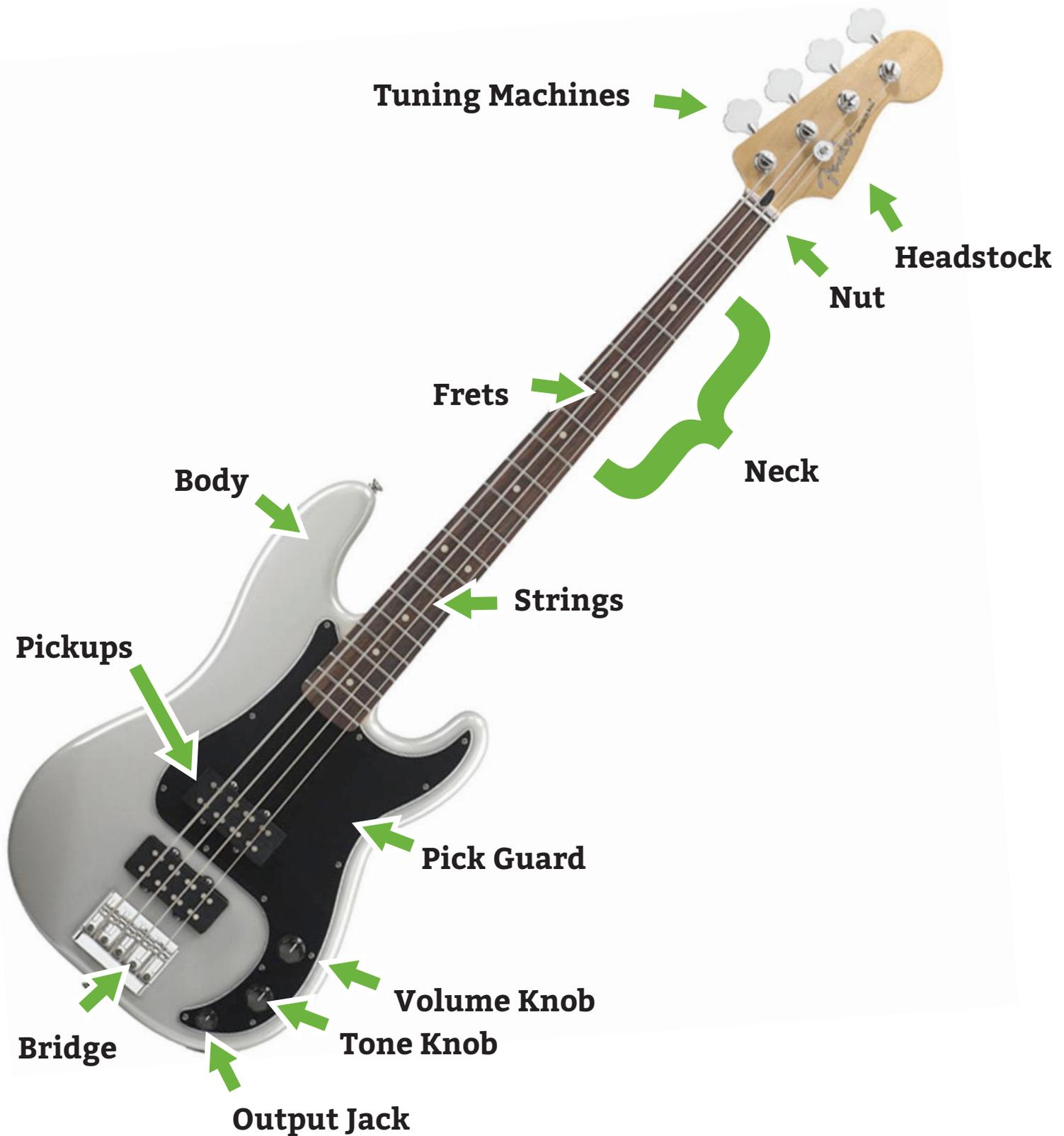


# BASS

CONSUMABLES



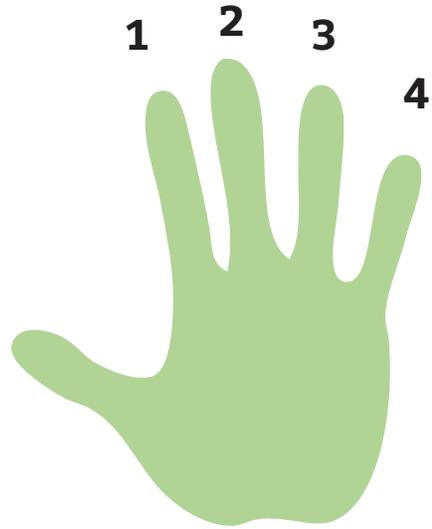
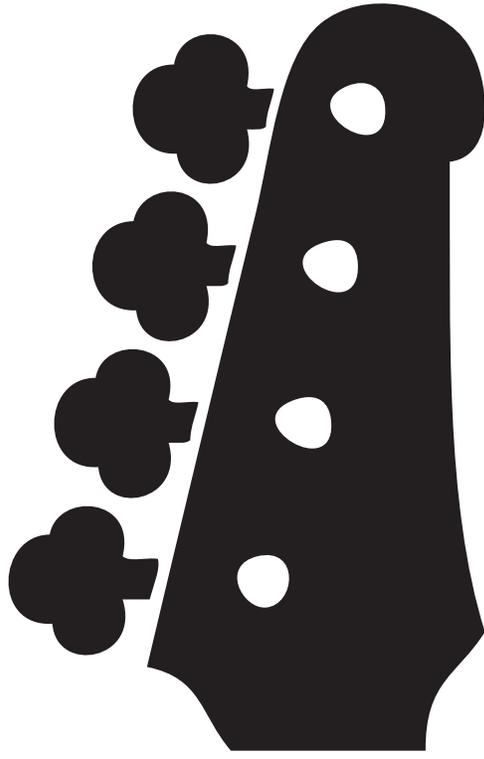
# Parts of the Electric Bass



BASS



# Some of the BASS-ics



This is how you number your fingers on your fretting hand. You don't count your thumb.

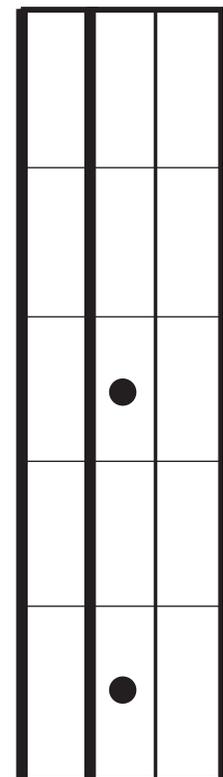
1st Fret →

2nd Fret →

3rd Fret →

4th Fret →

String Names →



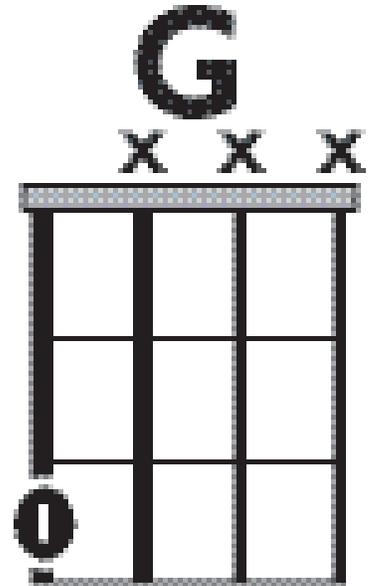
E A D G

don't play ↑

nut ↓

fretboard

f.





