleshy soft" part, as shown below, use the harder side of the finger.



It requires a slight rotation in the wrist, but it will make a big difference!

Thirdly, let's talk about the strength needed to play these barre chords. In fact, this is a common misconception. It's more about the position on your hand than it is the amount of strength you put into it. In fact, pressing too hard is a bad habit as you can bend the strings out of tune. So it's about good technique vs amount of power. We'll talk more about this in the next lesson!



So, try to get this simple



“ barre  
sounding  
clear. I  
recommend  
short  
practice  
sessions on  
this, with  
lots of time  
in between  
to allow the  
fingers to  
get used to  
it. It is tough,  
but the right  
technique  
will change  
everything!

Franco ”

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