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Essentials Part 1

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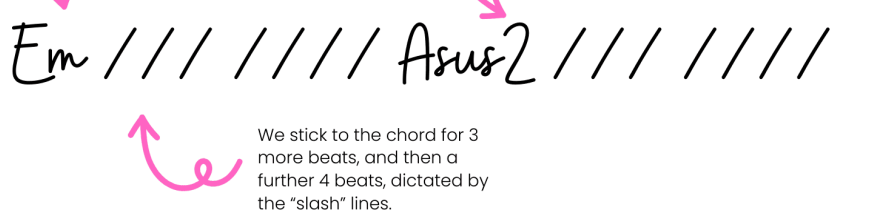
Changing Chords

In this lesson we'll learn how to read chord charts! This is a crucial skill as we start to build up a song repertoire, and there are a few ways you can see a chord chart, but we'll cover the way we do it here (with a nod to other ways you might see it!). So, here is our chord chart for this lesson:

This tells us we need to play the E minor chord on the first beat of the bar.

Here we now move to the Asus2 chord and stay for 2 bars. Remember, 4 beats is 1 bar, so we're playing 2 bars on the Asus2.

We stick to the chord for 3 more beats, and then a further 4 beats, dictated by the "slash" lines.



The diagram shows a handwritten-style chord chart: *Em* followed by three slashes, then four slashes, then *Asus2* followed by three slashes and four slashes. Pink arrows point from the explanatory text to the corresponding parts of the chart.

In the early days of our learning, the slashes give us a lot of extra information, and you'll see them a lot. Later down the line, we lose the slash markers as we need the guide less (and we can use the slash for other things). The chord charts will end up looking like this:



The diagram shows a simplified chord chart: *Em* | *Em* | *Asus2* | *Asus2* |. Vertical bars separate the chords.

UNIT 1

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1

This course is all about laying the foundations. We will show you how to play your first chords, read chord charts and strum confidently in time. Follow this carefully and you won't have any bad habits moving forwards!

Lessons:

- Your First Chords
- Changing Chords
- Strumming
- More Chords
- Practice Habits

UNIT 2

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UNIT 3

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UNIT 4

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4



“

Remember that the chord chart only gives us the name of the chord we are playing. It doesn't give us any information about where to play that chord, or what rhythm etc... It's a wonderful guide for us to fill in!

Dan

”

So, before the next lesson I want you to practice along with this chord chart, with Dan in the video and the drum beat. If you want to, try to change the speed as well! It's just one strum per bar, so have fun with that!



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