

Barre Chords and Beyond.

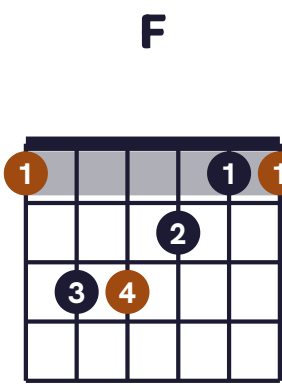
Barre chords, 7ths, sus, add9, 9ths and progressions.

Free printable · 24 × 36 in

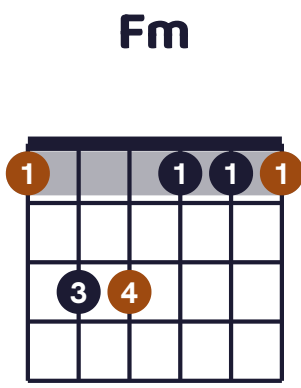
CHORDS & HARMONY

Barre Chords

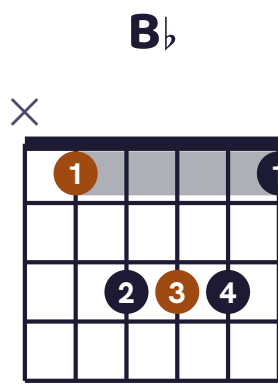
Two shapes play every major and minor chord: the open E and A chords, moved up the neck with your first finger as the nut.



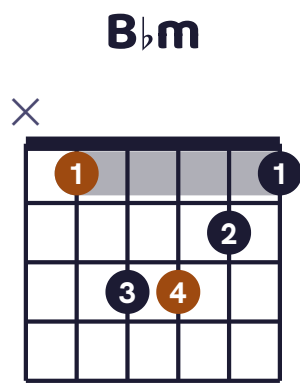
E shape



E shape, minor



A shape



A shape, minor

The shaded strip is the barre: lay your first finger flat across those strings. Coloured dot: the root, which names the chord.

Move it

E SHAPE: ROOT ON THE 6TH STRING

A SHAPE: ROOT ON THE 5TH STRING

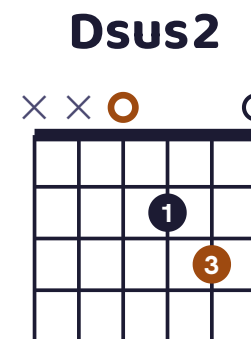
Slide a shape up two frets to go up a tone: F becomes G, Bb becomes C. Minor shapes move the same way.

F fret 1	G fret 3	A fret 5	B fret 7	C fret 8	D fret 10
Bb fret 1	C fret 3	D fret 5	E fret 7	F fret 8	G fret 10

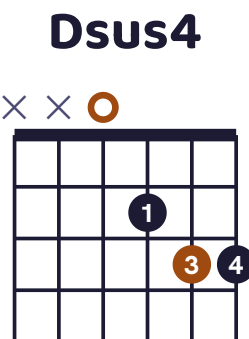
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Sus Chords

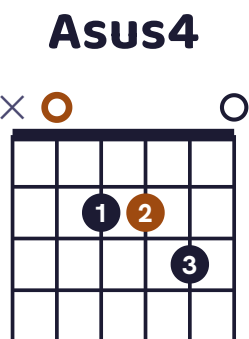
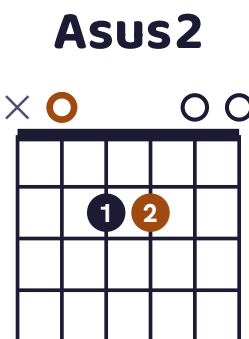
Suspended chords swap the 3rd for the 2nd (sus2) or the 4th (sus4): open and unresolved, neither major nor minor.



Esus4



Gsus4



Numbers are fingers (1 = index). ○ play the open string, × don't play it. The coloured dot is the root.

