

Guitar Chord Chart.

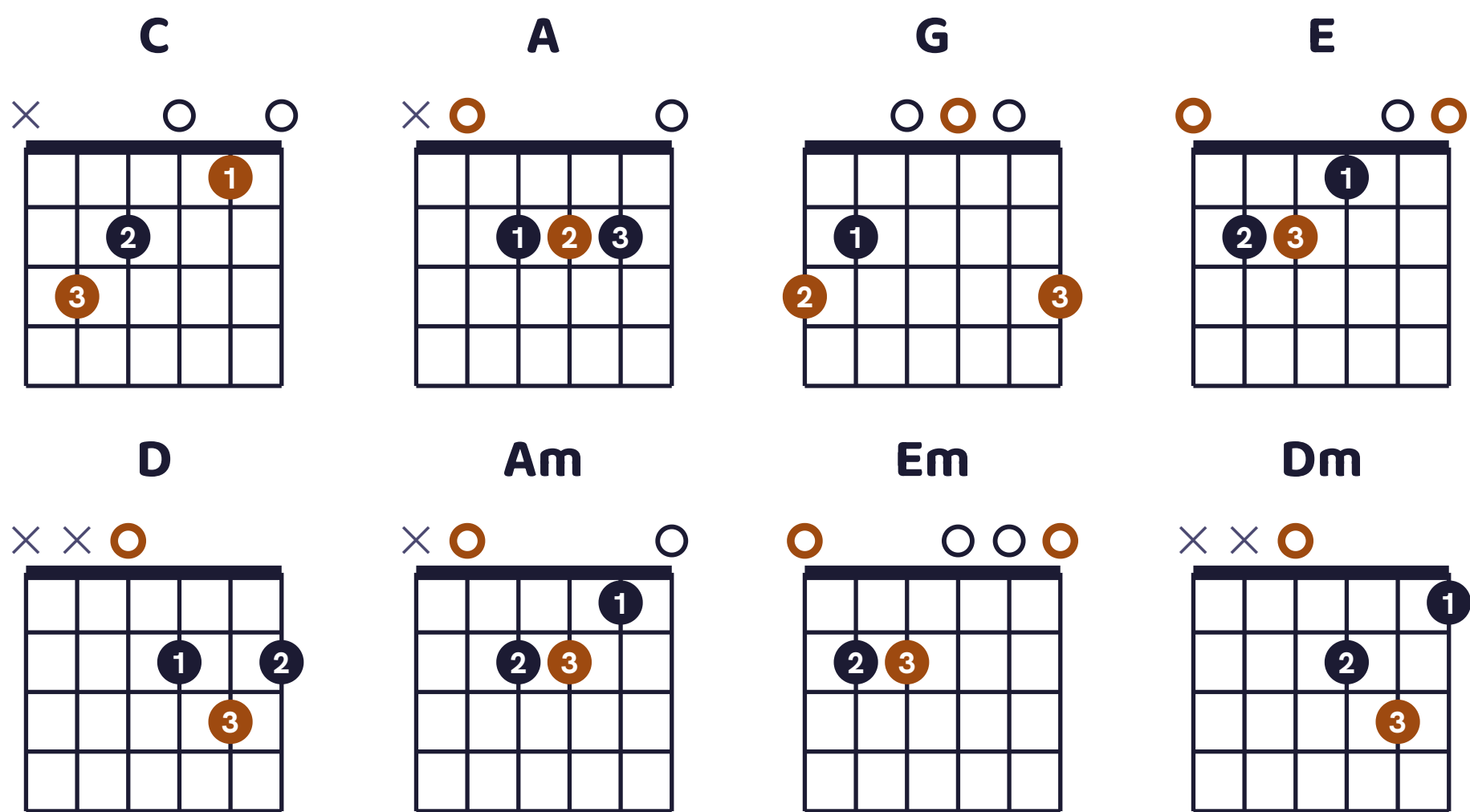
The open chords every guitarist learns, the 7th chords, and how to read a chord box.

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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). o play the open string, x don't play it. The colored 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.
o	Play the string open, with no finger on it.
x	Don't play this string.
Colored dot	The root: the note that names the chord.

