

# 5 Common Chord Types

Boxes = Root (The letter name you brain should 1st think about)

Diamond = Redundant. These notes are unnecessary to maintain the chord name

The image shows five guitar chord diagrams labeled A, Am, A<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, and Amaj<sup>7</sup>. Each diagram includes a fretboard grid and a musical staff below it. The staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

To Do:

1. Put in fingerings (counterintuitive fingerings)
2. Name scale degrees and / or solfedge
3. Name interval distances (Ex. minor 3rd)
4. Practice transposing to different keys
5. Compose!

The image shows five guitar chord diagrams labeled B, Bm, B<sup>7</sup>, Bm<sup>7</sup>, and Bmaj<sup>7</sup>. Each diagram includes a fretboard grid and a musical staff below it. The staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F# C# G#).

Notice how the shape stays the same. I opted for concise music theory and easily moveable chords.

Notice how 5 letter names up from the root is often missing as if there is a gap in the chord. This is done because those notes are not needed to maintain the chord name, have little emotional impact, and because guitar struggles to have some voicings be practical.

The image shows five guitar chord diagrams labeled C, Cm, C<sup>7</sup>, Cm<sup>7</sup>, and Cmaj<sup>7</sup>. Each diagram includes a fretboard grid and a musical staff below it. The staff has a treble clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats (C).

2

D      Dm      D7      Dm7      Dmaj7

xxo    xxo    xxo    xxo    xxo

16      16      16      16      16

(D) (D) (D) (D) (D)

(C) (A) (C) (A) (C) (A)

(F#) (D) (F#) (D) (F#) (D)

(B) (G) (B) (G) (B) (G)

(E) (C) (E) (C) (E) (C)

(A) (F#) (A) (F#) (A) (F#)

21

E      Em      E7/D      Em7      Emaj7

xx    xx    xx    xx    xx

oo    ooo    oo    ooo    oo

21      21      21      21      21

(E) (E) (E) (E) (E)

(B) (G) (B) (G) (B) (G)

(F#) (D) (F#) (D) (F#) (D)

(C) (A) (C) (A) (C) (A)

(G) (E) (G) (E) (G) (E)

(D) (B) (D) (B) (D) (B)

(F#) (D) (F#) (D) (F#) (D)

(B) (G) (B) (G) (B) (G)

(E) (C) (E) (C) (E) (C)

Unique chords can be built by finding other combinations versions of the same letter names. For this guide, I opted for more concise, transposable voicings, rather than super clever voicings.

26

F      Fm      F7      Fm7      Fmaj7

xx    xx    xx    xx    xx

xx    xx    xx    xx    xx

26      26      26      26      26

(F) (F) (F) (F) (F)

(C) (A) (C) (A) (C) (A)

(G) (E) (G) (E) (G) (E)

(D) (B) (D) (B) (D) (B)

(F#) (D) (F#) (D) (F#) (D)

(B) (G) (B) (G) (B) (G)

(E) (C) (E) (C) (E) (C)

There are some chords missing in this guide, but hopefully this is enough to transpose to whatever key you need.

31

G      Gm      G7      Gm7/F      Gmaj7

xxxoo    xx    xxxoo    xx    xx

oo    ooo    oo    ooo    oo

31      31      31      31      31

(G) (G) (G) (G) (G)

(D) (B) (D) (B) (D) (B)

(F) (B) (F) (B) (F) (B)

(G) (E) (G) (E) (G) (E)

(C) (A) (C) (A) (C) (A)

(F#) (D) (F#) (D) (F#) (D)

(B) (G) (B) (G) (B) (G)

(E) (C) (E) (C) (E) (C)

(A) (F#) (A) (F#) (A) (F#)

# 5 Common Chord Types

The diagram shows five common guitar chords: A, Am, A<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, and Amaj7. Each chord is represented by a fretboard diagram with dots indicating where to press the strings and an open circle indicating where to leave a string open. Below each fretboard diagram is a musical staff with note labels. The chords are:

- A: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (C) (A) (E) (A)
- Am: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (G) (E) (A)
- A<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (C) (G) (E)
- Am<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (G) (E) (A)
- Amaj7: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (G) (B) (E)

This version shows famous versions of guitar chords that often have the root as the lowest note. These versions often have redundant notes that are not necessary to maintain the chord name.

The diagram shows five guitar chords: B, Bm, B<sup>7</sup>, Bm<sup>7</sup>, and Bmaj7. The chords are shown on a 6th string. Each chord is represented by a fretboard diagram with dots indicating where to press the strings and an open circle indicating where to leave a string open. Below each fretboard diagram is a musical staff with note labels. The chords are:

- B: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (F#) (D) (B) (F#) (B)
- Bm: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (F#) (D) (B) (F#)
- B<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (F#) (D) (A) (B)
- Bm<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (F#) (D) (A) (B)
- Bmaj7: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (F#) (D) (A) (F#)

The diagram shows five guitar chords: C, Cm, C<sup>7</sup>, Cm<sup>7</sup>, and Cmaj7. The chords are shown on an 11th string. Each chord is represented by a fretboard diagram with dots indicating where to press the strings and an open circle indicating where to leave a string open. Below each fretboard diagram is a musical staff with note labels. The chords are:

- C: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (C) (G) (E) (C)
- Cm: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (G) (C) (-C)
- C<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (B) (G) (E)
- Cm<sup>7</sup>: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (B) (G) (-C)
- Cmaj7: Fretboard diagram shows dots at the 2nd and 3rd strings on the 1st fret. Staff notes: (E) (B) (G) (E)

2

xxo

Dm

D7

Dm7

Dmaj7

16

Guitar neck diagram showing fingerings for each chord.

21

E

Em

E7

Em7

Emaj7

4fr

Guitar neck diagram showing fingerings for each chord.

26

F

Fm

F7

Fm7

Fmaj7

Guitar neck diagram showing fingerings for each chord.

31

G

Gm

G7

Gm7

Gmaj7

Guitar neck diagram showing fingerings for each chord.

# 5 Common Chord Types

Diagram showing five common guitar chords: A, Am, A<sup>7</sup>, Am<sup>7</sup>, and Amaj<sup>7</sup>. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram above a six-string staff.

This version includes larger chords. Consider if playing the entire chord is really worth it.

There is a well known guitar chord concept called "CAGED". The famous versions of C, A G, E, D chords can rise in pitch to create the chords found in more difficult keys. For example, the first chord in this guide should remind you of a famous version of an E major chord.

Diagram showing five common guitar chords: B, Bm, B<sup>7</sup>, Bm<sup>7</sup>, and Bmaj<sup>7</sup>. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram above a six-string staff.

Diagram showing five common guitar chords: C, Cm, C<sup>7</sup>, Cm<sup>7</sup>, and Cmaj<sup>7</sup>. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram above a six-string staff.

2

D      Dm      D7      Dm7      Dmaj7

5fr      5fr      5fr      5fr      5fr

5      5      5      5      5

16      16      16      16      16

Guitar neck diagram showing strings A, D, G, B, E, and F#.

21

E      Em      E7      Em7      Emaj7

7fr      7fr      7fr      7fr      7fr

O      X      X      X      X

Guitar neck diagram showing strings E, B, G, D, A, and E.

26

F      Fm      F7      Fm7      Fmaj7

8fr      8fr      8fr      8fr      8fr

X      X      X      X      X

Guitar neck diagram showing strings F, C, A, D, G, and B.

31

G      Gm      G7      Gm7      Gmaj7

10fr      10fr      10fr      10fr      10fr

X      X      X      X      X

Guitar neck diagram showing strings G, D, B, F, C, and G.