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# Ed Sheeran

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### The Slap Technique!

To start with, we are in the key of A major. For this lesson we need to learn, or remind ourselves, of the A major and the A/C# chord.



“

Remember that a slash chord, like A/C# is still an A major chord at heart, it just has a different bass note. In this case, the bass note is the 3rd degree of

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### UNIT 1

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#### Pontification

This unit is all about introducing you to that “slow slap chord pluck” as Thomas so beautifully puts it!

Lessons:

- The Slap Technique!
- The Verse Section
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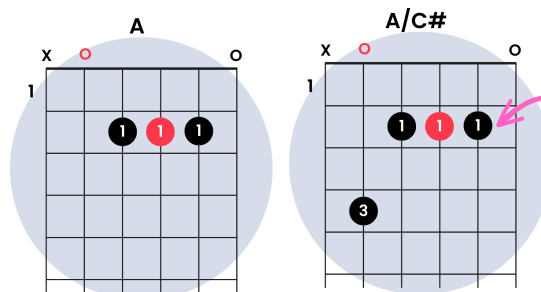


the chord,  
so it's  
referred to  
as a 1st  
inversion.  
More on  
that in the  
fingerstyle  
courses!

Thomas



So, let's take a look at those chord shapes quickly first...



Notice how the A chord is barred with the 1st finger.

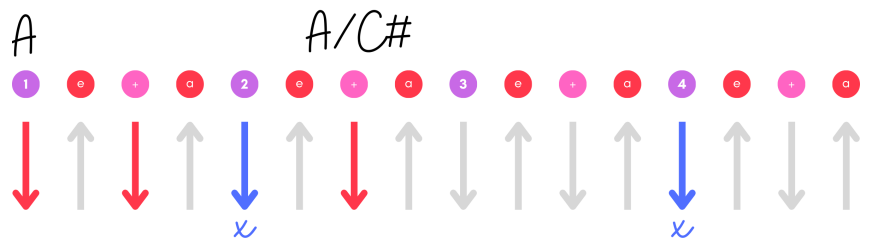
## Onto the slap

For the actual slap itself, we need to first of all get a feel for it. Thomas suggests holding the hand as shown below. It's well worth spending some time just getting comfortable with the technique, before we even consider the rhythm pattern.

Notice how Thomas's fingers are in a sort of fist, so that you can get a good “thud” on the strings as you play the tune.



As for the pattern we're using to play this core groove, it looks something like this. Note that the chords are shown on the correct beat, and the blue arrows and 'x' markers indicate when to do the slap.



So, get this practiced until it starts to feel a bit more natural, and then we can start to piece together the rest of the song, with this technique at the heart of it.



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