

Welcome to Bitesize Guitar

All our lessons have free tab that you can find at www.bitesizeguitar.com

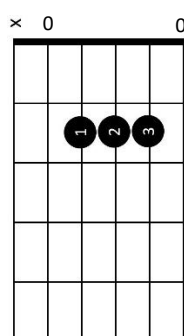
5th AND 6th STRING ROOT BARRE CHORDS (MAJOR & MINOR)

Every journey starts somewhere, and this is the best place to start if you are planning on mastering the guitar. Or just fancy learning how to strum along with some of your favourite songs.

Wherever your learning experience takes you, learning with Bitesize Guitar is always fun and interesting.

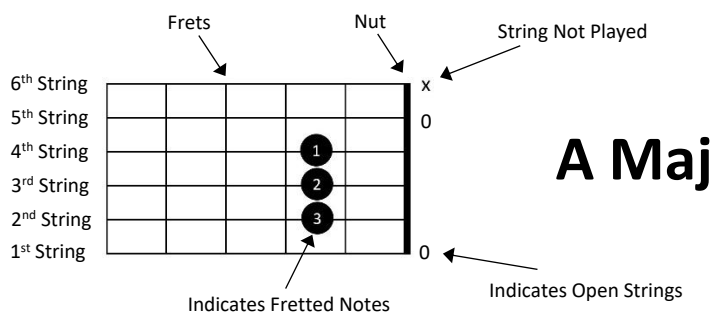
HOW TO READ A CHORD CHART

Some chord charts are rotated so that the guitar strings are vertical which can be confusing for beginners.



At Bitesize Guitar all our chord charts are presented horizontally.

A Major Example



The horizontal lines each represent one of the 6 guitar strings. Starting at the top, the 6th string is the lowest pitch string closest to the top of the guitar. The highest pitch string is the string closest to the floor and named the 1st string. From the 6th to the 1st the string are tuned to E, A, D, G, B & E.

Open Strings

Open strings are played without fretting any notes and they ring out to give the distinctive sound of a resonant acoustic guitar.

X Strings

When playing certain chords if the note is not one of the notes in the chord, it is crossed out. This means that the string is not played during the strumming of that particular chord. For example, in the A Major chord diagram shown above, the lowest pitch note should be the root note A. This A is found on the 5th String. Therefore the open E note on the 6th string is muted out by touching lightly with the fretting hand thumb or by just not strumming the 6th string with the strumming hand.

Fretted Circles

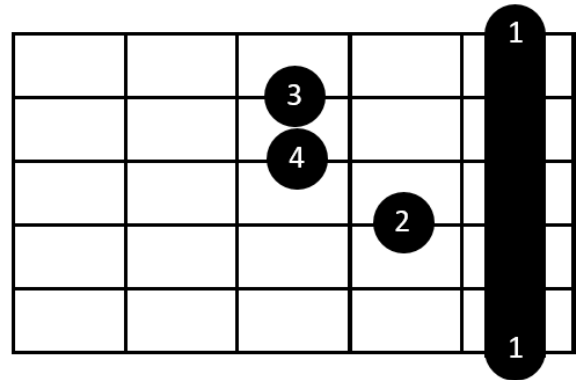
Black circles in the chord chart indicate which notes should be fretted. To fret a note press the string against the guitar fretboard. The fret reduces the length of the guitar string allowing the correct pitch to be played. Numbers 1-3 above indicate which finger on the fretting hand is recommended to hold down the relevant notes in the chord.

WHY BARRE CHORDS ARE SO USEFUL

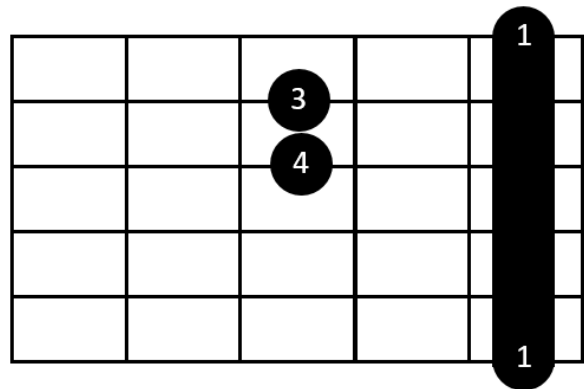
Barre chords are movable chords. In the open position lesson we learned chords A-G, that each had their own shape to memorize. With barre chords if we learn 1 major shape and one minor shape we can move that shape up and down the neck to play any major or minor chord in any key. Therefore with just two shapes we can play along to any song in any key.