# Holding Your Electric Bass

## There are 2 basic ways to hold your electric bass: Standing & Sitting.

The main rule when playing bass sitting down is to be comfortable. Find a comfortable seat, preferably one where your feet touch the floor. Have the curve of the bass body rest on your right knee.

Have your right arm extend over the front of the bass with your right elbow supporting the body.



To hold the bass while standing up, you will need a strap connected to your bass.

You want to adjust the height so that you can move your fretting hand around the neck comfortably.

You will know if the strap is at a good height if, when you sit down, the bass stays at the same height.



BASS



# Holding Your Electric Bass

**Your left hand fingers need to follow 5 basic rules.**

Curve your fingers like cat claws. ✓

Each finger touches just one string. ✓

Press hard enough to get a sound. ✓

Thumb looks like a fret on the back of the neck. ✓

Place fingers close to the frets. ✓





# Plucking in 3 Easy Steps

- 1 Rest your thumb slightly above the lowest string, about halfway between the bridge and neck and let your fingers drop down. (Try using the pickup as a resting point.)
- 2 Extend your 1st finger down onto a string and gently pull it up towards your palm. (Think of your finger as a paintbrush.)
- 3 Have your second finger copy the first. Alternate between both fingers.



BASS



# Tuning Your Electric Bass

**Tuning can be frustrating BUT that doesn't mean you can't start playing now!**

- 1 Press down on the 5th fret of a string, pluck and listen. It should sound like the string below. For example, the 5th fret of the "E" string should sound like the open "A" string just below it. If not, adjust the tuning head of the "A" String up or down, until both strings sound the same.
- 2 Next, when you press down on the 5th fret of the "A" string, it should sound like the open "D" string below.
- 3 Continue across the other strings just like that!



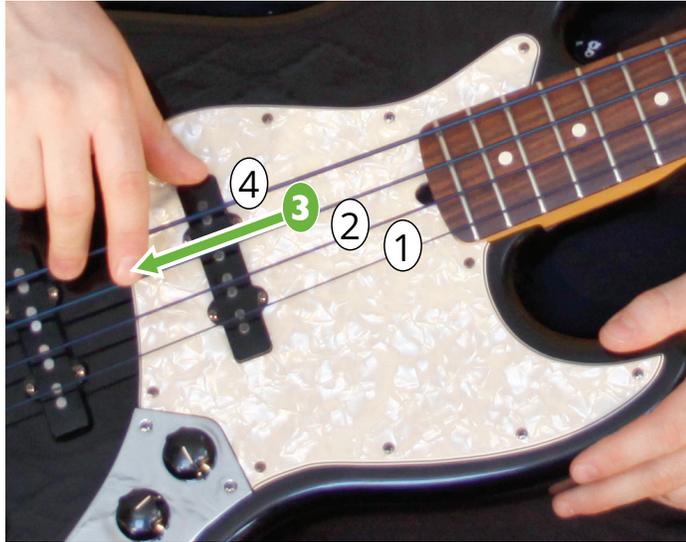
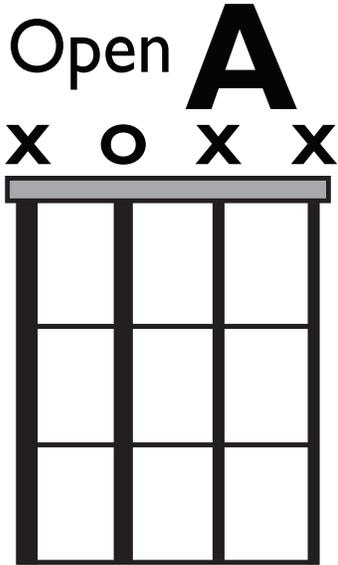
## Top 3 Shortcuts for tuning the bass

- 1 Get an electric tuner – this is an electronic device that tells you when each string is in tune.
- 2 Use an internet tuner – you can use one online for free at [www.littlekidsrock.org](http://www.littlekidsrock.org)
- 3 Ask for help – Find a friend, relative or teacher that already knows how to tune.

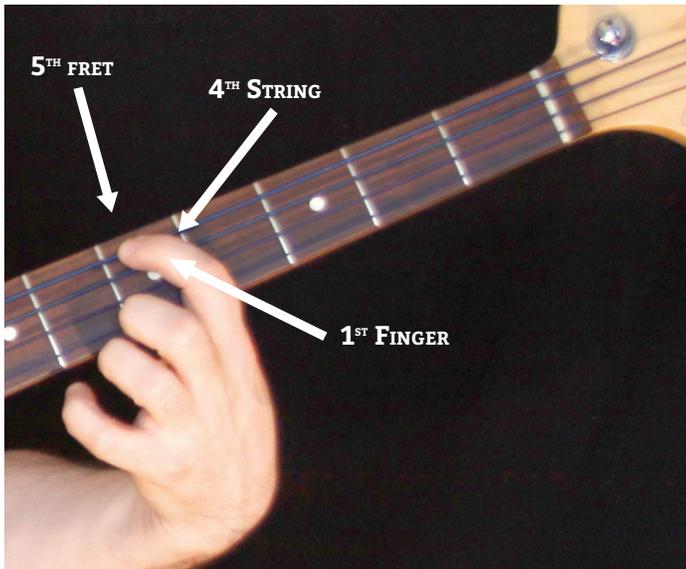
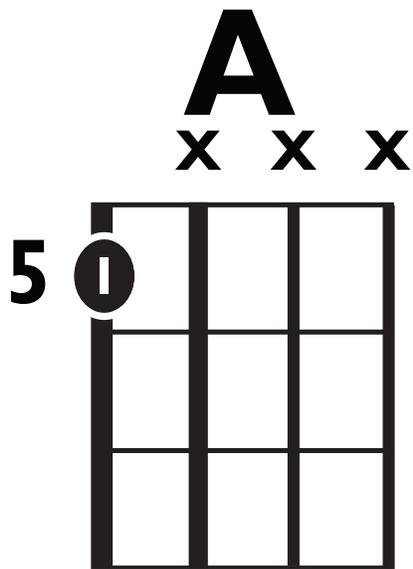


# I Got an A in 2 Different Ways

Playing the A is easy! Just pluck the 3rd string without touching the neck!  
When we play it this way, it's called an Open A.



We can also play an A by using our 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 4th string.



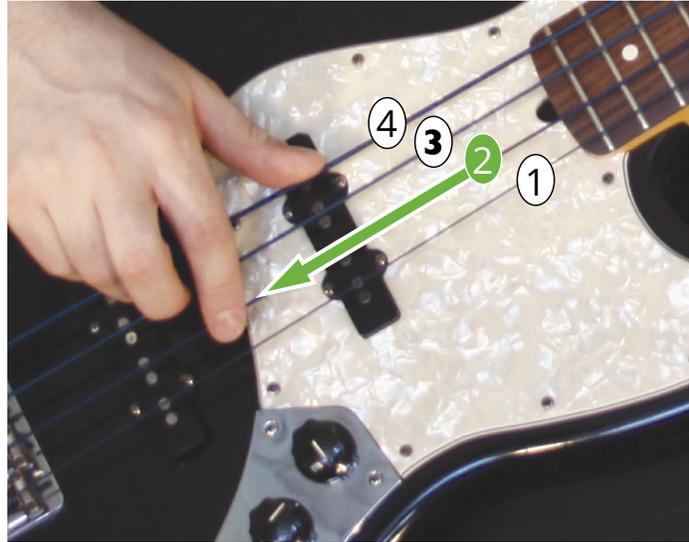
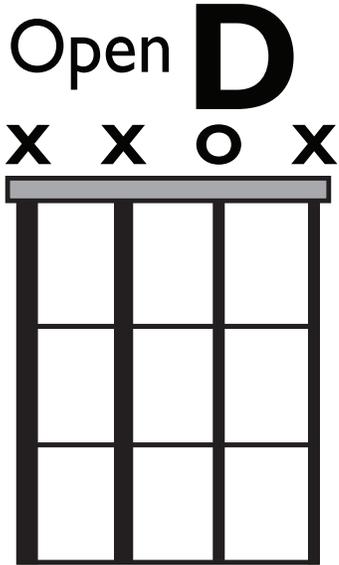
*Remember  
your 1 2 3s!*

