

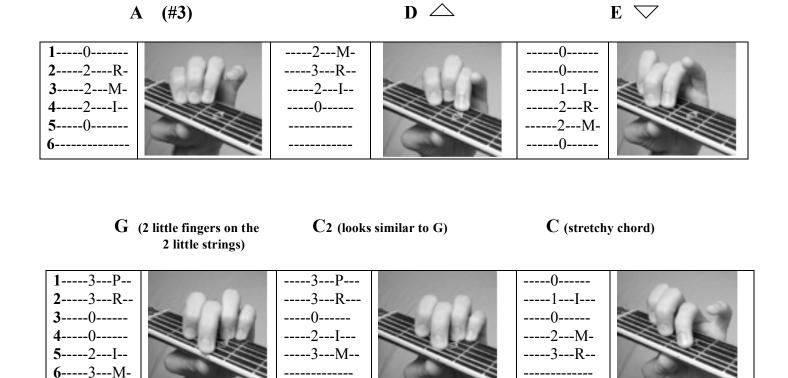
## Excerpt

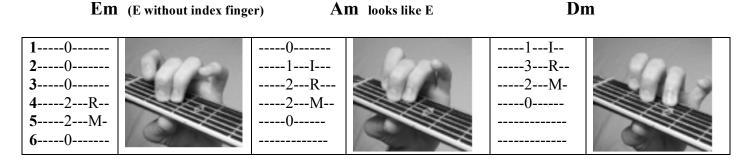
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## Common Chords

These nine chords are the most common major and minor chords used in guitar. Thousands of songs have been written using just these chords. Learn them well.

- ❖ Reference the tablature for each chord as well as the picture to see which finger goes where on the fret board. Remember to arch well and squeeze!
- ❖ For the **A chord**, first reference the tablature. You can see that the top line (1<sup>st</sup> string) has a 0 on it. That means no fingers are needed, but you'll still play it when you strum. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> strings each have a number 2 on them. This means your ring finger will hold down the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the 2<sup>nd</sup> string, your middle finger will hold down the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the 3<sup>rd</sup> string and your index finger will hold down the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the 4<sup>th</sup> string. Before you strum, take a look again at the tablature. There is a 0 written on the 5<sup>th</sup> string but nothing on the 6<sup>th</sup> string. So, start the strum on the 5<sup>th</sup> string and strum down. Remember to squeeze with your left hand as hard as you can, with your fingers right in the middle of the fret. The A chord looks like your fingers making a "number 3." "Number 3" is a good memory trick for the A chord.
- ❖ The **D** chord is the "triangle chord" and starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> string. Arch your fingers, place them in the middle of the fret, squeeze and strum down.
- ❖ The **E chord** is the "upside down triangle chord."
- ❖ The G chord is: "two little fingers on the two little strings; two big fingers on the two big strings."
- ❖ The C2 chord is the same as the G chord, except that the top two fingers each move down one string.
- ❖ The C chord is the stretchy chord. Notice that each finger is on a different fret. The index finger is on the 1<sup>st</sup> fret, the middle finger is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret and the ring finger is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret.
- The Em chord is the same an E chord, except that you lift the index finger off of the string. Strum all strings.
- ❖ The Am chord is the E chord moved down one string (for each finger). Begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> string and strum down.
- ❖ The Dm chord is the D chord, where the middle and index fingers trade places and then the index finger scoots back one fret. Begin on the 4<sup>th</sup> string and strum down.





 $I=Index\ finger$   $M=Middle\ finger$   $R=Ring\ Finger$   $P=Pinky\ finger$  (Pointer finger)

## **Build Your Finger Strength and Flexibility**

Practice, Practice, Practice.

Calluses will soon develop on the tips of your finger so they won't be as sore.

Squeeze a racquetball or stress ball in your spare time.

Gently stretch your fingers from time to time.