SECTION 1: 6th STRING ROOT BARRE CHORDS (MAJOR & MINOR)

6th String Root Barre Chord (Major)



6th String Root Barre Chord (Minor)



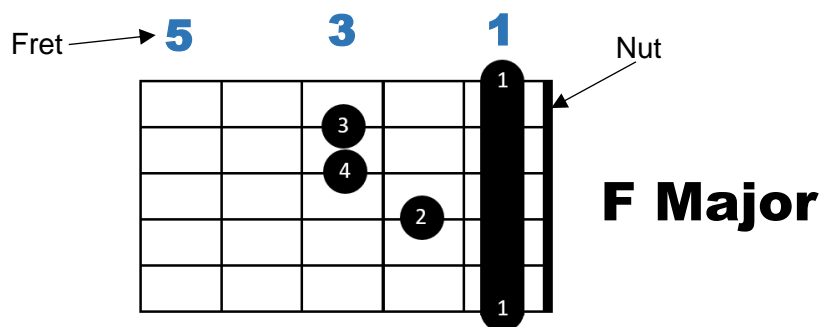
Notes on the 6th String are presented in the diagram below. The root note is the first note of the chord. So an F Major chord had an F note as the root note. See page 9 for tips and advice on playing the barre chords.

NOTES ON THE 6th STRING

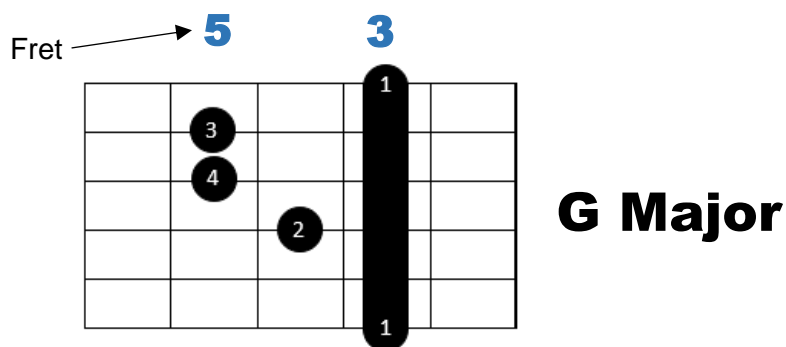
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	E	E_b/D_#	D	D_b/C_#	C	B	B_b/A_#	A	A_b/G_#	G	G_b/F_#	F	
6 th String													E A D G B E
5 th String													
4 th String													
3 rd String													
2 nd String													
1 st String													

PLAYING ANY MAJOR CHORD IN ANY KEY WITH ONE CHORD SHAPE

Using the major chord shape below is playing the F Major chord. As the first finger is barring across the 1st fret, the lowest note (Root) is the F note on the 1st fret of the 6th string.



Moving the major chord shape up 2 frets changes the root note from F to G. Therefore we are now playing the G Major chord.



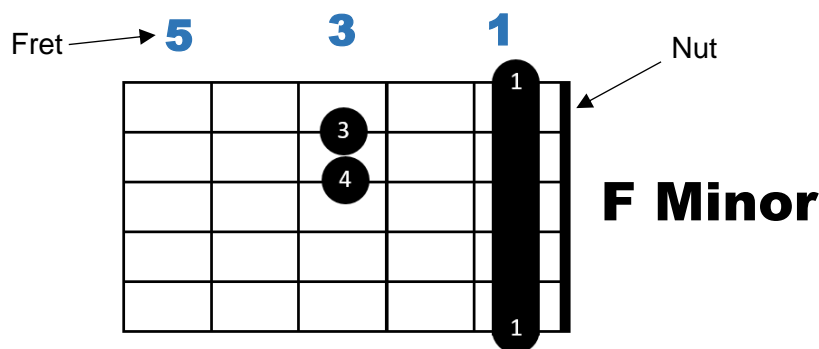
Likewise moving the shape up and down the fretboard allows us to play any major chord. Starting with the 1st finger barring at the 10th fret gives the D Major chord. Starting at the 6th fret gives us either the A# or the Bb Major. Note both of these chords are identical but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming of the chord.