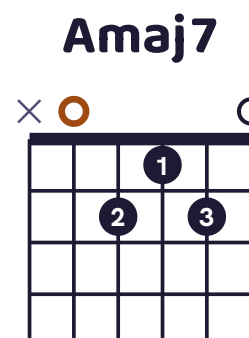
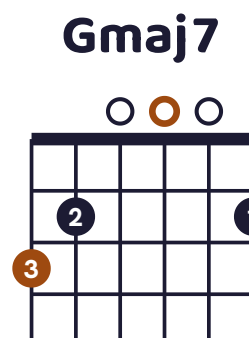
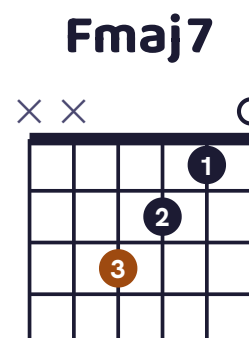
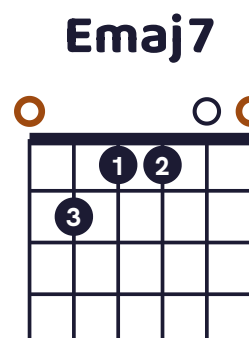
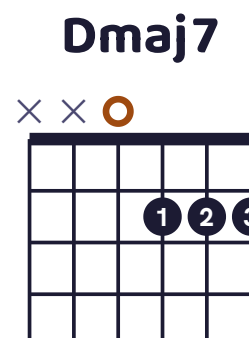
Play D, then Dsus4, then D again: the 4th wants to fall back to the 3rd.

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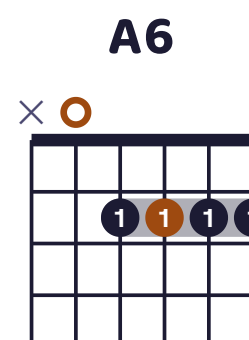
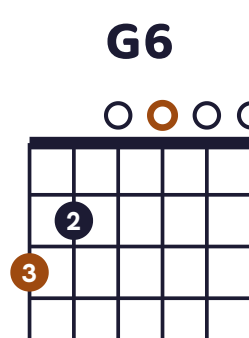
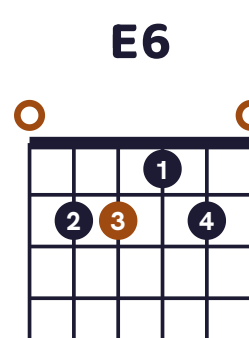
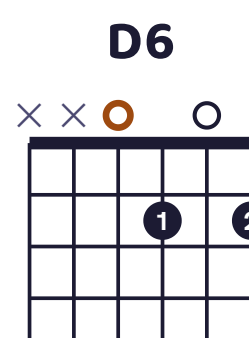
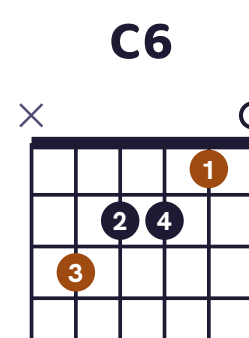
Major 7th and 6th Chords

Two soft, jazzy colours for a major chord: add the 7th (maj7) or the 6th (6).

Major 7th



6th



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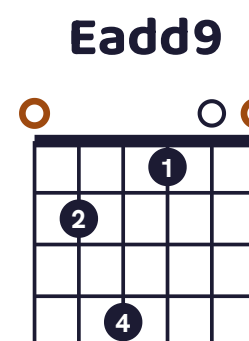
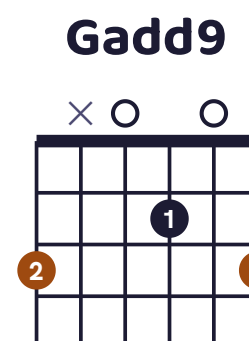
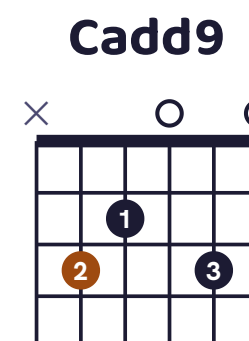
Try Cmaj7 in place of C, or G6 in place of G: same job, gentler sound.