1. String Number
2. Finger Number
3. Fret Number

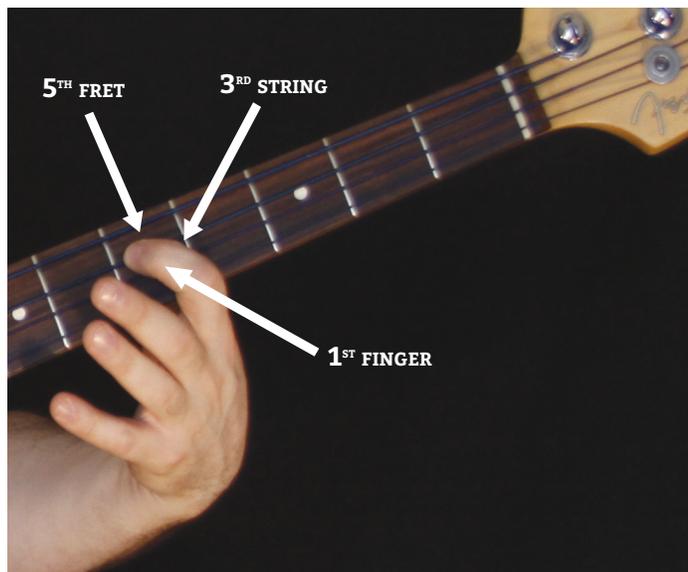
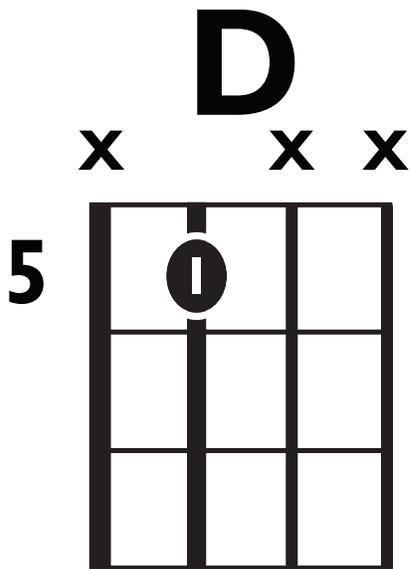
Playing an E will sound great when guitar and keyboard players are playing A chords!

# Gettin' a D Ain't So Bad!

Playing a D is just like playing an Open A. This time, pluck the 2nd string without touching the neck for an Open D.



We can also play a D by using our 1st finger on the 5th fret of the 4th string.



*Remember  
your 1 2 3s!*

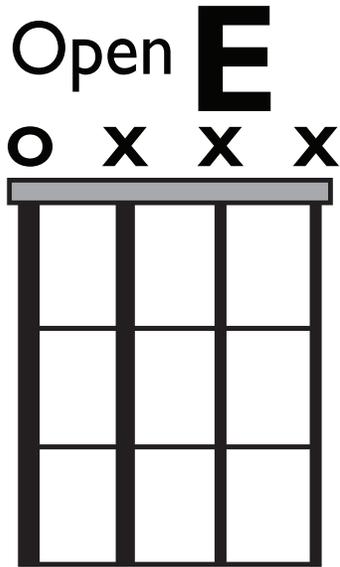
1. String Number
2. Finger Number
3. Fret Number

Playing an E will sound great when guitar and keyboard players are playing D chords!

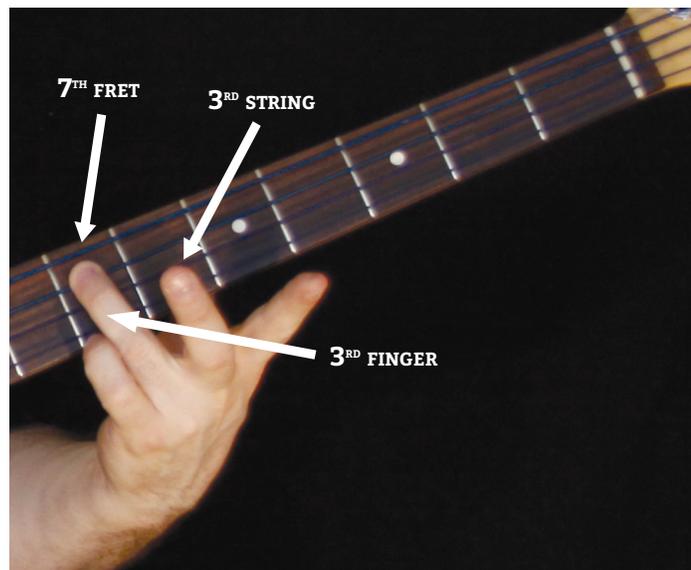
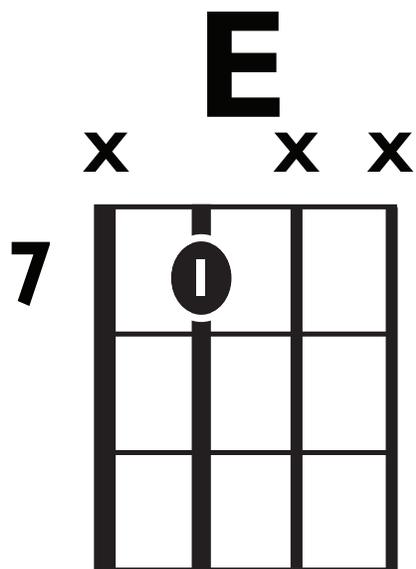


# E is for Easy

As the title says, playing the E is easy! This time, just pluck the 4th string. You guessed it, we call it an open E.



We can also play an E by using our 3rd finger on the 7th fret of the 3rd string.



*Remember your 1 2 3s!*

1. String Number
2. Finger Number
3. Fret Number

Playing an E will sound great when guitar and keyboard players are playing E chords!



# Simple Rhythms

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

BASS



# First Chord Progression

Chords are just a few notes played together that guitar and piano players play all the time. Bass players do too, but we'll get to that later! Most songs are made up of 2 to 6 chords that repeat in some sort of a pattern. That pattern is called a CHORD PROGRESSION.

The chord progression below uses just two chords - D and A.

The **:||** that appears at the end of the progression is called a repeat sign. It is there to tell you to start over again from the beginning of the progression.

These lines: **| / / / / |** are called a measure. Each measure gets four beats which we count as 1, 2, 3, 4. You will see that there are 8 measures in the song below that get repeated many times.

BASS

## Progression 1

Open **D**  
 x x o x

Open **D**  
 x x o x

Open **D**  
 x x o x

Open **A**  
 x o x x

**:|** / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / |

Open **A**  
 x o x x

Open **A**  
 x o x x

Open **A**  
 x o x x

Open **D**  
 x x o x

| / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / **:|**



# First Chord Progression Another Way

## Progression 1

This time, when you see a D, play it on the 5th fret of the 3rd string. When you see A, play it on the 5th fret of the 4th string. Try to play this version using the 3 rhythms at the bottom of the page.

