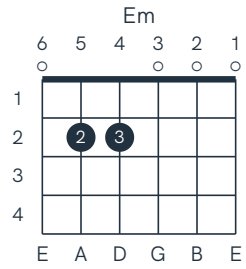
Em, Am and C: Map the Change

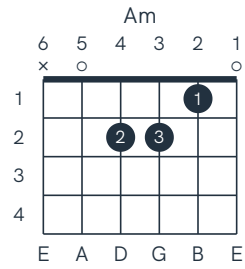
Check the strings, track each finger, and keep a slow four-beat count.

1 · CHECK EACH STRING

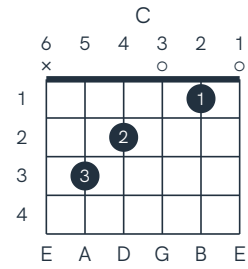
Standard tuning, strings 6→1: **E2 · A2 · D3 · G3 · B3 · E4**.
Numbers after note names show the sounding octave, not a finger or fret; C4 is middle C.
Nut at top; string 6 at left, string 1 at right. Fret numbers run down the left.



6 strings: 6→1
E2 · B2 · E3 · G3 · B3 · E4



5 strings: 5→1
A2 · E3 · A3 · C4 · E4



5 strings: 5→1
C3 · E3 · G3 · C4 · E4

○ = open · × = omit/mute. Dot numbers are fingers: 1 index, 2 middle, 3 ring.
These are the fingerings used here; other versions exist. Pick the sounding strings one at a time, low to high. Each should ring clearly, without buzzing or a dead thud. If one does not, adjust that fretting finger and check again before adding the count.

2 · MAP EACH FINGER

Change	Finger	From ↔ to (reverse to come back)	Action
Em ↔ Am	1	off strings ↔ string 2, fret 1	place / lift
Em ↔ Am	2	string 5, fret 2 ↔ string 4, fret 2	move
Em ↔ Am	3	string 4, fret 2 ↔ string 3, fret 2	move
Am ↔ C	1	string 2, fret 1 ↔ string 2, fret 1	keep down
Am ↔ C	2	string 4, fret 2 ↔ string 4, fret 2	keep down
Am ↔ C	3	string 3, fret 2 ↔ string 5, fret 3	move

Keep moving fingers close to the strings. Am ↔ C keeps fingers 1, 2.

3 · CHANGE ON THE NEXT BEAT 1

Count 1-2-3-4. Downstrum on 1, 2 and 3. On 4, gently rest your strumming hand across the strings to stop all ringing while your fretting hand prepares. Lift the strumming hand for the next 1. Practice the silent beat 4 on one chord first. Em starts on string 6; Am and C start on string 5. Keep string 6 silent for Am and C. Repeat the original loop.

Try it In Am→C, which finger moves? Name its starting and ending string and fret.

Check: finger 3: G string (3), fret 2 → A string (5), fret 3.

Listen / check · quarter = 60 · 1-3: compare each string with the piano pitch model. 4: play the loop after four piano count-in notes.
Synthesized piano pitches and timing; compare your own guitar's string clarity.
Audio after publication: tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-open-chord-change-map

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