

Introduction

Most guitarists start by learning the simplest chords: **E, C, D, A, G, Am, Em, Dm, D7, E7, G7, C7, B7** and **A7**. These are the chords that are used in many popular and folk songs. They are also some of the best sounding chords you could ever play for two reasons: Most use one or more open strings along with other notes which are played in first position. (First position is that area on the fingerboard which includes the open strings as well as the notes found on frets one through four.) Playing notes on these lower frets allows the strings to be more resonant and sustaining. The longer the length of the string, the fuller and richer the tone.

Half of the chords in this book can be played in first position. Most are easy to play too. The other chords are movable forms.

There are six fingerings presented for each chord. I've organized these fingerings into what I consider useful categories: common, alternate, simple, barre, movable #1 and movable #2. The common, alternate and simple fingerings are the ones you should probably learn first. The barre and movable forms are fingerings which you can slide around the neck. Just pay attention to where the chord root is in each chord. This is the note indicated by a solid black dot. A few of these movable chords don't contain a root. The root of these chords is indicated with a shaded dot. Don't play this note. Use it to align the chord form at the proper fret.

If you enjoy the material in this book and want to go further, I'd recommend some of my other chord books: *An Introduction to Chord Theory*, *Arpeggios*, *Chord Embellishments*, *Chord Orbits*, *Movable Chords*, *Scale Patterns*, *Practical Theory for Guitar*, *The Ultimate Guitar Chord Big Book*, *Blues Chords*, and *Barre Chords*. (see the website for a full description of all of these books.)

You may correspond with me through email:
crescent@teleport.com

website: www.CrescentRecords.com

Enjoy!

Don Latarski

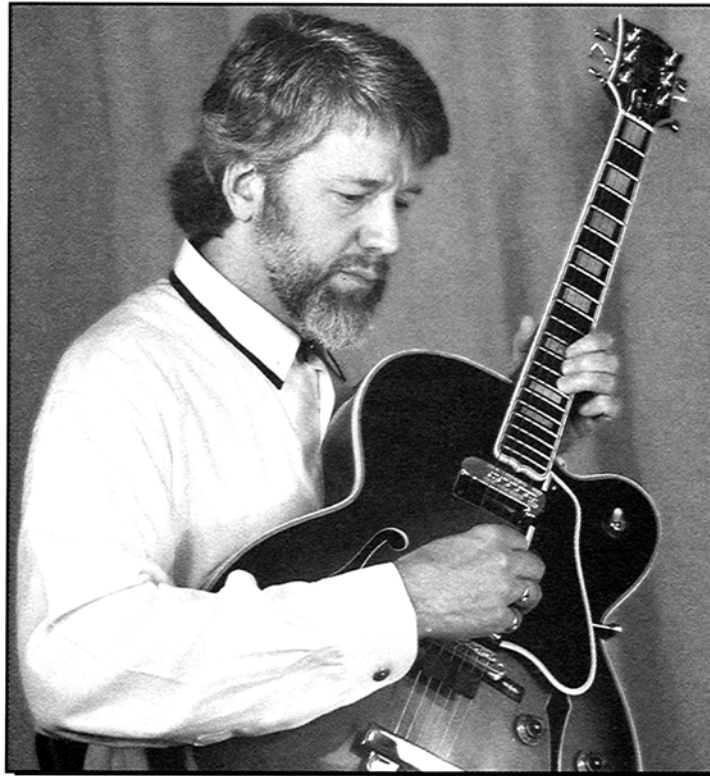


photo © Kathy Kifer

Bio for Don Latarski

Don Latarski has been playing the guitar since 1963. He's head of guitar studies at the University of Oregon School of Music and has been teaching there since 1981. He also teaches courses in jazz, funk and blues guitar performance as well as a theory course for guitarists.

He is also the author of a popular series of guitar instruction books: *An Introduction to Chord Theory, Arpeggios, Chord Embellishments, Chord Orbits, Movable Chords, Scale Patterns, Practical Theory for Guitar, The Ultimate Guitar Chord Big Book, Blues Chords, Barre Chords, and Jazz Chords*. A companion video to Practical Theory for Guitar called *Guitar Theory Basics* is also available. (Warner Bros. Publications)

Latarski's recordings include: *Haven, Lifeline, How Many Ways, Private Affair, NorthWest of December, Rue II and Deep Play*. His credits as both a leader and sideman are extensive and he currently leads both a jazz group, The Don Latarski Group with Marilyn Keller, and a blues group, Don Latarski and Rue de Blues. He performs over 100 gigs per year.