Diagram 1: D Chord (5th fret, 3rd string, 1st finger). Diagram 2: A Chord (5th fret, 4th string, 1st finger). Diagram 3: D Chord (5th fret, 3rd string, 1st finger).

||: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / |

| / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / :||

BASS

When a D Chord is shown, a D will always sound great on your bass. This is true with any chord. For example, an A will always sound great with an A chord. We call this the root note.

Try playing a D on every number, and then switch to A when a new note is shown, using the rhythms below.

1st rhythm:

2nd Rhythm:

3rd Rhythm:

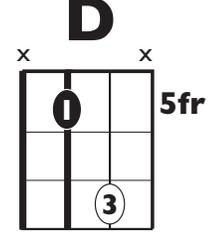
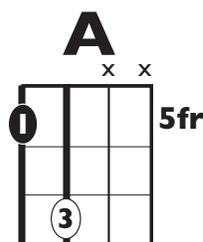
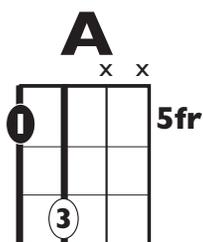
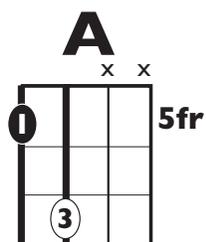
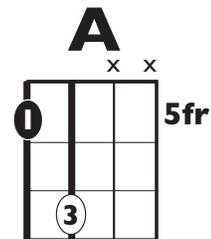
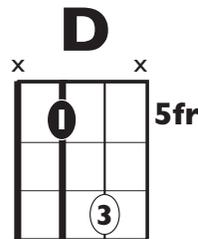
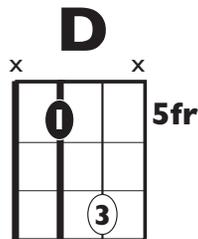
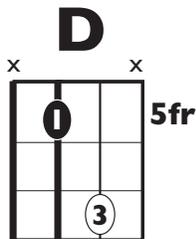


# Chord Progressions a Third Way

There are many ways to play chord progressions. In the chart below, you will see that 1 extra note has been added to each root note.

This extra note is called a 5th and will sound great with any kind of chord.!

## Progression 1





# Chord Progressions a Fourth Way

This time you will see that we added a 3rd note each time we play with a chord.

This extra note is called the octave and will sound great with any kind of chord!

Listen to how the octave sounds the same as the root note, but higher!

## Progression 1

||: / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / |

| / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / :||

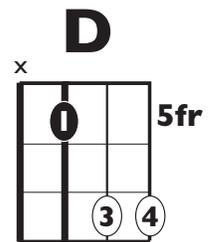
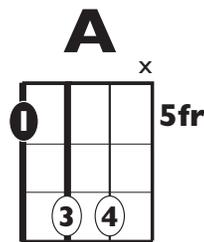
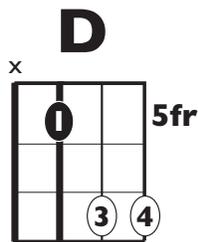
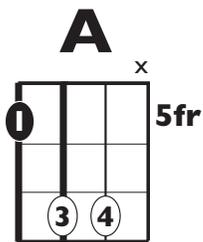
BASS



# Same Chords, New Progression

This progression uses the same 2 chords, but this time they are in a new order.

## Progression 2



Try our different combinations of notes with different rhythms!

**REMEMBER:** If you are having trouble getting your pinky to reach the octave, you can just lift up your 3rd finger and use it again!



# New Progression: Blues in A

The chord progression below uses three chords: The A, D, and E chords. This is one of the most famous progressions in the world and it appears in blues, rock, country, hip-hop, reggae, everywhere!

This particular arrangement is a blues. People call it the “twelve bar blues” because it has 12 measures.

## Progression 3

Diagram illustrating the 12-measure blues progression in A major, showing chord shapes and fret positions for A, D, and E chords.

**Measure 1-4: A Chord (5fr)**

**Measure 5-6: D Chord (5fr)**

**Measure 7-8: A Chord (5fr)**

**Measure 9-10: D Chord (5fr)**

**Measure 11-12: A Chord (5fr)**

Each chord diagram shows the fret number (0, 3, 4) and the fret position (5fr or 7fr). The progression is marked with a double bar line at the beginning and end, and vertical bar lines separating the 4-measure segments.

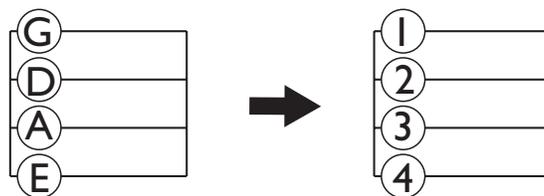


# How Does Tablature Work?

Tablature or TAB is a cool way to read music for guitar or bass. We read it from left to right, just like a book! It tells us lots of things that we need to know how to play songs.

The four lines on TAB staff represent the four strings of an electric bass.

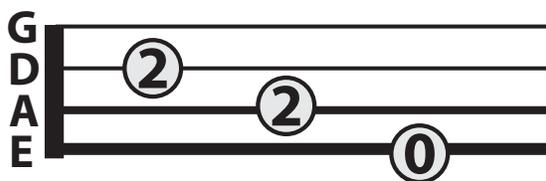
The numbers written on the lines tell us which frets to place our fingers.



A 2 written on String 1 tells us to play the 2nd fret of the G string.

A 2 written on String 2 tells us to play the 2nd fret of the D string.

And a 0 means that we don't play any frets, but play the open string.



**TAB is great but** there are some things that it does not tell us and we have to use our creativity- or a teacher's help- to figure it out.

**TAB does NOT tell us:**

- How long or short the notes are
- How fast or slow to play a song
- Which fingers to use to play the notes

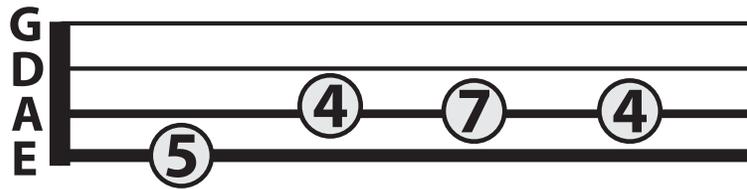
**Remember:** Music is about expressing YOURSELF, so use whichever fingers feel most comfortable for YOU.



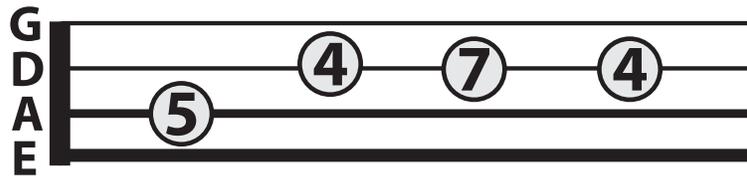
# One Way to Play the Blues in A

Try using this pattern with the Blues in A chord progressions.

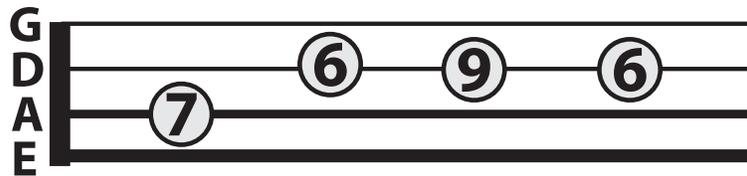
## A



## D



## E





# Three Fret Funk: The Bassline

The bassline is the part of the song that the bass player plays!

