

The Perfect Chord Chart For Beginners

***By Jared Crebs
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Read This Before You Attempt Any Chord

There are the two main ingredients to help your hand find the “sweet spot,” where playing chords becomes natural and easy. They are called the “Thumb/Web” position and the “Flap/Finger” angle.

However, the “Thumb/Web” positions are not “one size fits all.” For this reason, there are pictures below for people with small hands, people with medium-sized hands, and people with big hands. Before you play anything, look at ALL of the pictures below. Choose the ones that relate closest to your personal hand and use those as a reference.

In order to find your personal sweet spot for each chord, you must understand that it is impossible for a picture to be 100% identical and accurate to your particular hand. So be open, flexible, and use these pictures as a general guide. Your hand will find its sweet spot naturally.

All information presented applies to both right and left-handed people.

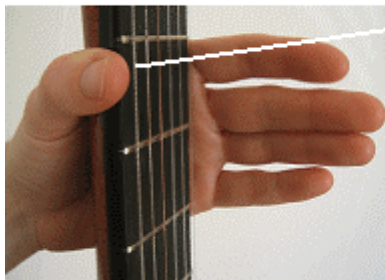
For Small Hands

The following 4 “Thumb/Web” positions apply to people with small hands.

Position 1: Thumb Pointing Out/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Read the points below:

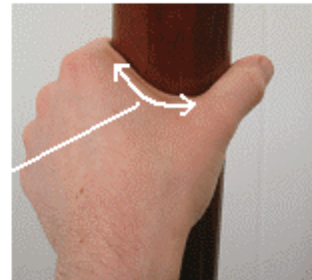
Thumb Pointing Out/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



SIDE VIEW

Thumb is pointing out.

Web is wrapped around the neck.



BACK VIEW

Position 2: Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Look at the picture below and try it:

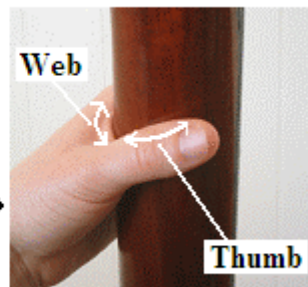
Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



SIDE VIEW

Notice how the thumb is further behind the neck.

Web and thumb are both wrapped around. →



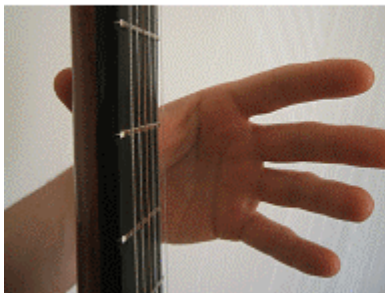
BACK VIEW

For Small Hands (continued)

Position 3: Thumb-Knuckle Slightly Bent Back/Web Popped Out

Some chords work best with this position. Read the picture below and then give it a try:

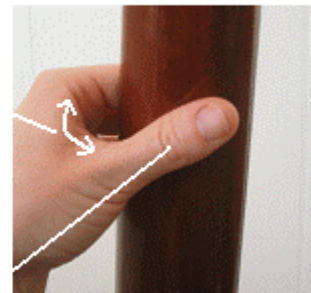
Thumb-Knuckle Slightly Bent Back/ Web Popped Out



SIDE VIEW

The web is no longer wrapped around the neck. It is popped out.

Notice how the thumb-knuckle is slightly bent back.



BACK VIEW

Position 4: Thumb Directly Behind Neck/Web Projected Out

Some chords work best with this position. Check out the difference:

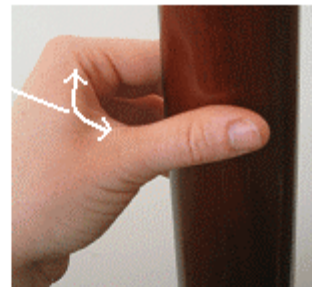
Thumb Directly Behind Neck/ Web Projected Out



SIDE VIEW

Web is projected out.

Thumb is directly behind the neck.



BACK VIEW

PLEASE REMEMBER: As stated earlier, no picture can perfectly match your exact hand. Use these pictures as a general guide and be willing to adjust when playing the chords. Your hand will find the sweet spot naturally when it's ready. Be kind to your hand, don't force it and don't overplay. Take lots of breaks.

