

Understanding Guitar Strings

String	Note / Description
6th String	E – Thickest, lowest pitch
5th String	A – Fifth string
4th String	D – Fourth string
3rd String	G – Third string
2nd String	B – Second string
1st String	e – Thinnest, highest pitch

Standard Tuning: E–A–D–G–B–e (lowest to highest).

Memory Trick: Every Amateur Does Get Better Eventually.

Pitch Notation: E2–A2–D3–G3–B3–E4.

Remember: String 6 is the thickest and lowest-pitched. String 1 is the thinnest and highest-pitched.

How to Read Guitar Chord Fingerings

Symbol	Meaning
x	Do not play the string
0	Play the string open
1	Press the first fret
2	Press the second fret
3	Press the third fret
4	Press the fourth fret
5+	Press the indicated fret

Reading Chord Codes

Codes list fret positions from the thickest to thinnest string (E–A–D–G–B–e).

Example: C Major (x32010)

E = X (Don't play)

A = 3rd fret

D = 2nd fret

G = Open

B = 1st fret

e = Open

Remember: X = Mute/Skip, 0 = Open string, and numbers indicate frets, NOT fingers.

GUITAR FINGER PLACEMENT GUIDE

Chord	Finger Placement
A Major	Index D2, Middle G2, Ring B2
C Major	Index B1, Middle D2, Ring A3
D Major	Index G2, Middle e2, Ring B3
E Major	Index G1, Middle A2, Ring D2
G Major	Index A2, Middle E3, Ring e3
A Minor	Index B1, Middle D2, Ring G2
D Minor	Index e1, Middle G2, Ring B3
E Minor	Middle A2, Ring D2

FINGER NUMBERS

1 = Index

2 = Middle

3 = Ring

4 = Pinky

PLACEMENT EXAMPLE

B1 = B string, 1st fret.

D2 = D string, 2nd fret.

Use curved fingertips and press just behind the fret wire. Keep unused fingers relaxed.

Fingerings shown are suggested beginner positions. Alternative fingerings may also work.

Essential Open Major Chords

Chord	Fret	Start Strumming
A Major	x02220	5th string — A
C Major	x32010	5th string — A
D Major	xx0232	4th string — D
E Major	022100	6th string — low E
G Major	320003	6th string — low E

Read codes from thickest to thinnest string: E–A–D–G–B–e.

Numbers indicate frets, not fingers. x = do not play; 0 = open string.

Begin strumming on the listed string and continue toward the thinnest string. G can also be played 320033.

Essential Open Minor Chords

Chord	Fret Code	Start Strumming
A Minor — Am	x02210	5th string — A
D Minor — Dm	xx0231	4th string — D
E Minor — Em	022000	6th string — low E

The lowercase m means minor.

Skip strings marked x.

Pick each string separately to check that every intended note rings clearly.

Practice switching Am–C and Em–G before adding a strumming pattern.

COMMON CHORD PROGRESSIONS

Progression	Chords
Two-Chord Practice	Am – C
Three-Chord Practice	G – C – D – G
Four-Chord Pop	G – D – Em – C
Classic Rock	E – A – D – A
Minor-Key Practice	Am – Dm – Em – Am

A chord progression is a sequence of chords played in order.

PRACTICE METHOD

1. Play each chord for 4 beats.
2. Count 1-2-3-4.
3. Change chords on the next beat 1.
4. Repeat the progression.

Start slowly (around 60 BPM). Focus on clean transitions before increasing speed.

BASIC STRUMMING PATTERNS

Pattern	Strumming
Basic Downstroke	D D D D
Alternating	D U D U D U D U
Folk Pattern	D D U U D U
Pop Pattern	D – D U – U D U
Waltz (3/4)	DDD

D = Downstroke

U = Upstroke

– = Skip a strum

In 4/4 time, count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

POPULAR POP PATTERN

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Strum: D – D U – U D U

Keep your strumming hand moving steadily, even when skipping a stroke. Start slowly and maintain consistent timing.

GUITAR CHORD TROUBLESHOOTING (cont)

Excessive Hand Tension	Relax grip; use minimal pressure
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QUICK CHORD CHECK

1. Tune your guitar.
2. Form the chord slowly.
3. Pick each string separately.
4. Identify buzzing or muted notes.
5. Adjust finger placement.
6. Strum the complete chord.

Clean notes matter more than speed.

Practice a few minutes daily rather than forcing difficult chord changes.

GUITAR CHORD TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Solution
Buzzing Strings	Press just behind the fret
Muted Strings	Curve fingers; avoid touching adjacent strings
Painful Fingertips	Take breaks; build calluses gradually
Slow Chord Changes	Practice switching between two chords
Chords Sound Wrong	Check tuning and finger positions
Unwanted Strings Ring	Mute or avoid unplayed strings
Uneven Strumming	Practice slowly with a metronome



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