**A7** ← These chords on top are what the guitarist plays!

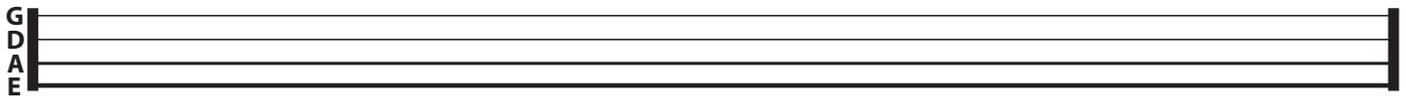
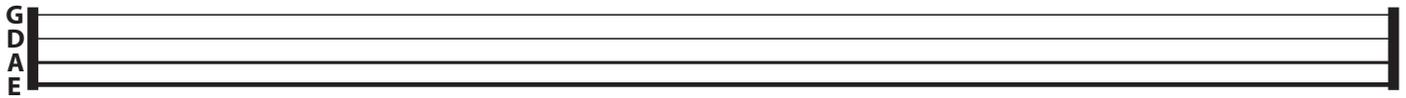
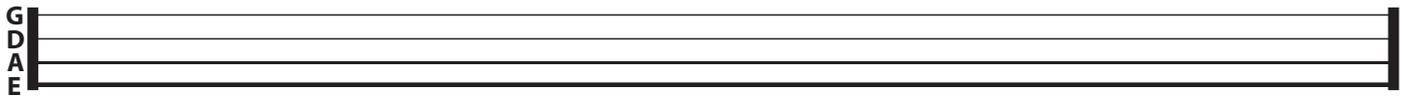
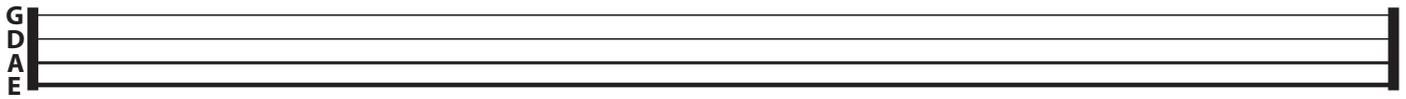
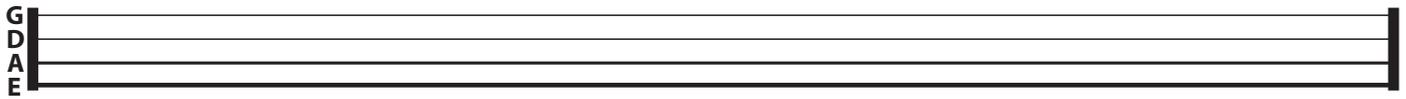
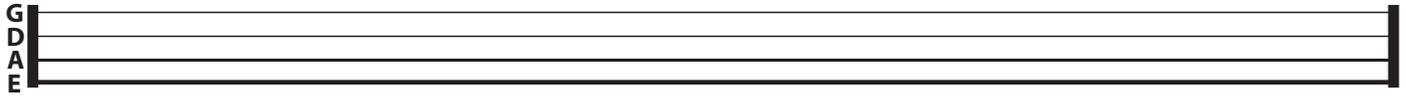
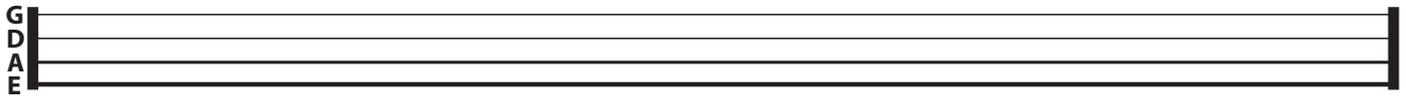
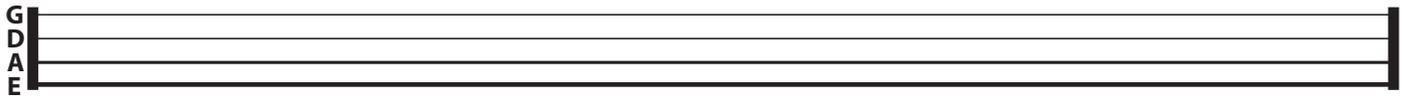
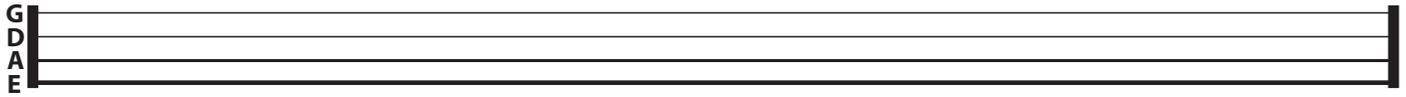
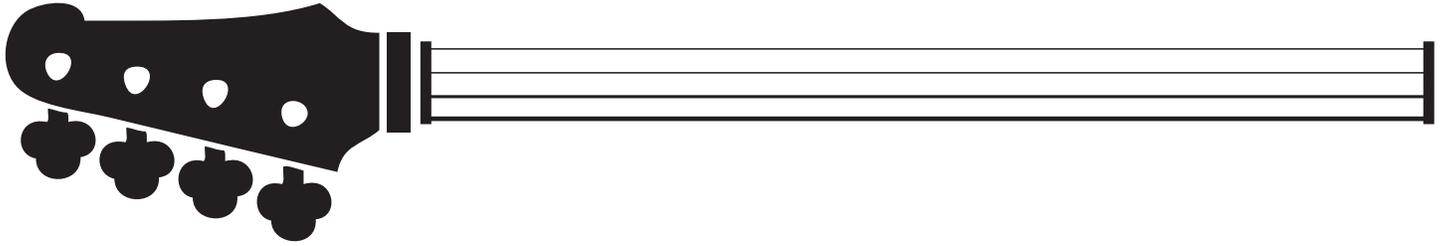
**D7**

