

Mandolin: Standard and Alternate Closed Chord Positions.

This expands on the condensed treatment of the standard closed chords given on page 83 of the book. We also include two alternate sets of closed chords. Learning these alternate positions – even if you use the standard ones – will help you get a broader sense of where the tones lie, which improves your ability to play double stops (and play intuitively in general). Also, anyone who has trouble with the standard positions may find some of these to be an acceptable alternative, at least for awhile.

The dotted line labeled as the 'nut' is not really the nut, for you can use the closed chords anywhere on the fret board. Nevertheless, you can picture the nut there to help orient yourself. There are also arrow lines pointing from one chord to the next which may be helpful.

Where two tones are shown being pressed with one finger, you can try using two fingers if you have difficulty. This especially applies to those with small fingers. The larger your fingers, the easier it is to press two tones with one finger. Don't hesitate to experiment a little with other fingers or other ways of holding the neck to find what works best for you.

Tone convention: The mandolin chords below are shown made up from the *tones of the key*. For example, the KEY of **G** uses three main chords, the G, C, and D chords, which are the 1, 4 and 5 chords respectively. In the book we considered each of these chords as separate entities, made up from their respective 1, 3, and 5 tones as show in VIEW #1 below. The chord name (G, C, or D) denoted the 'root' or 1 tone, with the other two tones of the chord (3 and 5) relative to it.

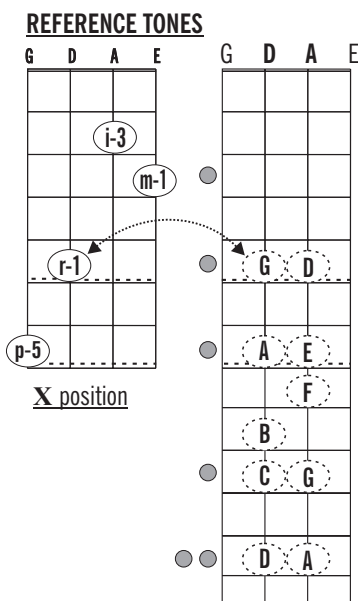
Now, instead, we are considering these three main chords as the 1, 4, and 5 chords in the KEY of **G** which are made from the *tones of that KEY*. Thus, the 1 chord is made from the 1, 3, and 5 tones; the 4 chord is made from the 4, 6, and 1 tones; the 5 chord is made of the 5, 7, and 2 tones. Study VIEW #2 below which lays this out. If this is confusing, please read the online RESOURCES page entitled **More Nitty Gritty on the Chords**,

VIEW #1: Thinking about chords as separate individual harmonies looks like this:

Chords: **G** = 1+3+5 **C** = 1+3+5 **D** = 1+3+5 **Em** = 1+3b+5

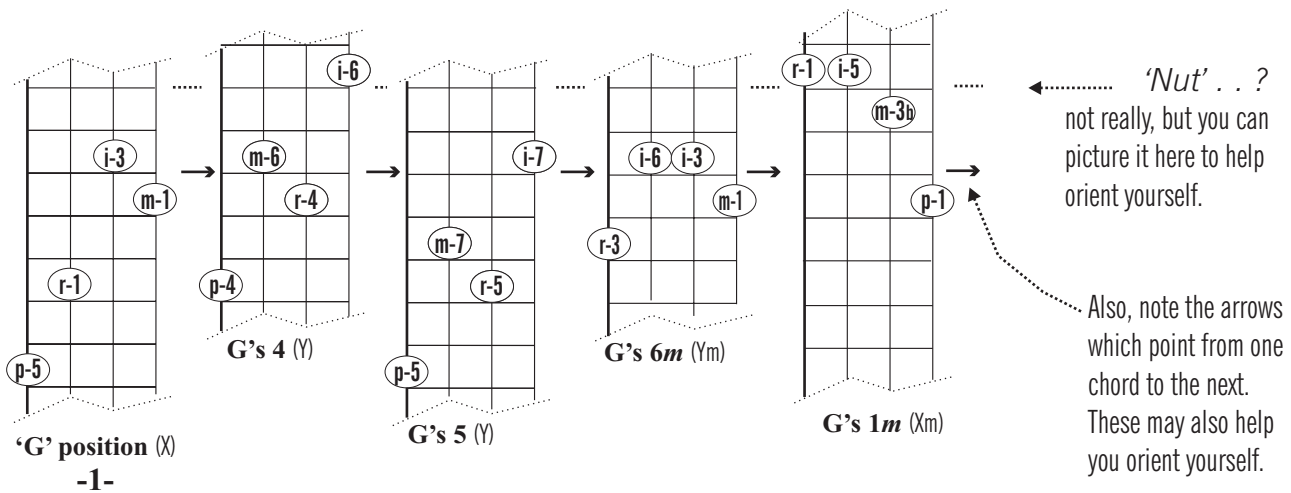
VIEW #2: Thinking about these same chords as integral to the KEY (and 1 chord) looks like this:

Chords: 1 chord=1+3+5 4 chord=4+6+1 5 chord=5+7+2 6m chord=6+1+3



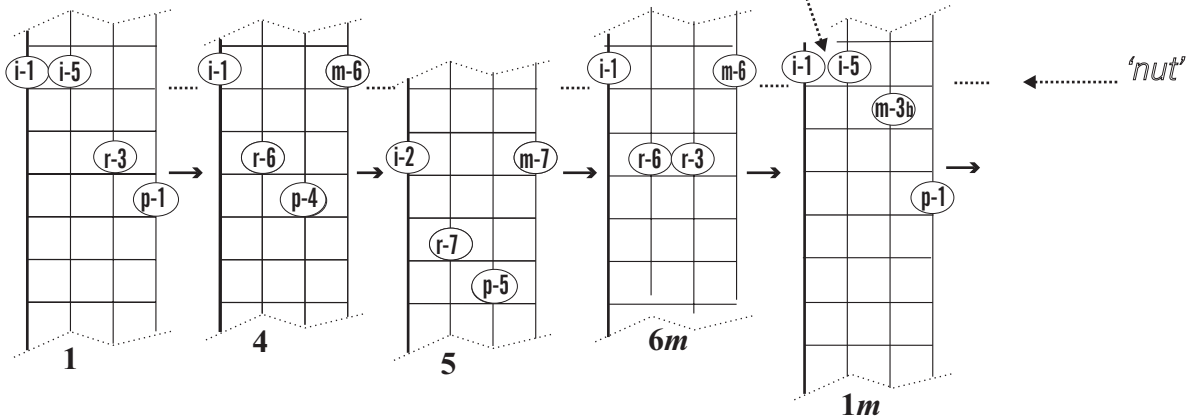
Closed 'G' Chord and Related Positions - Standard and Alternates

Standard Closed Chord Set

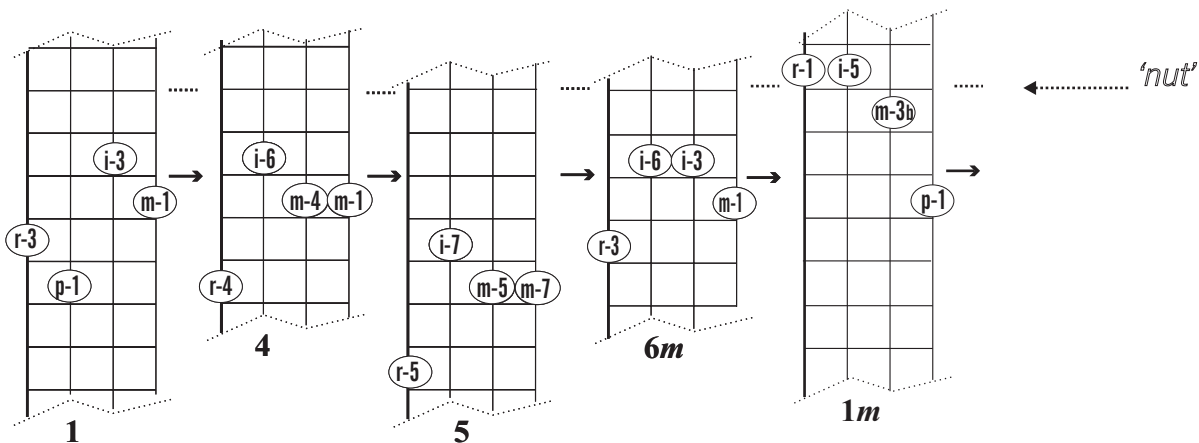


Alternate Closed Chord Set #1

Note: Wherever two tones are shown being pressed with one finger, try doing it with two fingers if you have difficulty. This especially applies to those with small fingers. The larger your fingers, the easier it is to press two.