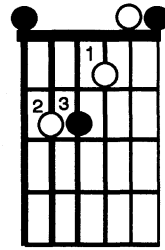
He's a prolific composer having written for television, video productions, radio and computer games as well as jazz and blues ensembles. He has written articles for *Guitar Player Magazine* and is a featured artist and contributor of teaching materials to *Notes On Call*.

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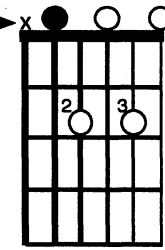
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Reading the chord forms

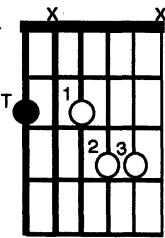
The solid black dot always shows you where the **chord root** is located. Sometimes there will be more than one root in a chord. The name of the root note will always be the same as the letter name of the chord. This chord has three root notes. All of them must be the same letter name. In this chord, they are all E notes.



An **X** above a string means that you should avoid playing it. You can accomplish this by muting it with your fretting hand. And notes which are above the thick black line are to be played as open strings—no fingers necessary.

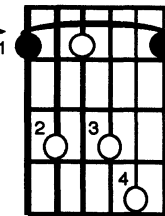


All chords with a thick black line like this will be played in first position. This line is meant to represent the nut on the guitar.

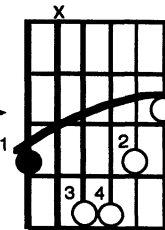


Fingerings are indicated by numbers next to the dots. **T stands for thumb**. Wrap your thumb up around the neck and hold down the note. The thumb will also work well to mute string 5 in this chord.

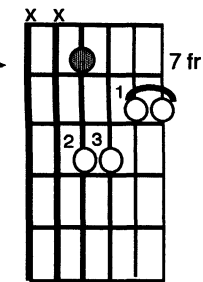
The **barre chords** will always have a line indicating all of the notes that are to be held down under one finger. In this chord, you must hold notes on strings 6, 4 and 1. The number to the right of the chord box indicates the fret on the neck where you should align the chord.



The **diagonal barre chord** is a very rare chord, but it does show up in this book. The chord involves the barring of a couple of strings with the first finger on different frets.



Some chords will not have a root. These chords will have a shaded dot which is called the **“assumed root”**. You aren't supposed to play this note. It's in the chord form to show you where the root would be. Use this note to align the chord shape at the appropriate fret. If you wanted to use this min9 form to play an Am9 chord, the shaded dot would have to be on the 7th fret on string 4.

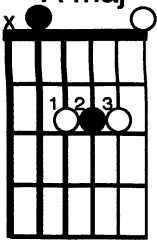


A word about fingerings

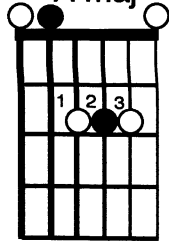
A suggested fingering is supplied with each chord form. Feel free to invent your own. In some cases, I've shown the same chord with more than one fingering. I know that many others are possible.

A major forms

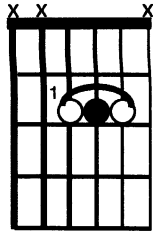
common
A maj



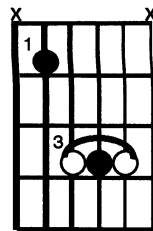
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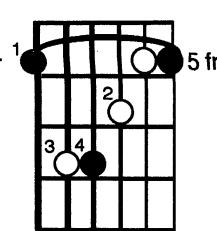
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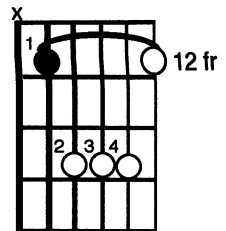
barre
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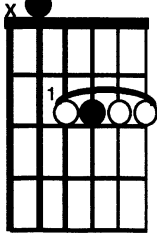
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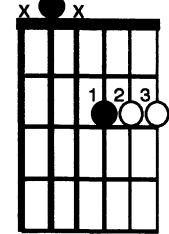
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A maj



