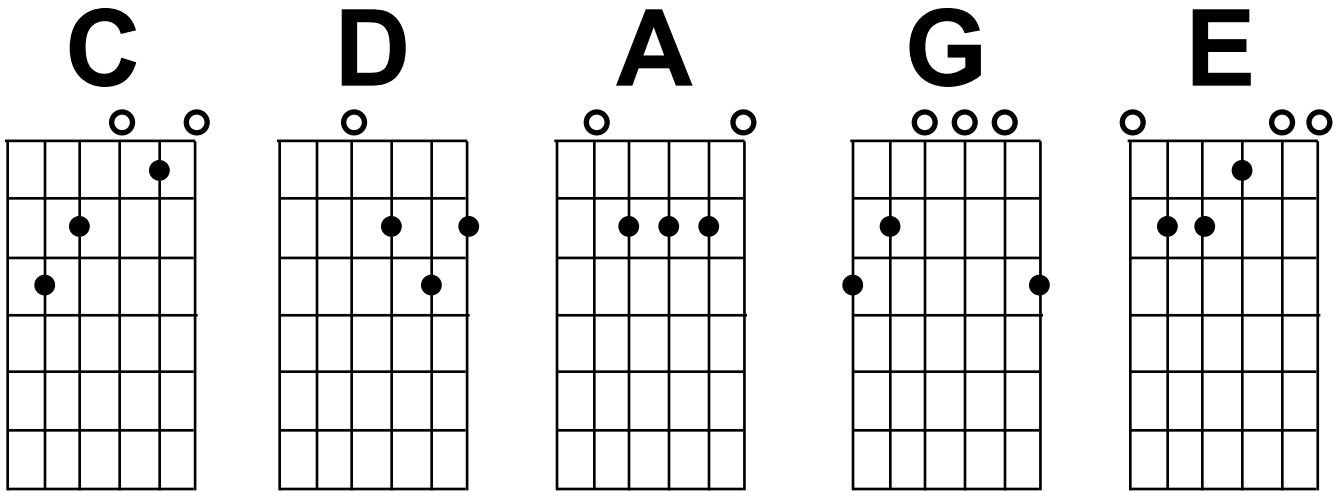


Major Chords



The Chords listed above are the five open major chords . The lines going up and down represent the guitar strings. The lines going sideways represent the frets . The dots written over the strings show you where to put your fingers for each chord. An 0 written above the string means that it should be strummed with the chord.

Start by playing a chord. Make sure that you are pushing down with the tips of your fingers so that each chord tone will ring clearly. Strum the chord and make sure that it sounds out clearly. If it does not, or if you hear a buzzing, it is probably because you're not pushing down hard enough with your fingers, or because a finger on an adjacent string is not arched and is muffling other strings. If you always keep your fingers arched, and push down hard in the middle of the fret, then your chord should sound great.

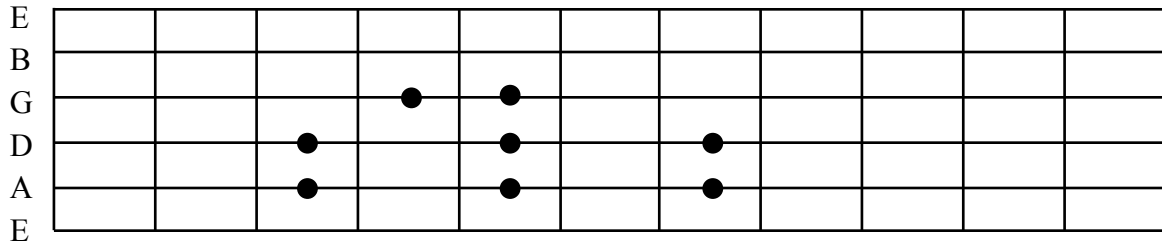
Once you can play each chord clearly, begin to work on switching back and forth between chords. Pick two chords, finger the first one, and then strum it four times, then finger the second chord and strum it four times. Alternate between the two chords for 3-5 minutes. Then move on to a different group of two chords and do the same. By the end of this exercise, you should find switching to be easier.

Here are some suggested chord switches:

1. G- D
2. D - C
3. C - E
4. E - A
5. A- G

These chords are the very beginning of learning to play the guitar. They're the basics. You have to know them before you can play the cool stuff on the guitar . It's where everyone starts . Practice them until you memorize them, then soon you'll be ready to move on to the cool stuff.