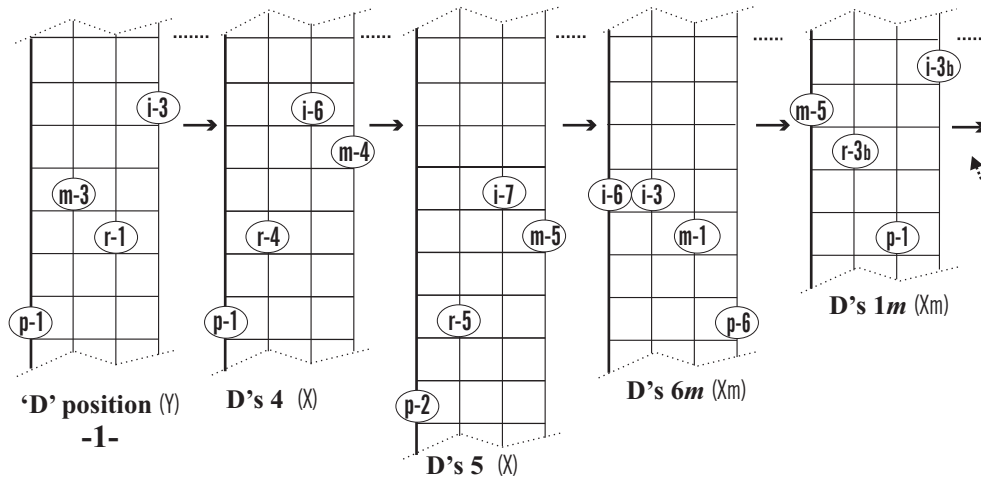


Alternate Closed Chord Set #2



Closed 'D' Chord and Related Positions - Standard and Alternates

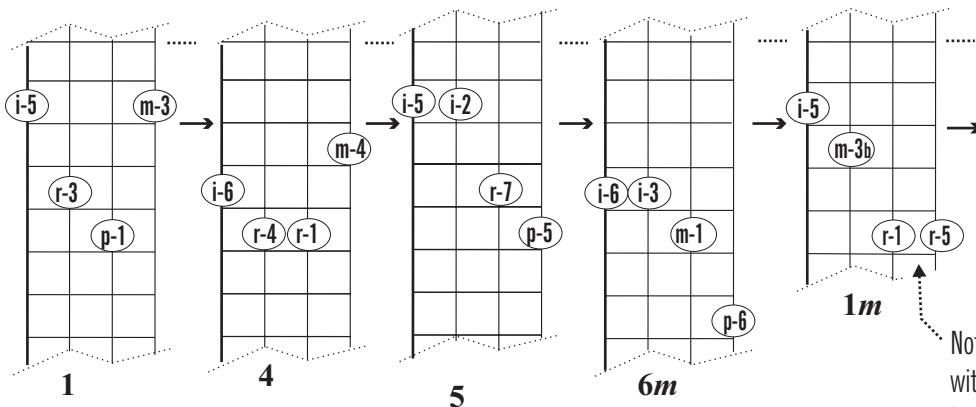
Standard Closed Chord Set



'nut' ... ??
not really, but you can picture it here to help orient yourself.

Note: The arrows which point from one chord to the next. These may help you orient yourself.

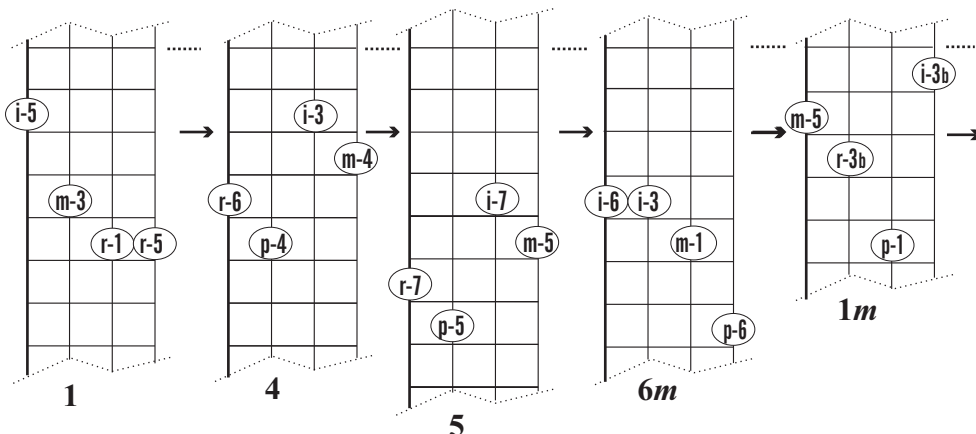
Alternate Closed Chord Set #1



←.....'nut'

Note: Wherever two tones are shown being pressed with one finger, try doing it with two fingers if you have difficulty. This especially applies to those with small fingers. The larger your fingers, the easier it is to press two with one finger.

Alternate Closed Chord Set #2



←.....'nut'