**E7**

BASS



# Blank Bass Tab





# Chords

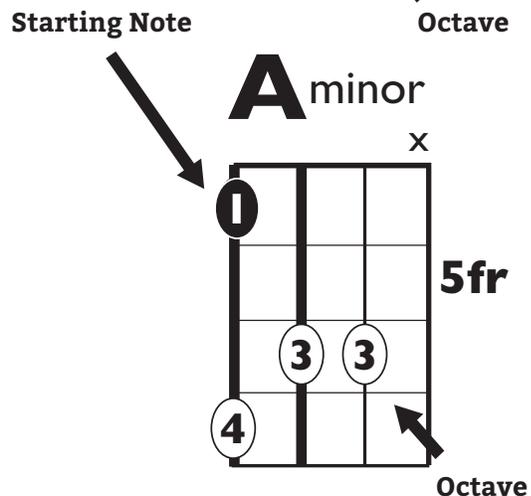
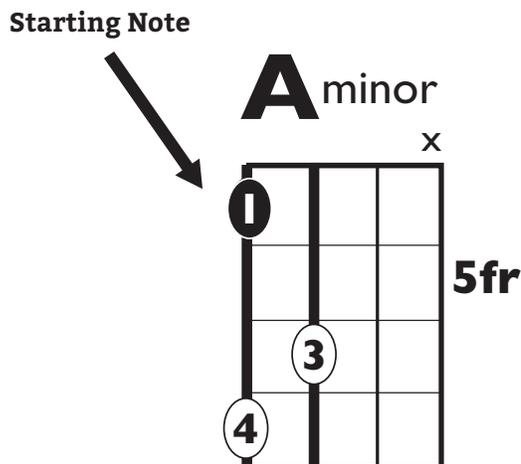
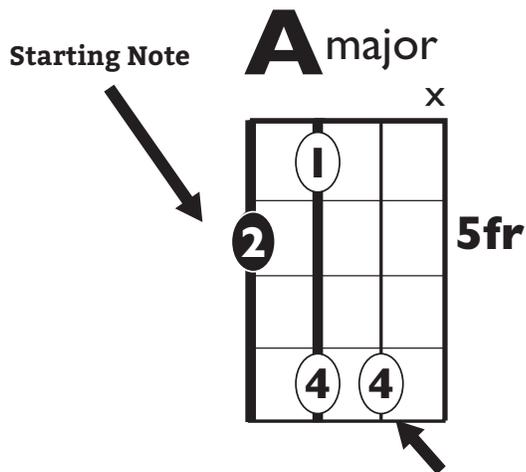
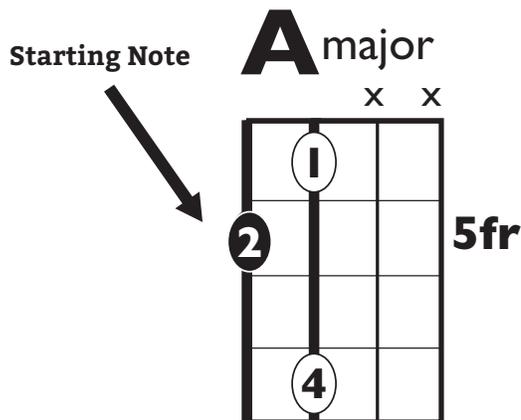
A chord is a combination of notes that sound great together! When playing guitar & piano, we play chords all the time, but guess what... bass players use chords too!

When bass players play chords, we usually play one note at a time using different combinations, so for example... when we see an A chord (also known as the A major Chord) we find the A note on the string 4 and play any notes in the pattern of notes, or shape below.

For example, the A Major chord looks like this:

To play the chord, just line up your pointer finger with the starting note and follow the pattern below, in any order, one note at a time. These chord patterns will sound great, even if you start on a different fret, on the 3rd or 4th string. Whichever note we use as our starting note is the name of the chord.

BASS

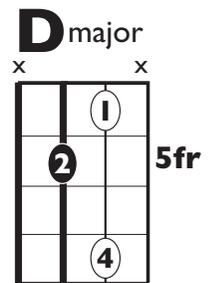
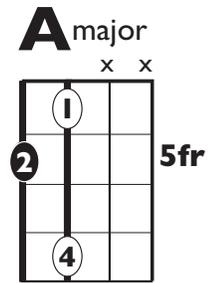
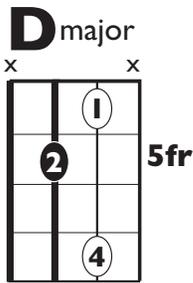




# Chords in Practice

Try playing progression 1 again, but this time use the notes from our new MAJOR CHORD SHAPE.

## Progression 1



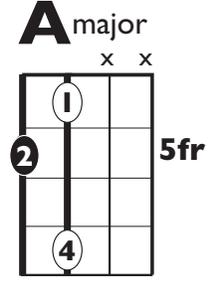
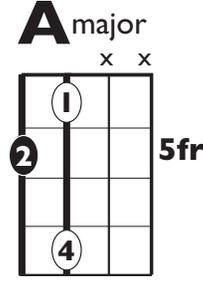
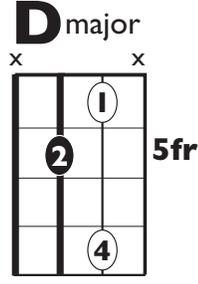
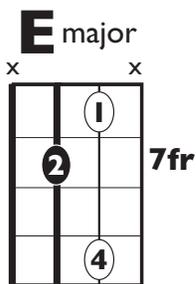
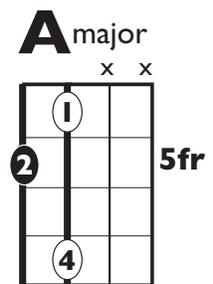
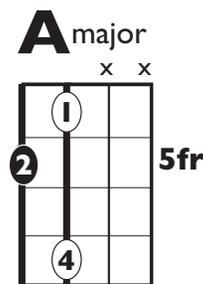
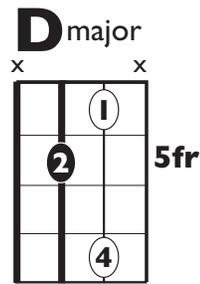
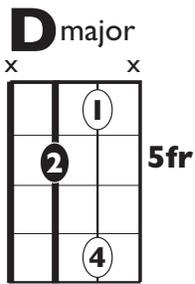
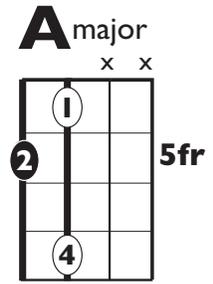
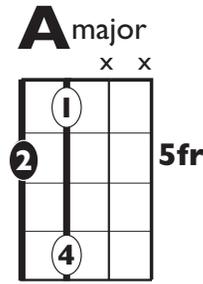
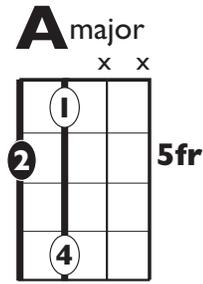
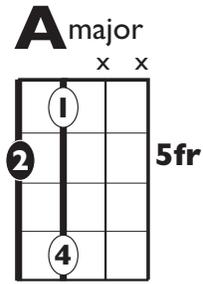
**Remember your 1, 2, 3s!**

- 1. String Number
- 2. Finger Number
- 3. Fret Number



# Blues With Major Chords

Try playing Blues in A again, but this time use the notes from our new MAJOR CHORD SHAPE



BASS



# Blues with Major Chords

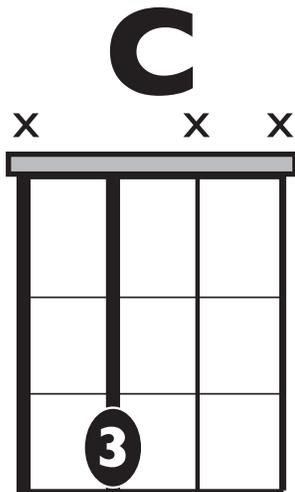
Adding the octave to the major scale shape gives us another note that sounds great with blues basslines.