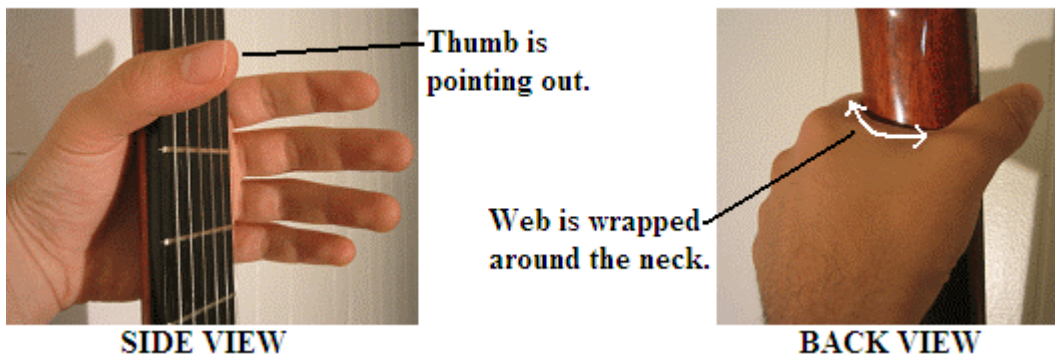
For Medium-Sized Hands

The following 4 “Thumb/Web” positions apply to people with medium-sized hands.

Position 1: Thumb Pointing Out/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Read the points below:

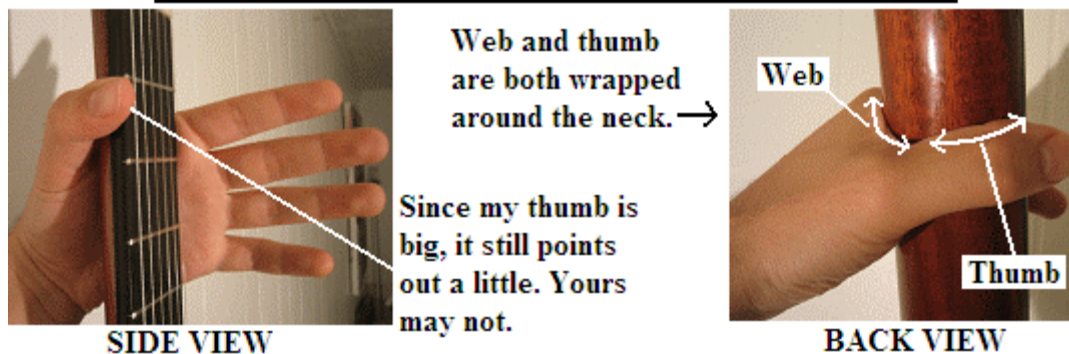
Thumb Pointing Out/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



Position 2: Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Look at the picture below and try it:

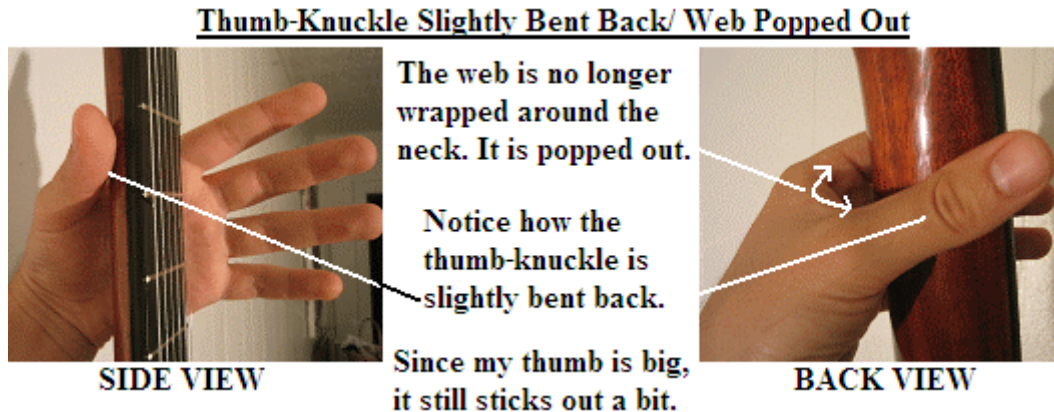
Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



For Medium-Sized Hands (continued)

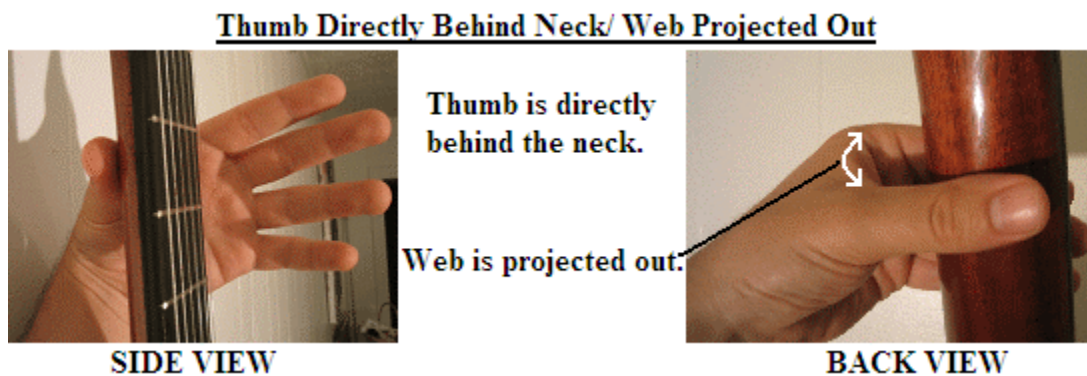
Position 3: Thumb-Knuckle Slightly Bent Back/Web Popped Out