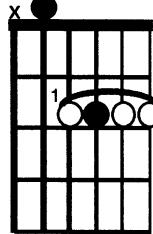
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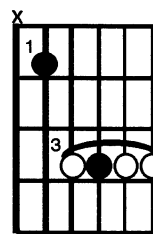
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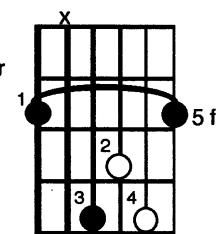
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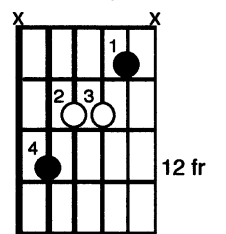
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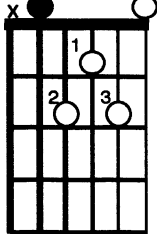
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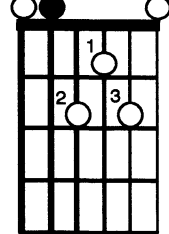
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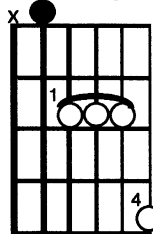
A maj7



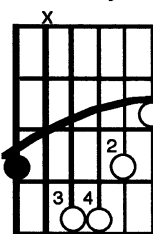
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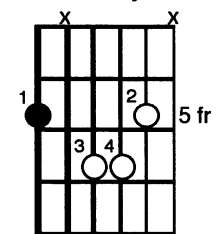
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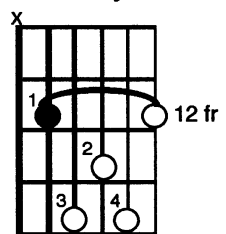
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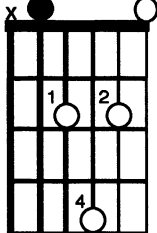
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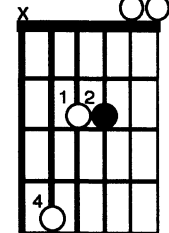
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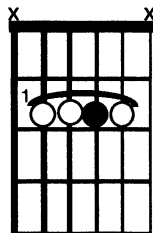
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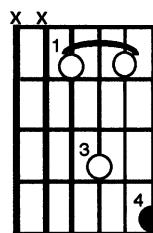
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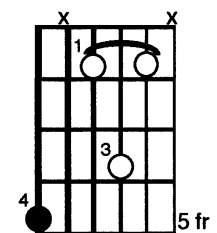
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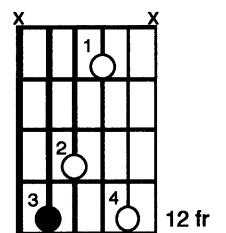
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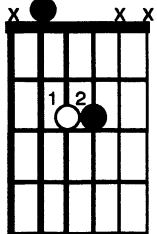
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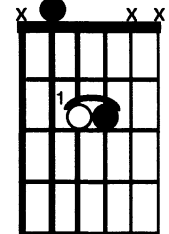
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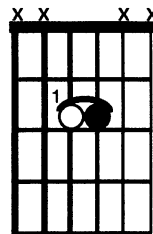
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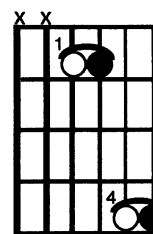
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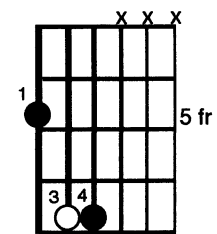
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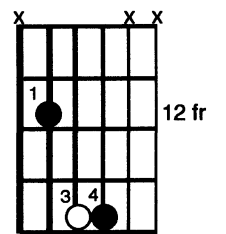
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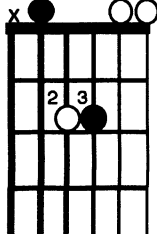
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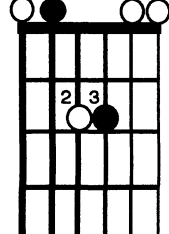
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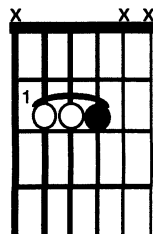
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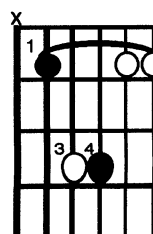
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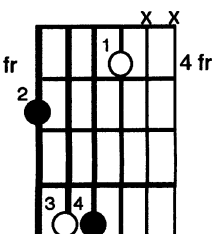
Asus2



Asus2



Asus2



Asus2