<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>D</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>
: / / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / /			
<p><b>D</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>D</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>
/ / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / /			
<p><b>E</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>7fr</p>	<p><b>D</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>A</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>5fr</p>	<p><b>E</b> major</p> <p>x</p> <p>7fr</p>
/ / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / /   / / / / / :			

BASS



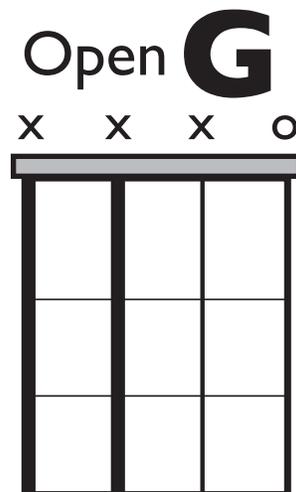
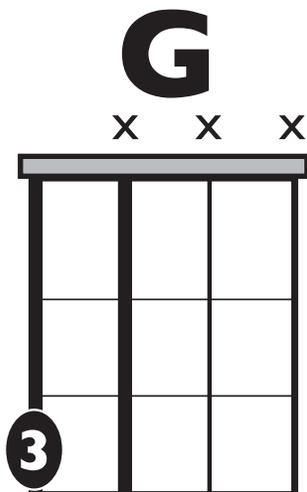
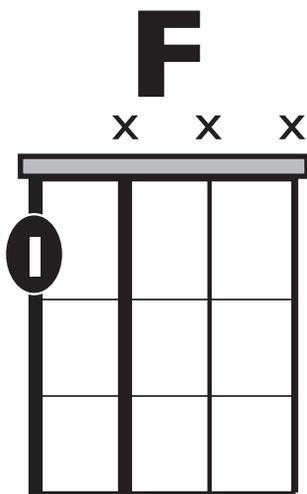
# Key of C



**Bass-ically**, when we say the “key” of a song, we are talking about the most important note of that song. Usually, it’s the first and last note played. In the key of C, C is the most important note, but F and G are also important.

Remember your left hand fingers need to follow 5 basic rules:

- 1 Curve your fingers like cat claws.
- 2 Thumb looks like a fret on the back of the neck.
- 3 Each finger touches just one string.
- 4 Place fingers close to frets.
- 5 Press hard enough to get a sound.



OR

BASS



# Syncopated Rhythms

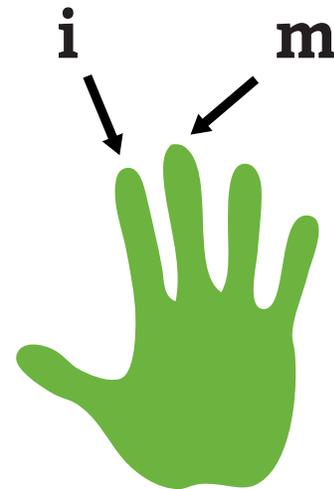
A syncopated rhythm is a rhythm where the accent is on the unexpected beat. They are funky, and slightly harder to play than simple rhythms. But if you like rock, funk, blues, rap, hip-hop, salsa, reggae, country or any other music whatsoever, you will understand how cool syncopation sounds.

Try counting out syncopated rhythms as follows:

A SYNCOPATED RHYTHM								
<b>You See:</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>You Say:</b>	<b>one</b>		<b>two</b>		<b>three</b>	<b>and</b>		<b>and</b>
<b>While you play:</b>	<b>i</b>		<b>m</b>		<b>i</b>	<b>m</b>		<b>i</b>

### Tips for trying syncopated rhythms:

- Try to feel the beat . The missing down bat is still there, you just don't play it.
- Playing a syncopated rhythm is like singing the kids' song Bingo. Even when you don't sing the letters, you know they're there and you give them their space in the song. Remember: If you can SAY it, you can PLAY it!
- Another way to practice is to say the word "rest" on any gray number. For example on rhythm A: "One, two and rest and four. One, two rest and four..."
- Another way to practice is to say the word "skip" on any gray number. For example, on rhythm A: "One, two and skip and four. One, two and skip and four..."





# Syncopated Rhythms

A)   
 i m i m i

B)   
 i m i m i

C)   
 i m i m i m

D)   
 i m i m i m i

E)   
 i m i m i

F)   
 i m i m i m

G)   
 i m i m i

H)   
 i m i m

BASS

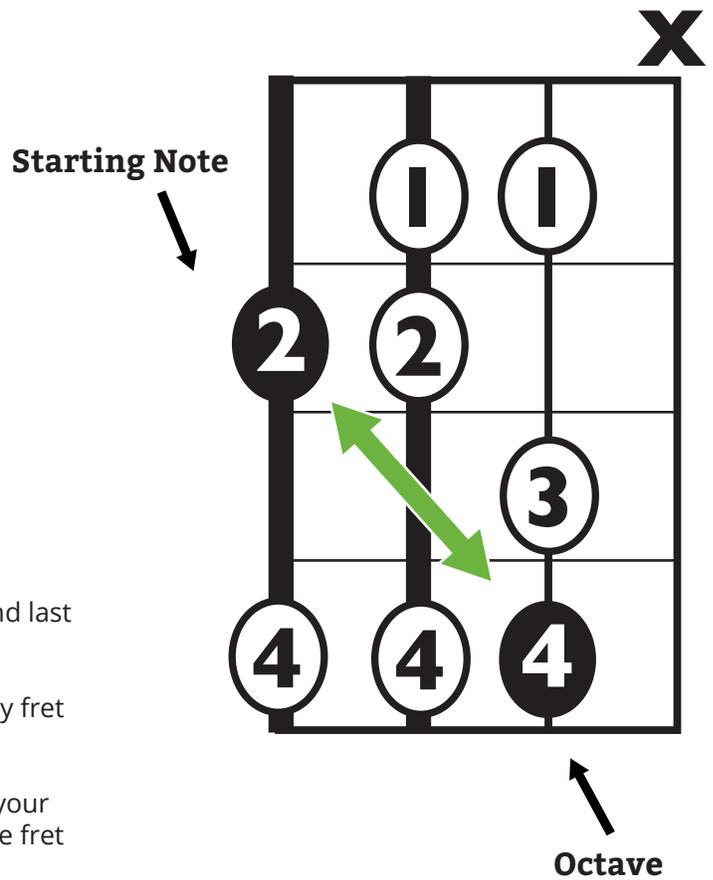


# The Major Scale

The MAJOR SCALE is a series of notes that sound great when played one after another. Every Major Scale works great with the chord that has the same name- so if your guitarist or pianist friends play in a G Major Chord, you should play a G Major scale by playing the pattern starting on the G (3rd fret of the 4th string).

## A few cool things about the MAJOR SCALE:

- The MAJOR SCALE has a happy sound.
- The MAJOR SCALE has only 7 notes. The first and last note are the same, but an octave apart..
- The MAJOR SCALE can be played starting on any fret number starting on strings 3 & 4.
- Learning to play the MAJOR SCALE is easier as your fretting hands get closer to the bridge, since the fret spaces are smaller.



## When playing scales, REMEMBER:

- Place your fingers on the frets one at a time.
- Make sure that you use the correct finger for each note on your fretting hand.
- Alternate between your first and second plucking fingers



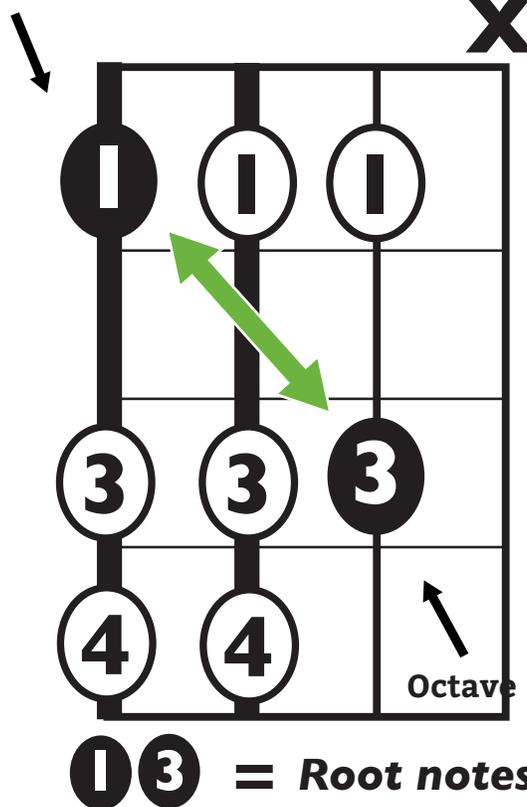
# The Minor Scale

The MINOR SCALE is similar to the Major Scale except that it has a slightly different pattern and sound. Just like with the Major Scale, Minor Scales sound great with their equivalent chords, so a C Minor Scale sounds great with a C Minor chord.