Some chords work best with this position. Read the picture below and then give it a try:



Position 4: Thumb Directly Behind Neck/Web Projected Out

Some chords work best with this position. Check out the difference:



PLEASE REMEMBER: As stated earlier, no picture can perfectly match your exact hand. Use these pictures as a general guide and be willing to make small adjustments. Your hand will find the sweet spot naturally when it's ready. Be kind to your hand, don't force it and don't overplay. Take lots of breaks.

For Big Hands

The following 4 “Thumb/Web” positions apply to people with medium-sized hands.

Position 1: Thumb Pointing Out/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Read the points below:

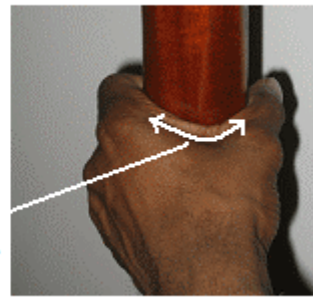
Thumb Pointing Out/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



SIDE VIEW

Thumb is pointing out.

Web is wrapped around the neck.



BACK VIEW

Position 2: Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/Web Wrapped Around Neck

Some chords work best with this position. Look at the picture below and try it:

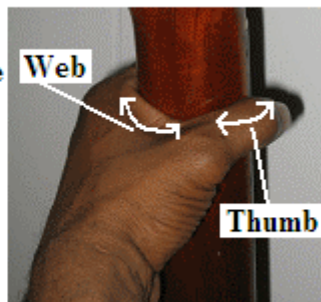
Thumb Wrapped Around Neck/ Web Wrapped Around Neck



SIDE VIEW

Notice how the thumb wraps more around the neck.

Web and thumb are both wrapped around. →



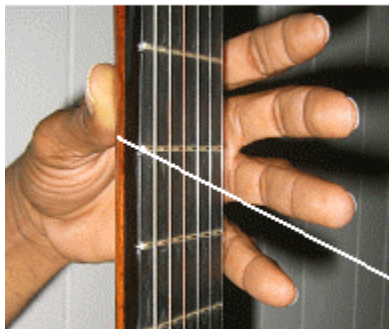
BACK VIEW

For Big Hands (continued)

Position 3: Thumb-Knuckle Slightly Bent Back/Web Popped Out

Some chords work best with this position. Read the picture below and then give it a try:

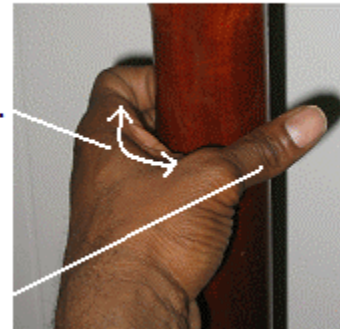
Thumb-Knuckle Slightly Bent Back/ Web Popped Out



SIDE VIEW

The web is no longer wrapped around the neck. It is popped out.

Notice how the thumb-knuckle is slightly bent back.



BACK VIEW

Position 4: Thumb Directly Behind Neck/Web Projected Out

Some chords work best with this position. Check out the difference:

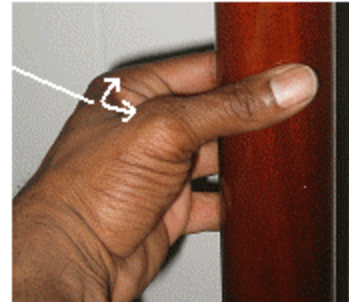
Thumb Directly Behind Neck/ Web Projected Out



SIDE VIEW

Web is projected out.

Thumb is directly behind the neck.



BACK VIEW

PLEASE REMEMBER: As stated earlier, no picture can perfectly match your exact hand. Use these pictures as a general guide and be willing to make small adjustments. Your hand will find the sweet spot naturally when it's ready. Be kind to your hand, don't force it and don't overplay. Take lots of breaks.

Important for Everyone

All chords will use one of these "Flap/Finger" Angles. This applies to all hand sizes. All angles noted are approximate.