CHORDS & HARMONY

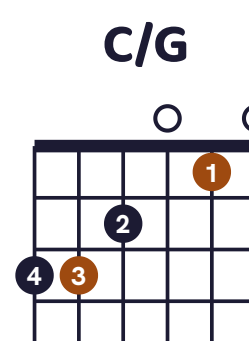
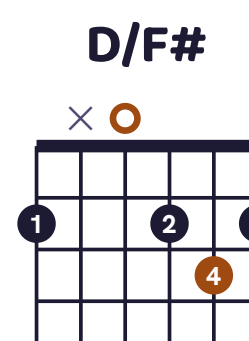
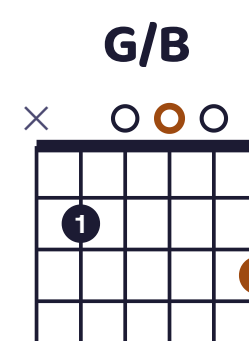
Add9 and Slash Chords

Add9 keeps the 3rd and adds the 9th, for a bright, open sound. A slash chord puts a different note in the bass: G/B is G with B lowest.

Add9



Slash chords



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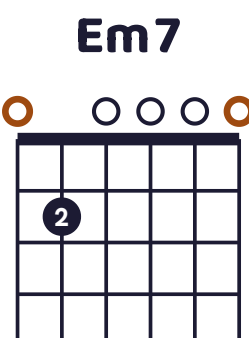
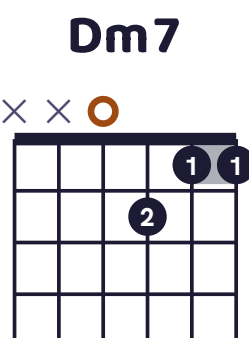
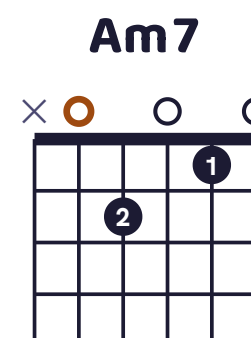
Slash chords make smooth bass lines: try G, G/B, C, then C/G, D/F#, G.

CHORDS & HARMONY

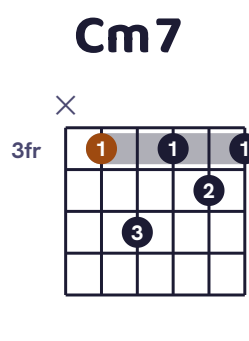
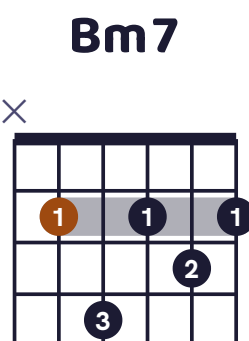
Minor 7th Chords

A minor chord plus the flat 7th: smoother and more relaxed than plain minor. The sound of soul, pop ballads and jazz.

Open



Barre



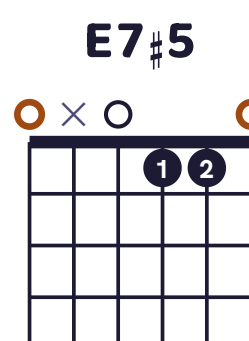
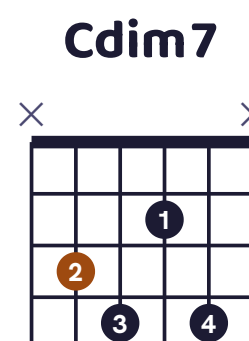
Numbers are fingers (1 = index). ○ play the open string, × don't play it. The coloured dot is the root.

The barre shapes move like the barre chords: Fm7 up two frets is Gm7.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Diminished and Augmented

Tense, in-between chords that pull towards the next one. Their notes are evenly spaced, so the shapes repeat along the neck.



Numbers are fingers (1 = index). ○ play the open string, × don't play it. The coloured dot is the root.

A dim7 chord repeats every 3 frets, an augmented chord every 4: one shape, moved, gives the same notes.

