



How To Play Guitar Chords

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[Guitar How To](#) is a constantly updated collection of tutorials, tips, tricks and instructive articles for everyone who seriously wants to learn guitar.

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If you are a beginner guitar player who is feeling a little put off at the thought of learning complex-looking chords, I can tell you now that it's better to just do it! There are some short cuts the guitarists use to get out of learning difficult chords but in the end you are not really saving yourself any trouble.

If you have already learnt to play the piano or another instrument you will have an understanding of how notes, chords and scales fit together but picking up some sheet music or tabs and learning the chords for a few songs from a chord chart is a good way to start playing guitar.

The internet is a great repository for guitar chords or your local music store will have book with all the chords you need in it. Chord charts are just pictures of the guitar fret board showing you the strings and frets with numbers telling you where to place your fingers.

While the art of playing ALL guitar chords is a knack you can learn, there are some chords that are simpler to play. The first obstacle to playing clean-sounding chords is your left hand fingers knocking each other out of the way or having to stretch in different directions. It's best to learn chords that only need the participation of three fingers at first. The chords A, C, D and G can be played in the first position using only three fingers.

There are lots of songs using these chords and you do not need to restrict yourself to nineteenth century folk songs. In my opinion the best course of action for a beginner guitarist learning without a teacher is to pick three or four songs that you know you will enjoy playing that use the A, C, D and G chords. It won't be hard and that will give you a variety of chord changes to learn.

Chord changes are the sequences of muscular movements you use to change from one chord to another. The muscular movements and tensions you need to change from A to C will be different from the movements used to change from G to A, for example. As you learn more songs you will acquire a repertoire of chord changes that are all different from each other. As you practice, these chord changing sequences will become second nature to you and will form the basis of your ability to easily make more complicated movements up and down the fret board.

When you first begin to learn the chords to a song you should let your fingers learn at their own pace. You will first be learning over and over again where and how to place your fingers to make each chord. It will seem like an impossible job and you will wonder if you are too stupid to ever learn to play guitar. The answer is, you're not and everybody who has ever learned the guitar has gone through the same difficulties and self doubts as you are experiencing.

Take each step of the chord-learning process slowly every time you make a chord. Never rush over anything. You cannot work on changing chords quickly if you have not first learned how to place each individual finger so that the chord sounds without fluffed notes.

Your fingers are not placed directly on top of the frets, but slightly behind them. You should always place your hand so that the tip - that is, the area directly behind the nail - is pressing on the string.

You will find more info on playing guitar chords in the [Guitar Chords For Beginners](#) category. A good place to start would be [Working On How To Change Guitar Chords](#).