Angle 1: Flap Open/Fingers at 45°

Flap Open/ Fingers at 45°



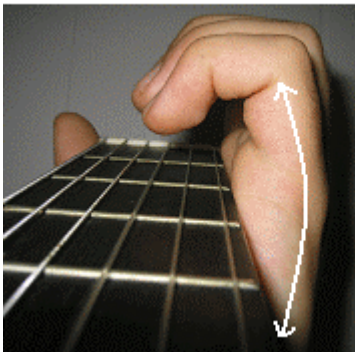
Flap is open.

Fingers approach the guitar at a 45° angle (more or less).



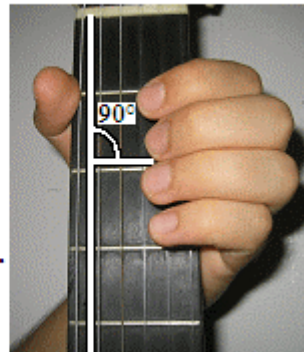
Angle 2: Flap Closed/Fingers at 90°

Flap Closed/ Fingers at 90°



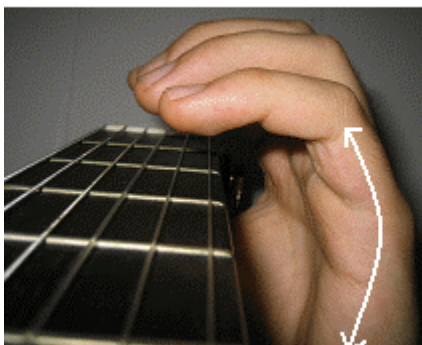
Flap is closed.

Fingers approach the strings at a 90° angle (more or less).



Angle 3: Flap Open/Fingers at 90°

Flap Open/ Fingers at 90°



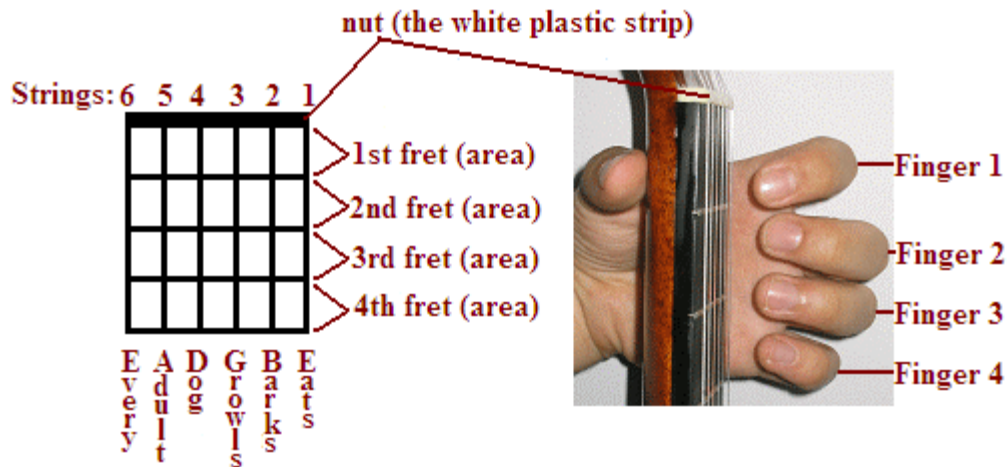
Flap is open.

Fingers approach the strings at a 90° angle (more or less).

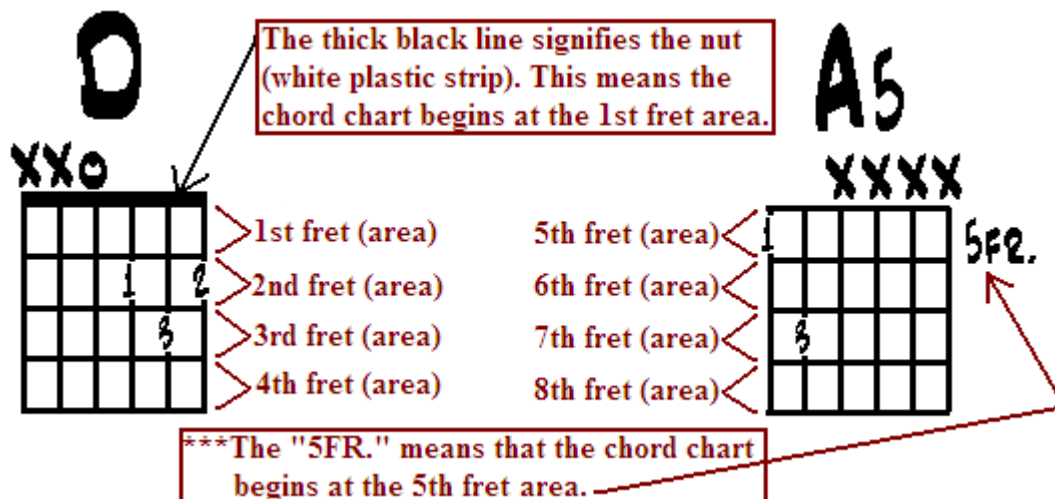


Important for Everyone (continued)

String Numbers and Finger Numbers



Thick Black Line vs. "FR."

