

Welcome to Bitesize Guitar

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MAJOR CHORD CONSTRUCTION

In this lesson we will learn how to construct the major chord or major triad. Learning basic music theory is not a requirement to playing the guitar but it will benefit your ability to learn guitar. If you know how the major and minor chords are constructed then you can work out how to play any chord in any position on the guitar. Let's dig in and learn how to construct the major chord.

CHROMATIC SCALE

On guitar and most western instruments we have the chromatic scale which consists of 12 notes as follows:

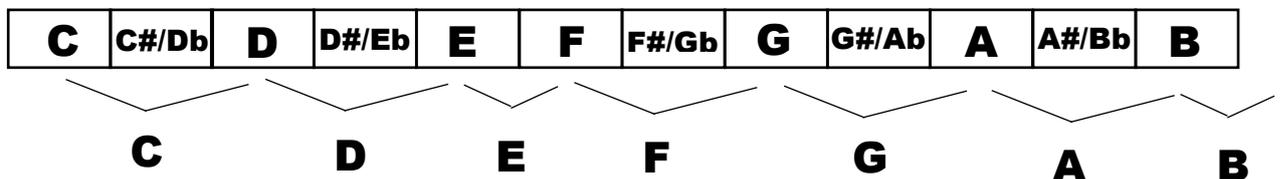
A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab
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Note A Sharp and B Flat are the same note but depending on which key you are in dictates the naming convention.

MAJOR SCALE

See the lesson on the major scale at www.bitesizeguitar.com

For Example we will use the C Major Scale



MAJOR CHORD FORMULA

1 – 3 – 5

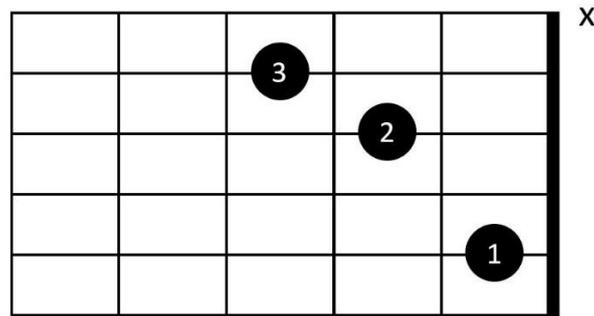
The major chord consists of 3 notes and is therefore called a major triad. The 1st note (Root) of the scale, 3rd note of the scale (Major Third) and the 5th note of the scale (Perfect Fifth). Therefore the major chord has the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the C Major scale.

1 – 3 – 5 for the C Major chord is the C – E – F notes.

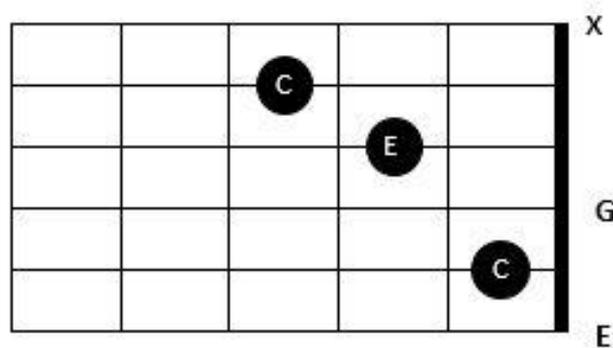
Other chords apart from the triad chords generally add or subtract notes to this basic formula. For example Maj 7th chords add the 7th note of the major scale to the Major Triad chord (1 – 3 – 5 – 7)

The C Major Triad chord is presented on the following page.

C MAJOR CHORD



As shown above the open position C Major chord has 5 notes, one note on each of the 5 strings. The Major Triad only has the 3 notes (1 – 3 – 5) therefore some of the notes are doubled as shown below.



So the open position C Major chord has 5 notes, 2 C notes, 2 E notes and 1 G note.

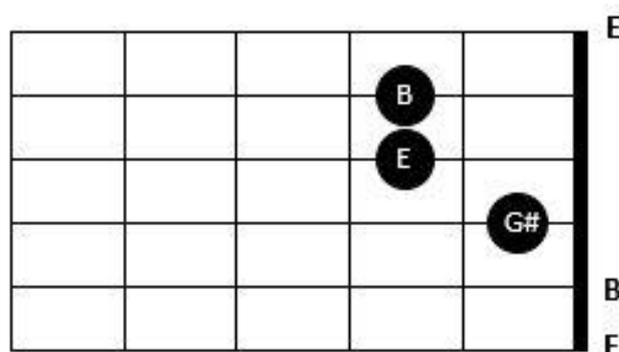
Every other Major Triad is constructed using the same 1 – 3 – 5 formula.

E MAJOR CHORD

Another example is presented with the E Major Triad.

E Major Scale **E F# G# A B C# D#**

Therefore using the Major Triad formula 1 – 3 – 5 gives notes E – G# – B. In the open position the E Major Triad is fretted as follows:



So the open position E Major chord has 6 notes, 3 E notes, 2 B notes and 1 G# note.

MAJOR TRIAD CHORD NOTES

1 (ROOT)	3	5
C	E	G
C# / Db	E#	G#
D	F#	A
D# / Eb	G	Bb
E	G#	B
F	A	C
F# / Gb	A#	C#
G	B	D
G# / Ab	C	Eb
A	C#	E
A# / Bb	D	F
B	D#	F#