Tips on playing barre chords

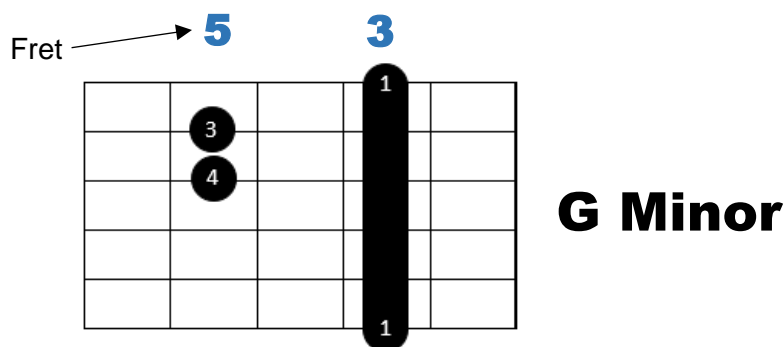
Please head to page 9 of this PDF for tips on how to play the barre chords cleanly. Mastering the barre chord is a very rewarding and import stage of learning to play the guitar. However it does require quite a bit of patience and practice but it is definitely worth the effort. If you follow the tips laid out on page 9 of this PDF then you will be jamming along to all your favourite songs in no time.

PLAYING ANY MINOR CHORD IN ANY KEY WITH ONE CHORD SHAPE

Using the minor chord shape below is playing the F Minor chord. As the first finger is barring across the 1st fret, the lowest note (Root) is the F note on the 1st fret of the 6th string.



Moving the minor chord shape up 2 frets changes the root note from F to G. Therefore we are now playing the G Minor chord.



Likewise moving the shape up and down the fretboard allows us to play any minor chord. Starting with the 1st finger barring at the 10th fret gives the D Minor chord. Starting at the 6th fret gives us either the A# or the Bb Minor. Note both of these chords are identical but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming of the chord.

Tips on playing barre chords

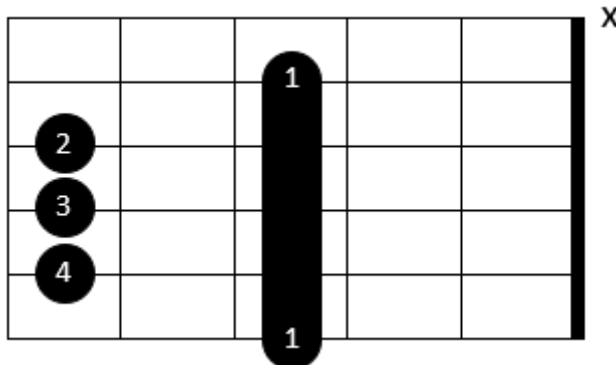
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Note these are a small selection of chords aimed at getting beginners accustomed to reading chord charts. Keeping up to date with www.bitesizeguitar.com is the best way to grow and develop your guitar chord knowledge and proceed on your own guitar journey to reach your music goals. And remember most of all to enjoy yourself and have fun learning to play the greatest instrument of all, THE GUITAR!

