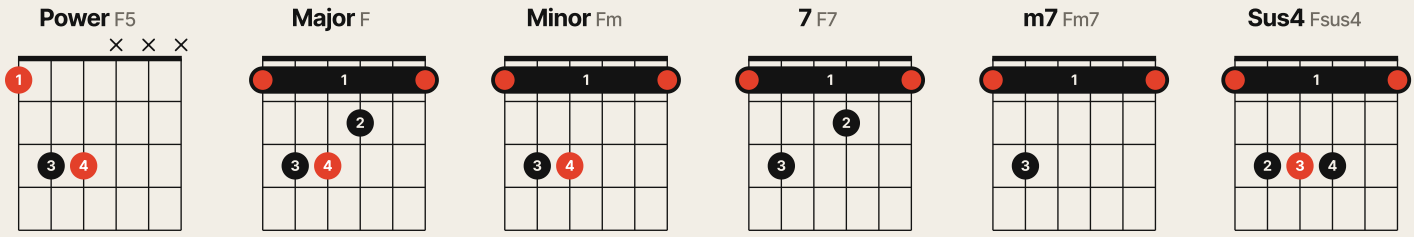
Barre chords chart

Two shapes, six chord types, twelve keys. Learn the E shape and the A shape and slide them anywhere on the neck.

Root note · Other notes · Open · Don't play

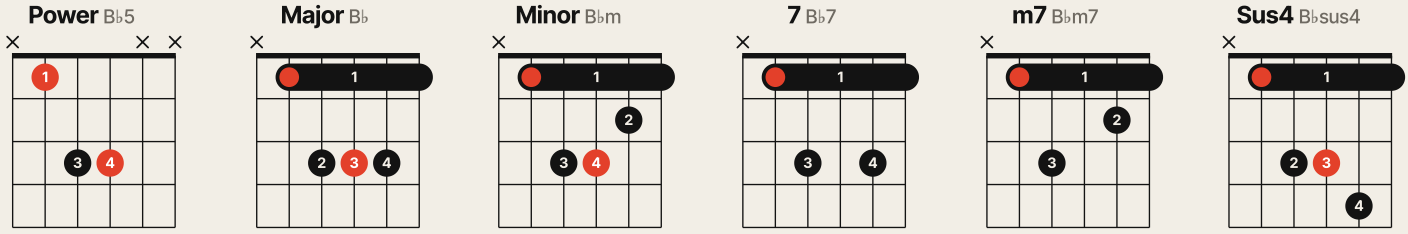
E shape, root on the 6th string

Shown at fret 1 as F. At fret 3 it's G, at fret 5 A.



A shape, root on the 5th string

Shown at fret 1 as B♭. At fret 3 it's C, at fret 5 D.

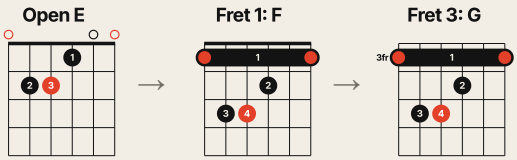


Where to put the shape

Fret of the root for each key. E shape: 6th string. A shape: 5th string.

Key	C	C♯	D	E♭	E	F	F♯	G	A♭	A	B♭	B
6th string (E)	8	9	10	11	0/12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5th string (A)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	0/12	1	2

Your first finger is the nut



Make every string ring

Roll the finger. Lay the bony side of your first finger on the strings, not the soft middle.

Stay close to the fret. Right behind the fret wire needs the least pressure.

Pull, don't squeeze. Let your arm pull the neck back instead of pinching with the thumb.

A minute a day. Most players need a few weeks before F rings clean.

What's in each chord

Type	Notes	In C
5 (power)	1 5	C G
Major	1 3 5	C E G
Minor	1 ♭3 5	C E♭ G
7	1 3 5 ♭7	C E G B♭
m7	1 ♭3 5 ♭7	C E♭ G B♭
Sus4	1 4 5	C F G

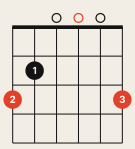
Changes to practice

E1: E shape at fret 1. A3: A shape at fret 3.

Key	Chords	Shapes
F	**F Dm B♭ C**	E1 A5 A1 A3
B minor	**Bm G D A**	A2 E3 A5 E5
A	**A F♯m D E**	E5 E2 A5 A7
G minor	**Gm E♭ F Cm**	E3 A6 E1 A3
C	**C Am F G**	A3 E5 E1 E3

Pick the shape that keeps your hand in one place. Switching between the E and A shapes saves big jumps up the neck.

How to read a chord box



Low E on the left. The thick line is the nut.

Numbers are fingers, 1 index to 4 pinky. A bar is one finger across strings.

○ open, × skip. 3fr: starts at fret 3.