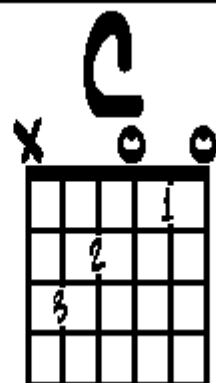


The 5th fret is just an example. Chord charts can begin at any fret area. It will always be indicated on the right side at the top, just like the example above. At times you will see: 1FR. for 1st Fret; 2FR. for 2nd Fret; 3FR. for 3rd Fret; etc. etc.

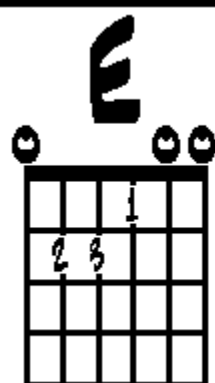
**ALL INFO PRESENTED APPLIES TO BOTH
RIGHT-HANDED AND LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE**

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

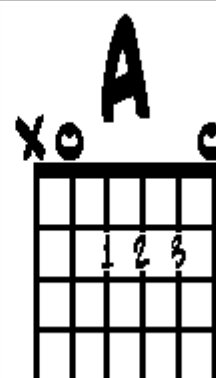
Major Chords



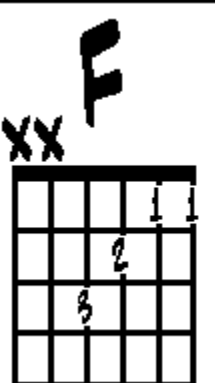
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



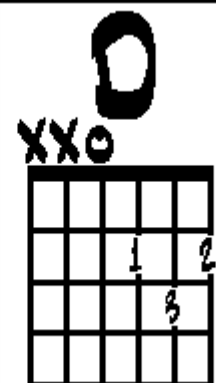
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

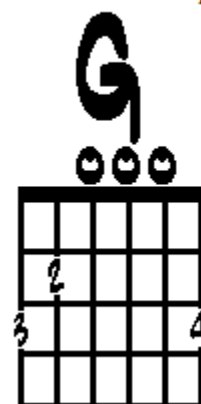


- Thumb-knuckle bent
back/Web Popped Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

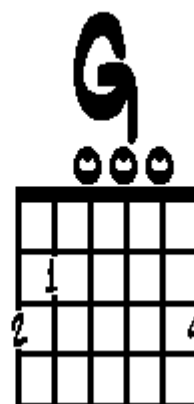


- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

*You Have 2 Options for the G Chord, try both to see which is best for your hand



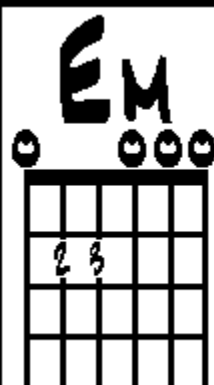
- Thumb Pointing Out/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Closed/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum All 6 Strings



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

Minor Chords



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



- Thumb-knuckle bent
back/Web Popped Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only



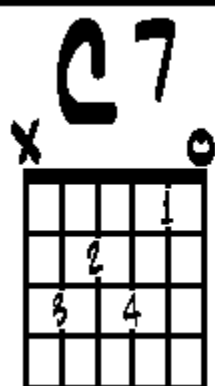
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



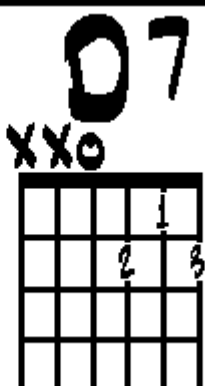
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

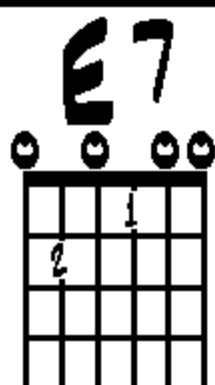
Seven Chords



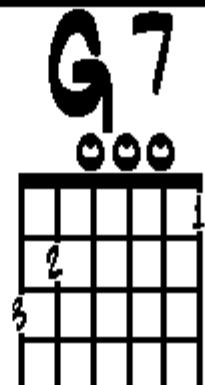
- Thumb-knuckle bent back/Web Popped Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