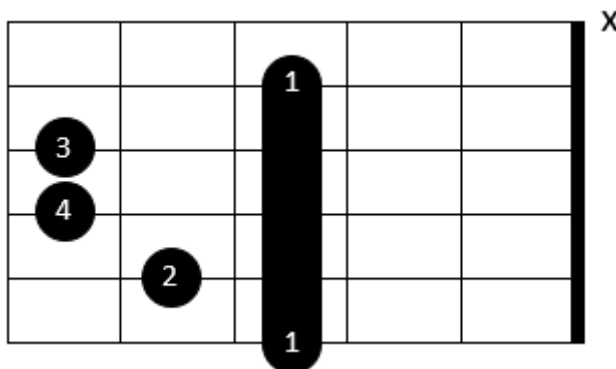
SECTION 2: 5th STRING ROOT BARRE CHORDS (MAJOR & MINOR)

Playing the 6th string root barre chords covers all major and minor chords in all keys. However moving from the F Major on the 1st Fret to the C Major on the 8th Fret is a challenging jump. Using the 5th string root chord we only need to jump from the 1st Fret to the 3rd Fret to play F Major to C Major.

5th String Root Barre Chord (Major)



5th String Root Barre Chord (Minor)



Notes on the 5th String are presented in the diagram below. The root note is the first note of the chord. So a C Major chord had a C note as the root note. See page 9 for tips and advice on playing the barre chords.

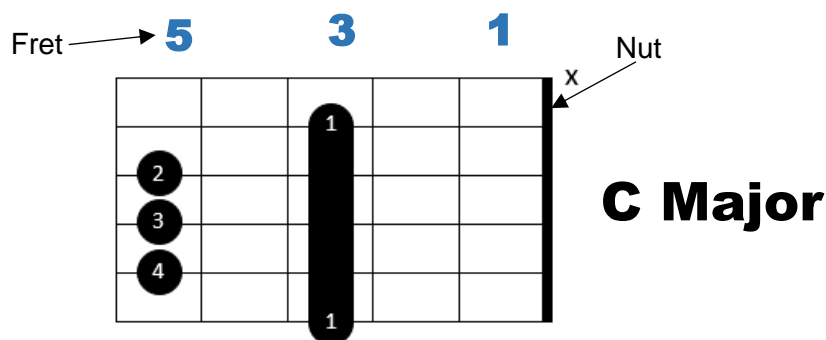
NOTES ON THE 5th STRING

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

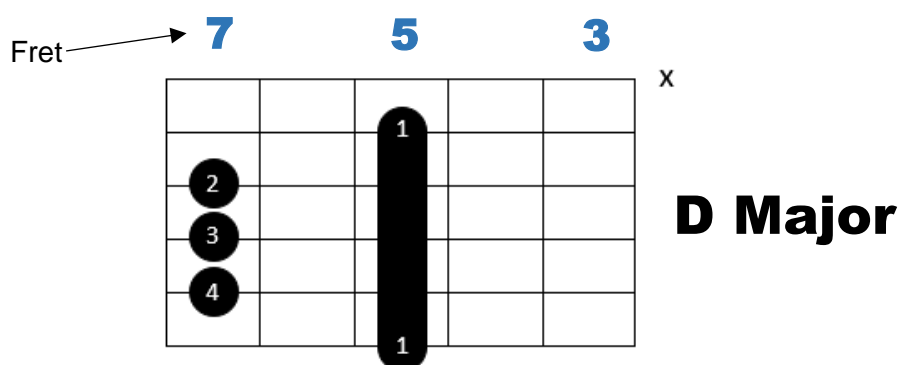
6 th String	A	Ab/G#	G	Gb/F#	F	E	Eb/D#	D	Db/C#	C	B	Bb/A#	E A D G B E
5 th String													
4 th String													
3 rd String													
2 nd String													
1 st String													

PLAYING ANY MAJOR CHORD IN ANY KEY WITH ONE CHORD SHAPE

Using the major chord shape below is playing the C Major chord. As the first finger is barring across the 3rd fret, the lowest note (Root) is the C note on the 3rd fret of the 5th string.



Moving the major chord shape up 2 frets changes the root note from C to D. Therefore we are now playing the D Major chord.



