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# Electric Guitar

LEVEL 3 • Guitar Skills



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## The Em Shape

UNIT 3 • LESSON 4 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes

Interactive tab

Diagrams

### Rhythm...

We will start by looking through the rhythm part of the song. We need to get a grasp of the 6/8 time signature. We are very used to the idea of 4/4 time signature, of course! This is the idea that we have 4 quarter notes per bar. This means we can count "1 2 3 4" and then we get to the next bar. In 6/8 we have six eighth notes per bar. It looks like this:

The first number indicates the "how many". So we're looking at 6 beats to a bar here.

6/8

The second number is "of what". Here we are dealing with eighth notes (1/8 notes).

To count through 6/8 you would say "**one two three four five six**", with the accent being on the 1 and the 4 beats. This is a massive first step to understanding the time signature, and one you can practice with the drum beats available to you. Notice how, when you use the drum beat, the snare is always on the "4" beat. Rhythm pattern wise it looks like this:

## Course navigation

### UNIT 1

#### The E Shape Chord

0%



### UNIT 2

#### The Am Shape Chord

0%



### UNIT 3

#### The Em Shape

0%



At this point in the barre chord quest, we will be tackling the third shape, the Em shape. However, there is still a lot to be done on the previous shapes to get them confident and clear, so in the song at the end of this course, we use all 3 shapes!

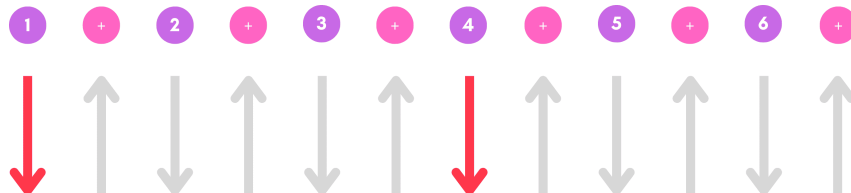
Lessons:

- The Em Shape
- Why Two Shapes?
- "Minor Blues"
- Rhythm...
- The Chords

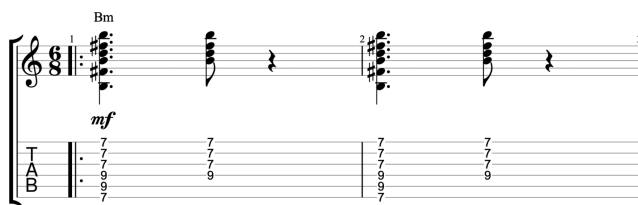
### UNIT 4

#### The A Shape Chord

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Try practicing this rhythm with the first B minor chord of the piece. If you were to look at this on tab, it would look like this:



Notice how the first strum (on the 1) is the whole chord, and the second strum (on the 4) is the high end of the chord!



“

So try playing this first chord along to the backing track or even just free time by yourself. It does help to do it alongside a beat though, to get a feel

for it  
properly!

**Dan**

”



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