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

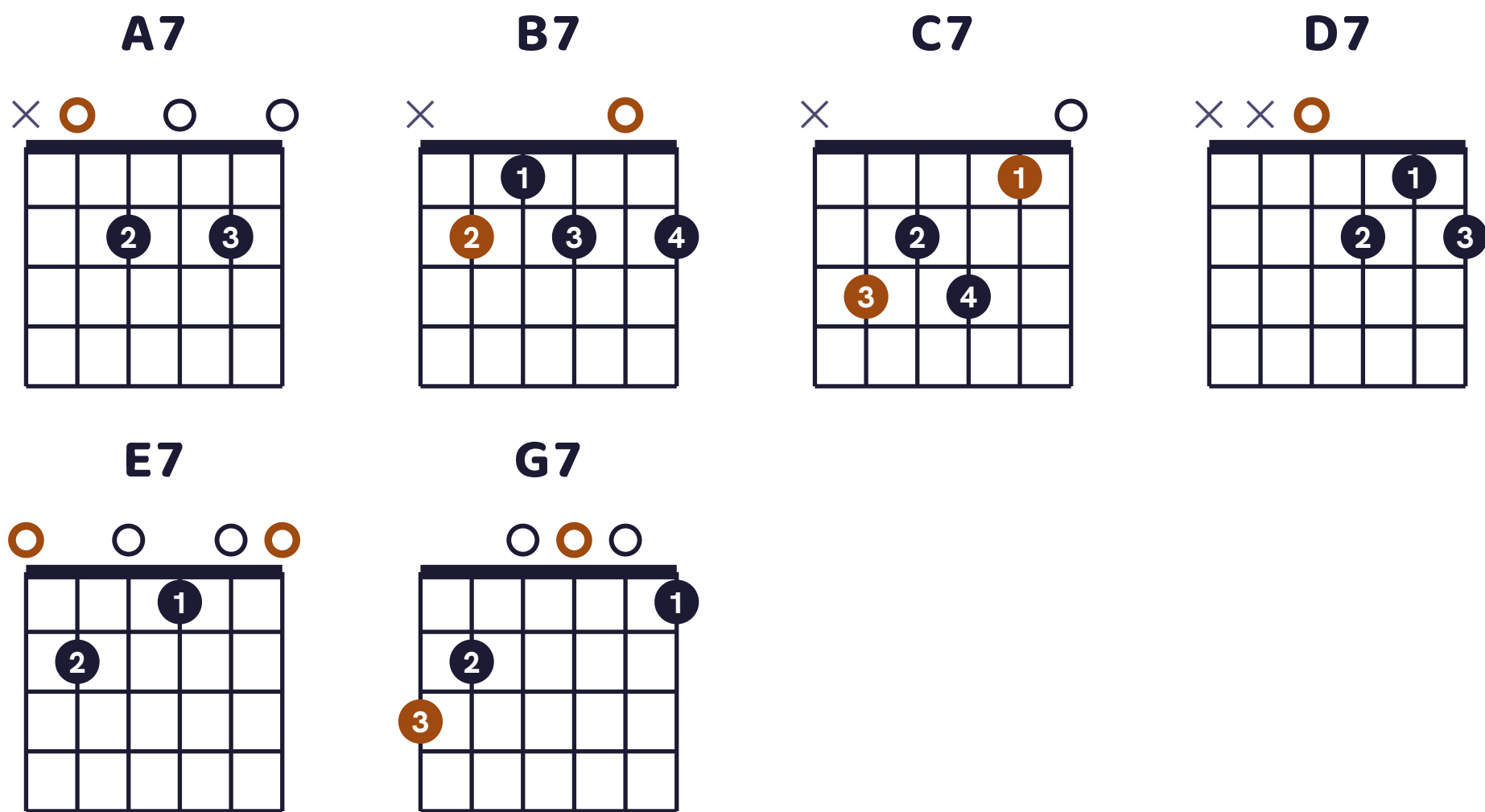
Colored dot: the root (it names the chord). The same shape works on any fret.

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

CHORDS & HARMONY

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). o play the open string, x don't play it. The colored dot is the root.

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 measure (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

