Guitar Chord Chart.

The open chords every guitarist learns, the 7th chords, and how to read a chord box.

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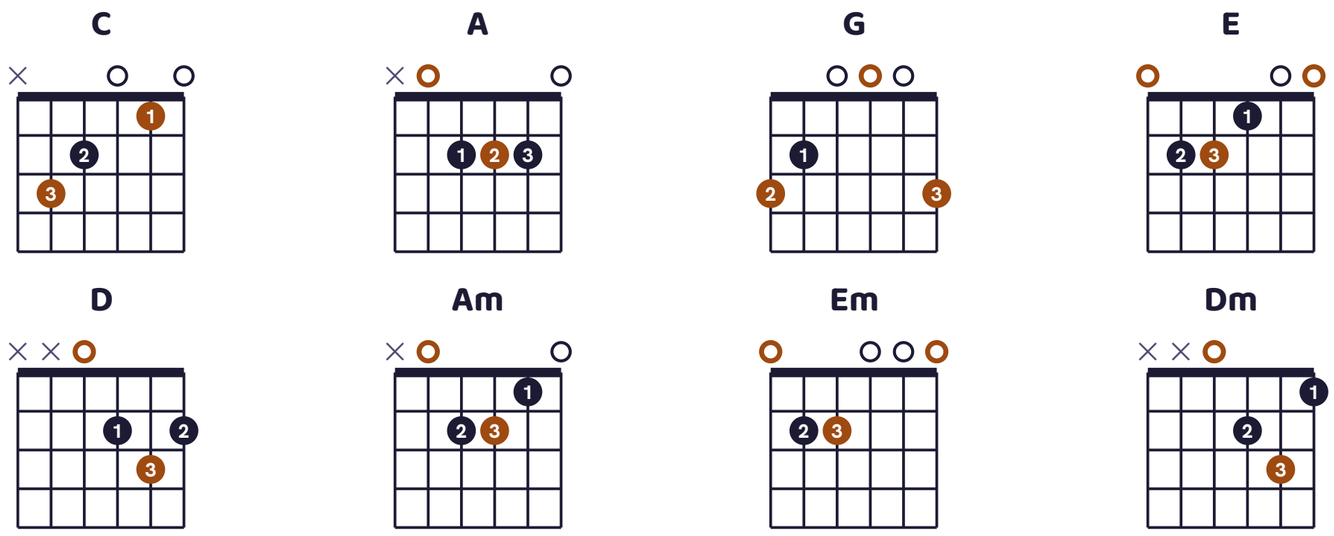
CHORDS & HARMONY

Open Chords

The first chords most guitarists learn. Strings run top to bottom, low E on the left; the thick line at the top is the nut.



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

FOUNDATIONS

How to Read a Chord Box

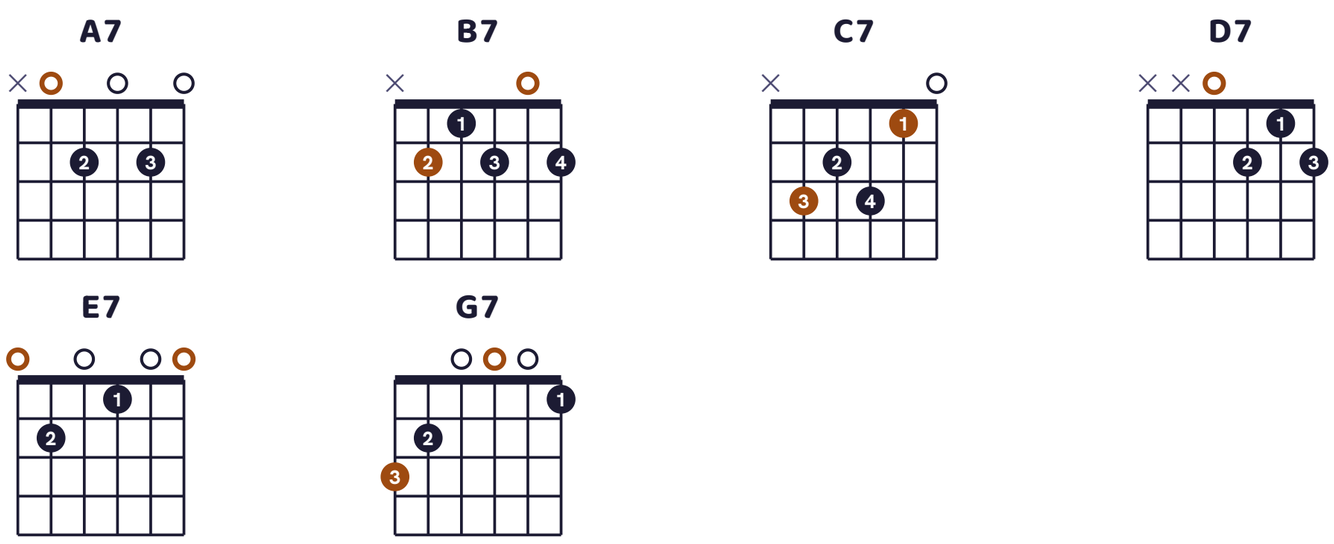
A chord box is a picture of the guitar neck, standing up, as you look at it.

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

Open Seventh Chords

Dominant 7th chords: a major chord plus the flat 7th. They pull towards the chord a 5th below, as in blues and folk.



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

CHORDS & HARMONY

Power Chords

Two notes, the root and the 5th, written with a 5 (G5). Neither major nor minor, so they fit almost anything, especially with distortion.

Root on the low E string

Root on the A string

Coloured dot: the root (it names the chord). The same shape works on any fret.

More: **A5** fret 5, low E string · **E5** fret 7, A string · **D5** fret 5, A string

CHORDS & HARMONY

Common Progressions

I vi Uppercase = major · lowercase = minor

NUMERALS	IN C	STYLE
I V vi IV	C · G · Am · F	Pop anthem
vi IV I V	Am · F · C · G	Same chords, starting on minor
I vi IV V	C · Am · F · G	'50s doo-wop
I IV V	C · F · G	Rock, folk, country
ii V I	Dm7 · G7 · Cmaj7	Jazz's most common move

12-Bar Blues

C7 I7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7
F7 IV7	**F7** IV7	**C7** I7	**C7** I7
G7 V7	**F7** IV7	**C7** I7	**G7** V7

The last bar (V7) is the turnaround back to the top; end the song on I7 instead.

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

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