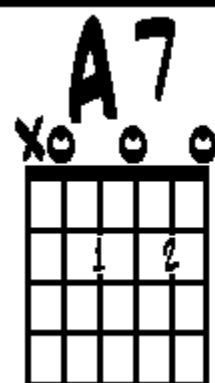
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only



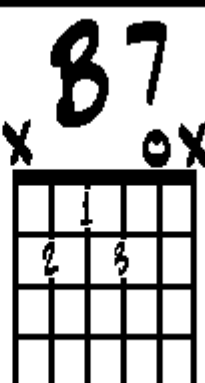
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



- Thumb-knuckle bent back/Web Popped Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, & 2 only

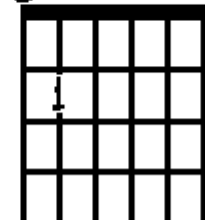
The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

Power Chords

E5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

XXXXX

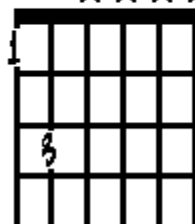


- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

F5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

XXXXX

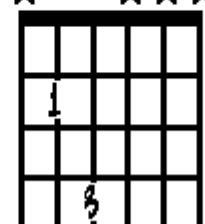


- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

B5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

X XXX



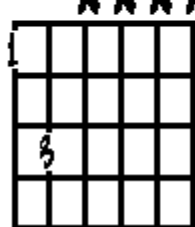
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

Notice the "3FR." These charts begin at the 3rd FRET

G5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

XXXXX

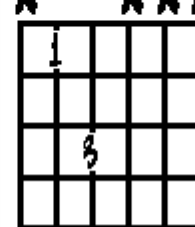


- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

C5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

X XXX



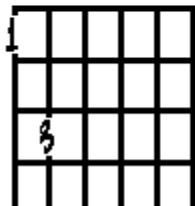
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

Notice the "5FR." These charts begin at the 5th FRET

A5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

XXXXX

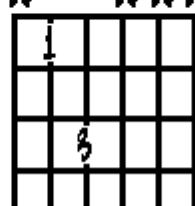


- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

D5

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

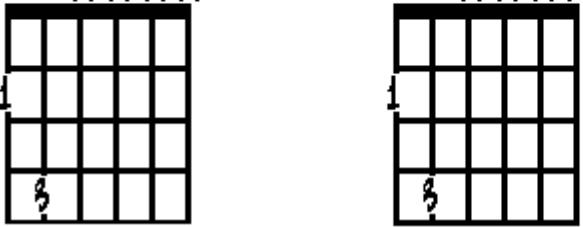
X XXX



- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

F#5 is the same as.... **Gb5**

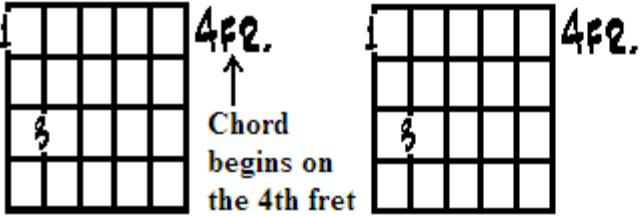
XXXXX



- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

G#5 is the same as.... **Ab5**

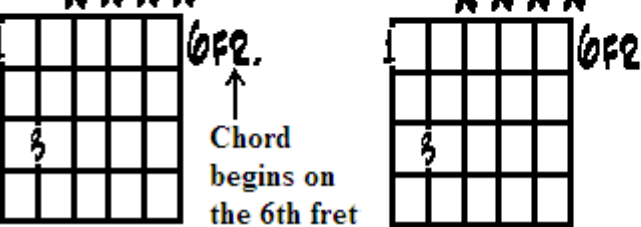
XXXXX



- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

A#5 is the same as.... **Bb5**

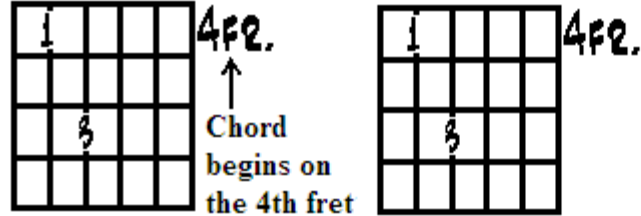
XXXXX



- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

C#5 is the same as.. **Db5**

X XXXX



- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

D#5 is the same as.... **E♭5**

X XXX

1			
3			

6F2.