FOUNDATIONS

How to Read a Chord Box

A chord box is a picture of the guitar neck, standing up, as you look at it.

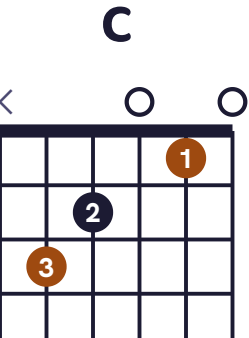
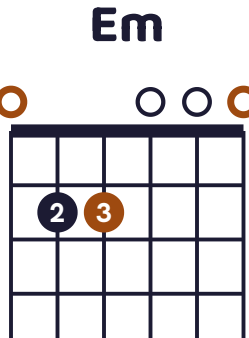
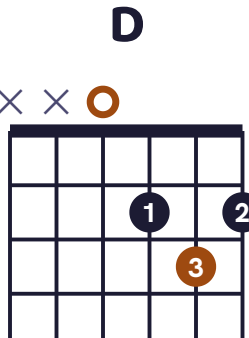
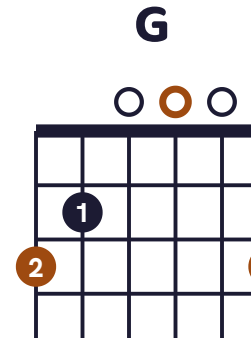
Lines	Up and down: the six strings, low E on the left. Across: the frets.
Thick top line	The nut: the box starts at the first fret.
3fr	No nut: the box starts at the fret shown, here the 3rd.
1 2 3 4	Which finger: 1 index, 2 middle, 3 ring, 4 little.
○	Play the string open, with no finger on it.
×	Don't play this string.
Coloured dot	The root: the note that names the chord.

CHORDS & HARMONY

Guitar Progressions

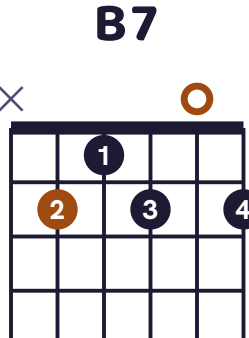
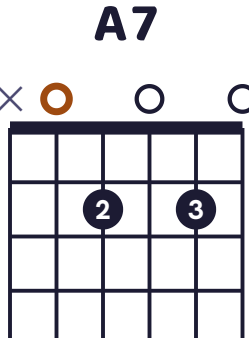
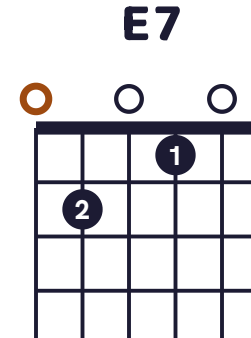
Real progressions in guitar-friendly keys, with the shapes to play them.

Pop in G: **I** **V** **vi** **IV**



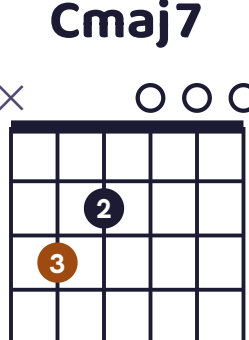
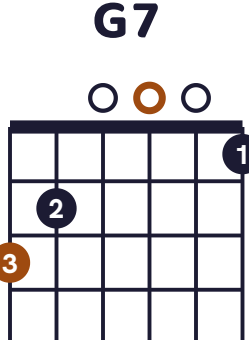
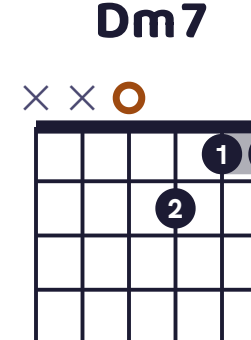
Hundreds of hits use these four chords.

12-bar blues in E: **IV7** **IV7** **V7**



Four bars of E7, two of A7, two of E7, then B7, A7, E7, B7.

Jazz in C: **ii7** **V7** **I** **Imaj7**



The ii-V-I: the move at the heart of jazz.

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