## A few cool things about the MINOR SCALE:

- The MINOR SCALE has a sad sound.
- The MINOR SCALE has only 7 notes. The first and last note are the same, but an octave apart.
- The MINOR SCALE can be played starting on any fret number starting on strings 3 & 4.
- Learning to play the MINOR SCALE is easier as your fretting hands get closer to the bridge, since the fret spaces are smaller.

Starting Note



## When playing scales, REMEMBER:

- Place your fingers on the frets one at a time.
- Make sure that you use the correct finger for each note on your fretting hand.
- Alternate between your first and second plucking fingers



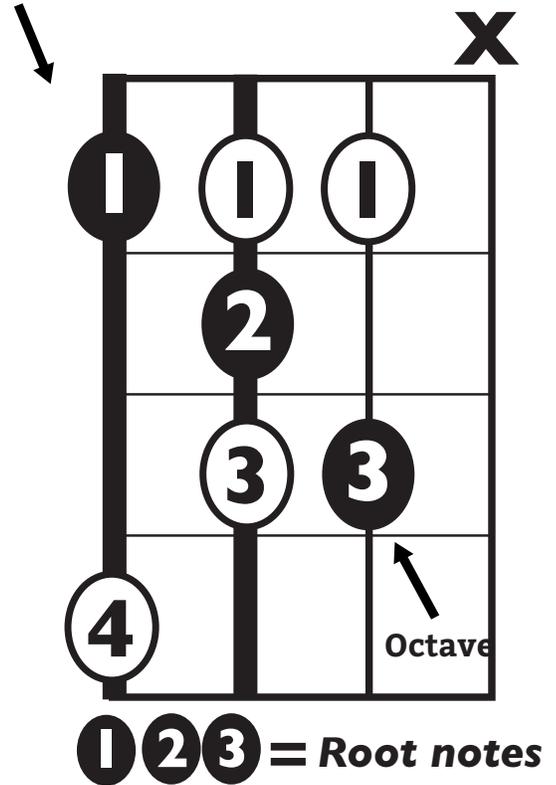
# The Blues Scale

The BLUES SCALE is a scale that sounds great when playing - you guessed it - the Blues. Try playing the “blue note” and then immediately switching to the next fret for a very bluesy sound.

## A few cool things about the BLUES SCALE:

- The MINOR SCALE has a sad sound.
- The MINOR SCALE has only 6 notes. The first and last note are the same, but an octave apart.
- The MINOR SCALE can be played starting on any fret number starting on strings 3 & 4.
- Learning to play the MINOR SCALE is easier as your fretting hands get closer to the bridge, since the fret spaces are smaller.

Starting Note



## When playing scales, REMEMBER:

- Place your fingers on the frets one at a time.
- Make sure that you use the correct finger for each note on your fretting hand.
- Alternate between your first and second plucking fingers

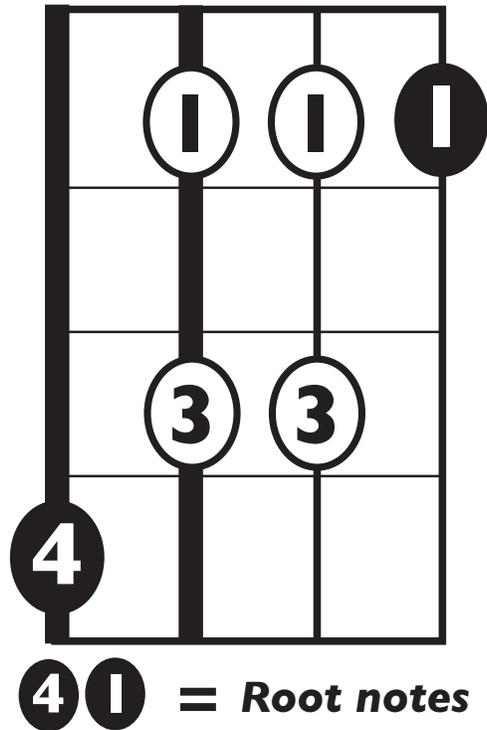


# The Major Pentatonic Scale

The MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE is a musical scale with only 5 notes and sounds great with major chords. The coolest thing about this scale is that if you play the notes in order, from lowest to highest, you're playing the bassline to My Girl.

## A few cool things about the MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE:

- The MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE has only 5 notes. The first and last note are the same, but an octave apart.
- The MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE can be played starting on any fret number starting on the fourth string.
- Learning to play the MAJOR PENTATONIC SCALE is easier as your fretting hands get closer to the bridge, since the fret spaces are smaller.



## When playing scales, REMEMBER:

- Place your fingers on the frets one at a time.
- Make sure that you use the correct finger for each note on your fretting hand.
- Alternate between your first and second plucking fingers



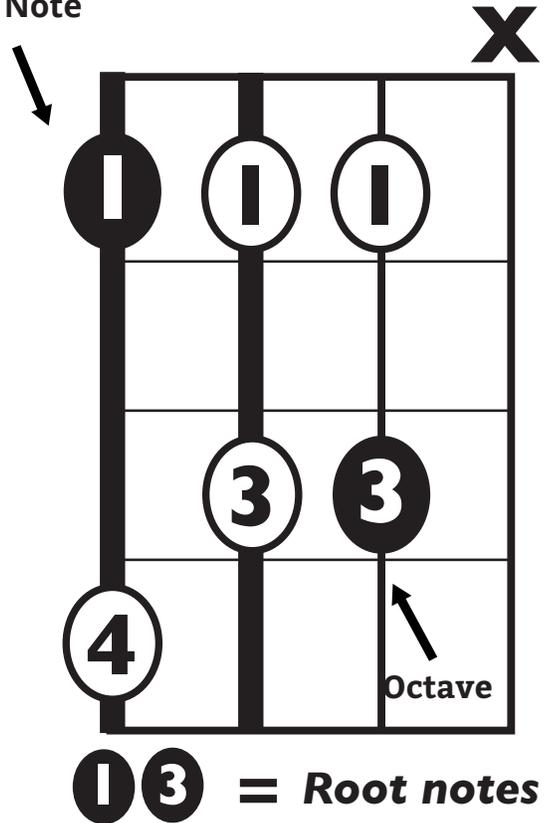
# The Minor Pentatonic Scale

The MINOR PENTATONIC is a 5 note scale similar to a major pentatonic but this one works great with minor chords. Notice that it looks and sounds just like the Blues Scale, but without the blue note.

## A few cool things about the MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE:

- The MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE has only 5 notes, the first and last note are the same, but an octave apart.
- The MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE has 5 notes. The first and last note are the same, but an octave apart..
- The MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE can be played starting on any fret number starting on strings 3 & 4.
- Learning to play the MINOR PENTATONIC SCALE is easier as your fretting hands get closer to the bridge, since the fret spaces are smaller.

Starting Note



## When playing scales, REMEMBER:

- Place your fingers on the frets one at a time.
- Make sure that you use the correct finger for each note on your fretting hand.
- Alternate between your first and second plucking fingers



# Blank Notes

/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /

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/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /	/ / / / /

BASS



# Blank Notes

/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /

/ / / / /	/ / / / /

BASS