↑

Chord
begins on
the 6th fret

X XXX

1			
3			

6F2.

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

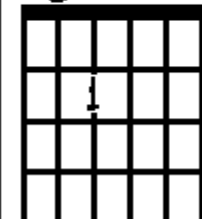
The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

Second Option (ii)

Power Chords

A5(ii)

xo xxx



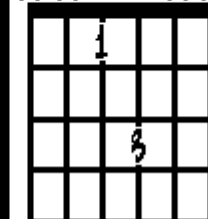
•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

•Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

E♭5(ii)

xx xx



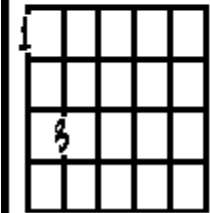
•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

•Strum Strings
4 & 3 only

B5(ii)

xxxx



•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

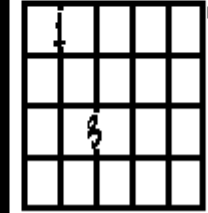
•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

•Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

↑
Begins
on 7th
FRET

E5(ii)

x xxx



•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

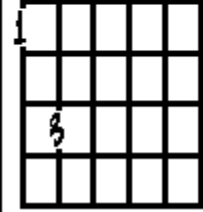
•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

•Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

↑
Begins
on 7th
FRET

C5(ii)

xxxx



•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

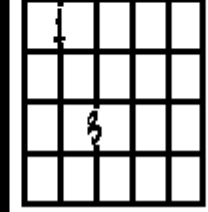
•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

•Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

↑
Begins
on 8th
FRET

F5(ii)

x xxx

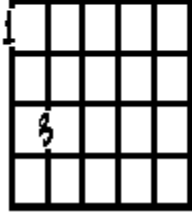
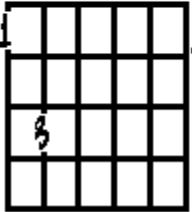
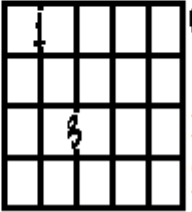
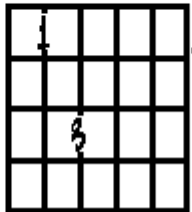


•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out

•Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°

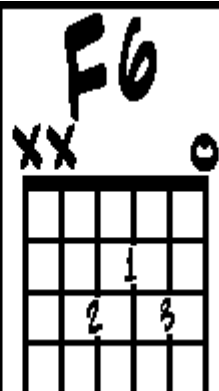
•Strum Strings
5 & 4 only

↑
Begins
on 8th
FRET

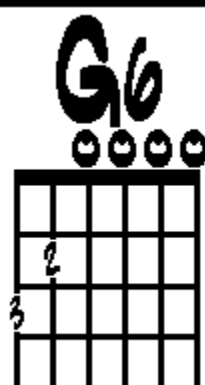
<p>C#5(ii) XXXX</p>  <p>9f2.</p> <p>↑ Begins on 9th FRET</p>	<p>•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out</p> <p>•Flap Open/ Fingers at 90°</p> <p>•Strum Strings 6 & 5 only</p>
<p>D5(ii) XXXX</p>  <p>10f</p> <p>↑ Begins on 10th FRET</p>	<p>•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out</p> <p>•Flap Open/ Fingers at 90°</p> <p>•Strum Strings 6 & 5 only</p>
<p>F#5(ii) X XXX</p>  <p>9f2.</p> <p>↑ Begins on 9th FRET</p>	<p>•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out</p> <p>•Flap Open/ Fingers at 90°</p> <p>•Strum Strings 5 & 4 only</p>
<p>G5(ii) X XXX</p>  <p>10f</p> <p>↑ Begins on 10th FRET</p>	<p>•Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out</p> <p>•Flap Open/ Fingers at 90°</p> <p>•Strum Strings 5 & 4 only</p>

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

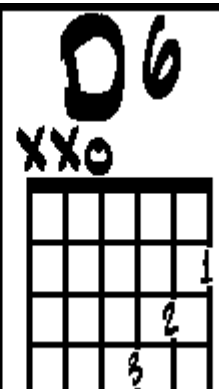
Six Chords



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only



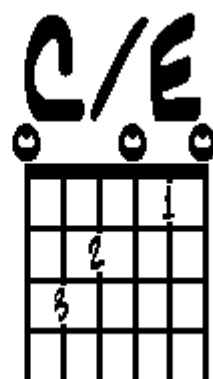
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



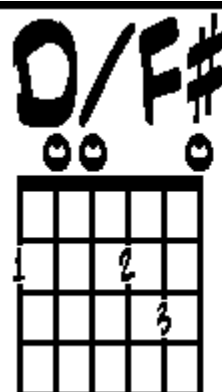
- Thumb-knuckle bent
back/Web Popped Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

