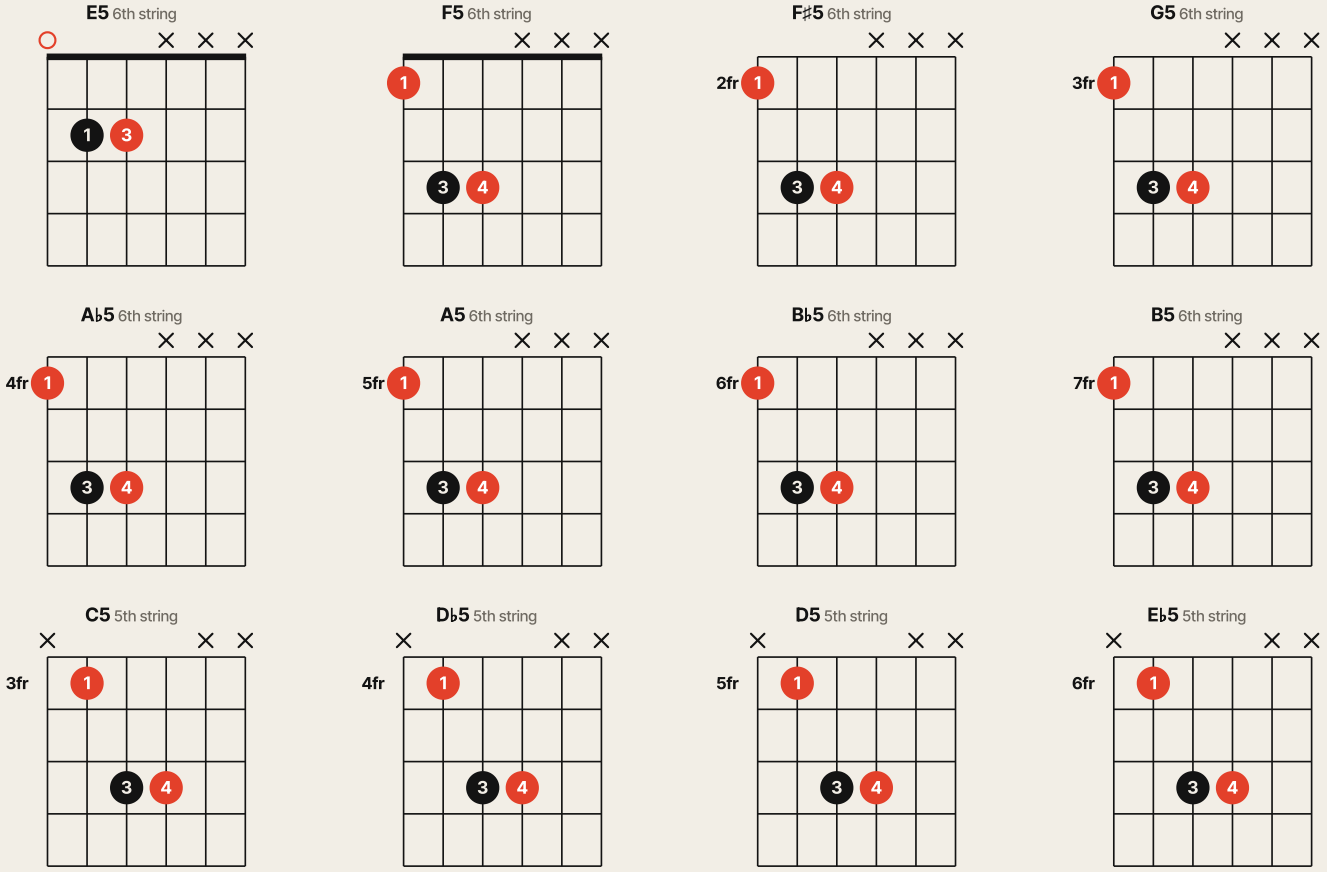
Power chords chart

One shape plays all twelve. Root on the 6th or the 5th string, slide it to the fret of the note you want.

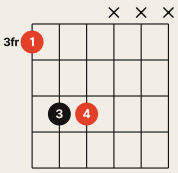
Root note · Other notes · Open · Don't play

All 12 power chords

Root on the 6th string from E to B, on the 5th string from C to E♭



What's in a power chord



Root under your first finger. The chord takes its name from it: here G, at fret 3.

5th two frets up on the next string, with your third finger.

Octave under your pinky: the root again, one octave higher. Skip it for a two-note version.

No 3rd, so it's neither major nor minor. That's why it stays clear with distortion.

Progressions to try

6th-string fret in brackets

Three-chord rock	E5 A5 B5	0 5 7
Classic rock	A5 G5 D5	5 3 10
Minor riff	E5 G5 A5	0 3 5
Dark and heavy	E5 C5 D5	0 8 10
Punk	G5 C5 D5	3 8 10

Find any power chord

Fret of the root for each key

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

Mute what you don't play

Let your first finger touch the strings below the shape, and rest your picking hand on the ones above.

Palm mute for chug

Rest the side of your picking hand on the strings by the bridge. Short and tight, the sound of most rock riffs.

Move by the root

Know the notes on the low E and A strings and every power chord is one slide away. See the table above.