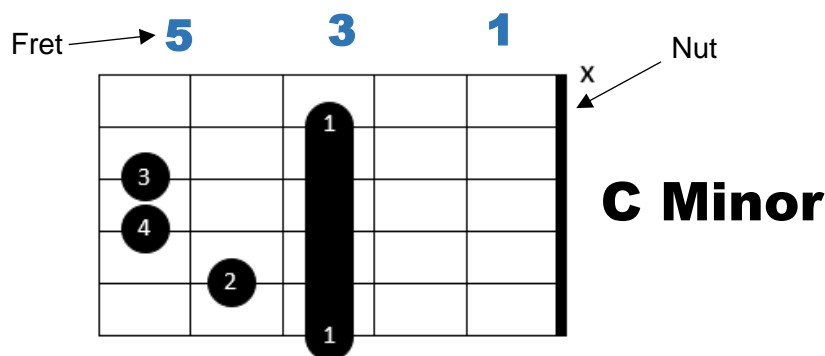
Likewise moving the shape up and down the fretboard allows us to play any major chord. Starting with the 1st finger barring at the 8th fret gives the F Major chord. Starting at the 6th fret gives us either the D# or the Eb Major. Note both of these chords are identical but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming of the chord.

Tips on playing barre chords

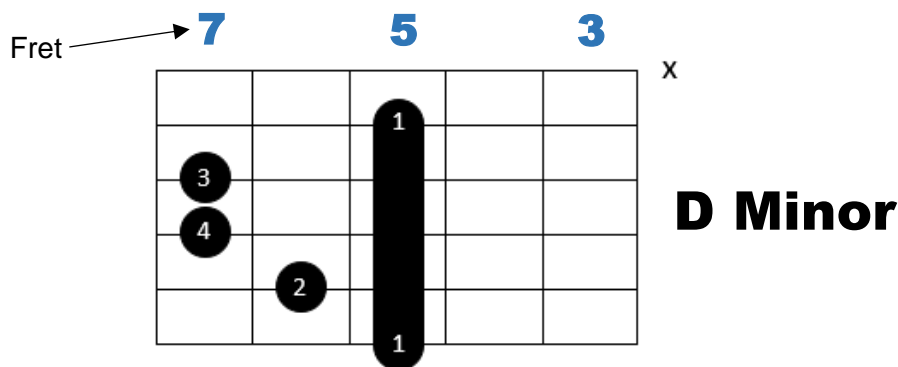
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PLAYING ANY MINOR CHORD IN ANY KEY WITH ONE CHORD SHAPE

Using the minor chord shape below is playing the C Minor chord. As the first finger is barring across the 3rd fret, the lowest note (Root) is the C note on the 3rd fret of the 5th string.



Moving the minor chord shape up 2 frets changes the root note from C to D. Therefore we are now playing the D Minor chord.



Likewise moving the shape up and down the fretboard allows us to play any minor chord. Starting with the 1st finger barring at the 8th fret gives the F Minor chord. Starting at the 6th fret gives us either the D# or the Eb Minor. Note both of these chords are identical but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming of the chord.

Tips on playing barre chords

Please head to page 9 of this PDF for tips on how to play the barre chords cleanly. Mastering the barre chord is a very rewarding and import stage of learning to play the guitar. However it does require quite a bit of patience and practice but it is definitely worth the effort. If you follow the tips laid out on page 9 of this PDF then you will be jamming along to all your favourite songs in no time.

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SECTION 3: TIPS ON PLAYING BARRE CHORDS



WRIST ROTATION

Make sure the wrist is rotated downward so that the fingers are perpendicular to the fretboard. This prevents the fingers from touching on adjacent strings which stop all the strings from ringing out clearly.

FIRST FINGER POSITION

As shown on the diagram it is best to have the top part of the first finger sticking up above the guitar neck. This allows the first finger to lay flat against the fretboard holding all the strings against the frets with even pressure.

DEATH GRIP

Don't strangle the guitar neck. Only light pressure is required to hold the strings against the frets. It does take practice but with the correct hand position you will be able to hold the chord evenly without too much pressure. You won't be able to last an entire song if you are applying a ninja death grip!

THUMB POSITION

Thumb placement is vital if you want all the barre chord notes to ring out clearly. If the thumb is higher or lower than the middle of the neck it becomes difficult to hold down the 1st finger over all the barred strings.

If you follow all of the above tips you will be well on your way to playing major and minor chords all over the neck, in any key.