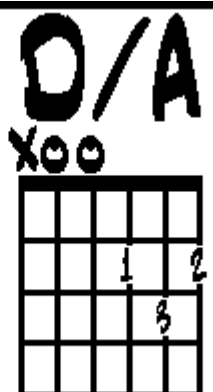
Slash Chords



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



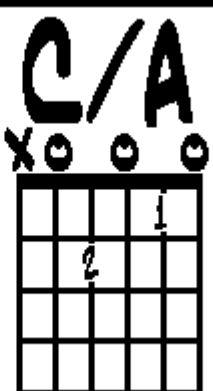
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings



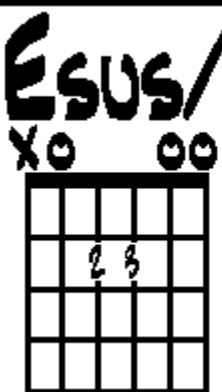
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



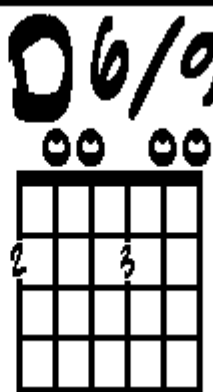
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

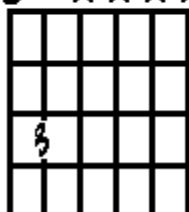


- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings

G^b/E
 ○ XXXX



3F2.



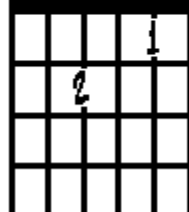
This is
the 3rd
FRET

- Thumb directly behind neck/Web Projected Out
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 90°
- Strum Strings
6 & 5 only

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

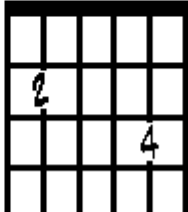
Minor 7 Chords

A^m7
 x ○ ○ ○



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

E^m7
 ○ ○ ○ ○



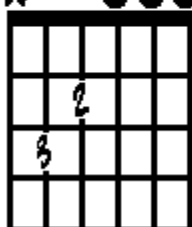
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings

The Perfect Beginner Chord Chart

Major 7 Chords

CMAJ7

X ○ ○ ○



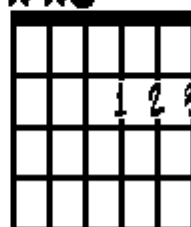
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck

- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°

- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

DMAJ7

X X ○



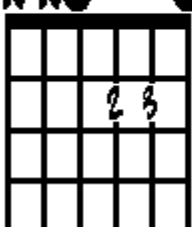
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck

- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°

- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

DMAJ9

X X ○



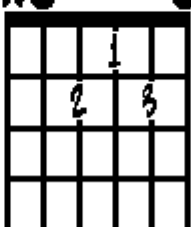
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck

- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°

- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

AMAJ7

X ○



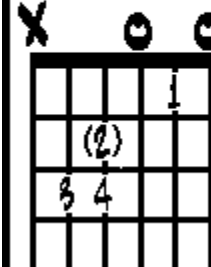
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck

- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°

- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

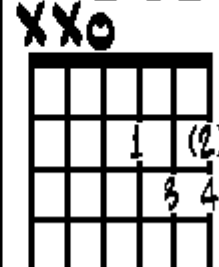
Sus Chords

Csus4



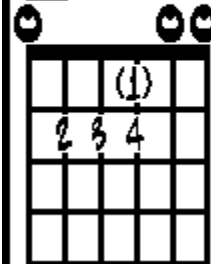
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

Dsus4



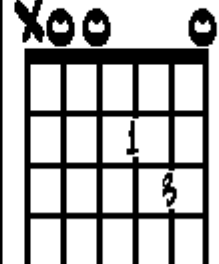
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
4, 3, 2, & 1 only

Esus4



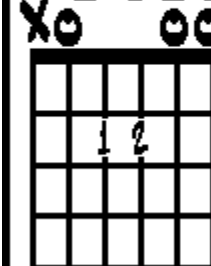
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum All 6 Strings

Asus4



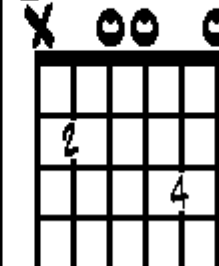
- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

Asus2



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only

Bmsus4



- Thumb Around Neck/
Web Around Neck
- Flap Open/
Fingers at 45°
- Strum Strings
5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 only