Major Scale



The major scale is the first step to understanding music theory . The scale is used as a base by which all other musical elements are compared . The scale is made up of a series of whole steps and half steps . If two notes are a whole step apart, that means that they are two frets apart. If they are a half step apart that means they are one fret apart.

For example, here is the C major scale:



Put your finger in the 3rd fret on the 5th string to play the note C, put your finger in the 5th fret on the 5th string, and you have the next note of the scale which is D. Notice that these notes are two frets (whole step) apart. Continue to play the notes of the scale. An example of a half step would be between the notes B and C on the 3rd string.

Each note of the major scale is assigned a number or degree. These numbers represent how the note functions within the scale. The first note of the scale is the root note and gets the number 1. In the key of C it would be C. The rest of the notes are numbered in subsequent order as illustrated below:



A C major chord is made up of three different notes; C, E, and G. These three notes make up what is called a triad . Since C is the first degree of the scale, what would E be? What would G be?

Play the major scale in the first fret on the 5th string . Go all the way up, then come all the way down . Then play the major scale in the second fret , all the way up and down again . Repeat playing the scale a fret higher each time until you arrive to the 12th fret for an electric guitar or 10th fret for an acoustic guitar. Then play the scale one fret lower and lower until you arrive back at the first fret where you started.

Strumming Patterns

The image displays four distinct strumming patterns, each consisting of a top staff showing the strumming sequence and a bottom staff showing the corresponding chord progression. All patterns are in 4/4 time.

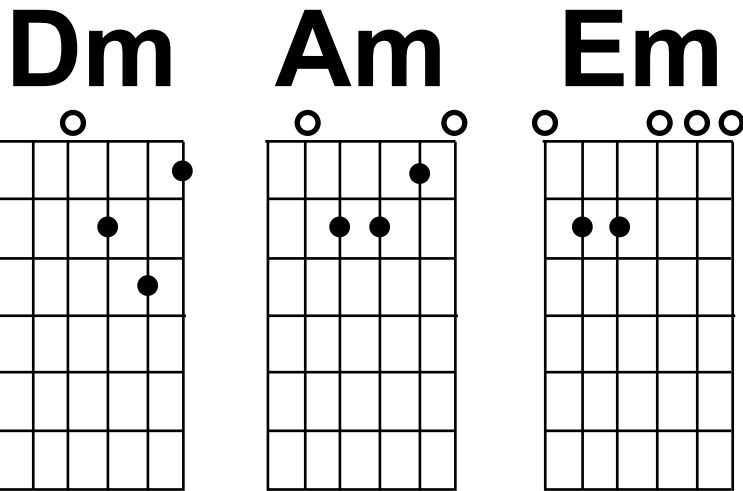
Pattern 1:
Strumming: A (down, down, down, up, down), A, D, D
Chords: E, E, A, A

Pattern 2:
Strumming: E (down, up, down, up, down, down), E, A, A
Chords: G, G, E, E

Pattern 3:
Strumming: G (down, down, down, up), G, C, C
Chords: D, D, G, G

Pattern 4:
Strumming: C (down, down, up, down), C (down, down, down, up, down, up), G, G
Chords: D, D, C, C

Minor Chords



Minor chords look almost exactly like major chords. There's only one note difference. Look at the D minor chord on this page and compare it to the D Major chord. Notice the difference? The D Major chord has a note in the second fret on the high E string. To make it a minor chord, the note on the high E string slides down to the first fret.

This note that changes is called the 3rd. In the last lesson, we talked about the major triad, which is made up of the Root, 3rd, and 5th. Minor chords use the minor triad which is made up of the Root, flat 3rd, and 5th. In guitar, if a note is flat it goes down one fret. If it is sharp it goes up one fret. To make any major chord minor, all you have to do is put the 3rd down one fret.

Here's the question. How do you find which note of the chord is the 3rd? The answer to that question is the major scale. To find the 3rd, you must put the first note of the major scale on the root note of the chord. Then play up the scale until you come to the third note of the scale which is also the third of the chord in question. For example, if the chord is C you would put your 1st finger in the 3rd fret on the 5th string and play the major scale. The third note of the scale is E and that's the third of the chord. So, what would you have to do to make it C minor?

Chord Switches

Practice doing the following chord switches on your guitar. Be sure to push down hard in the middle of the frets to get the notes to sound out clearly. Strum each chord four times before switching.

1. **Dm - Am**

2. **Am - Em**

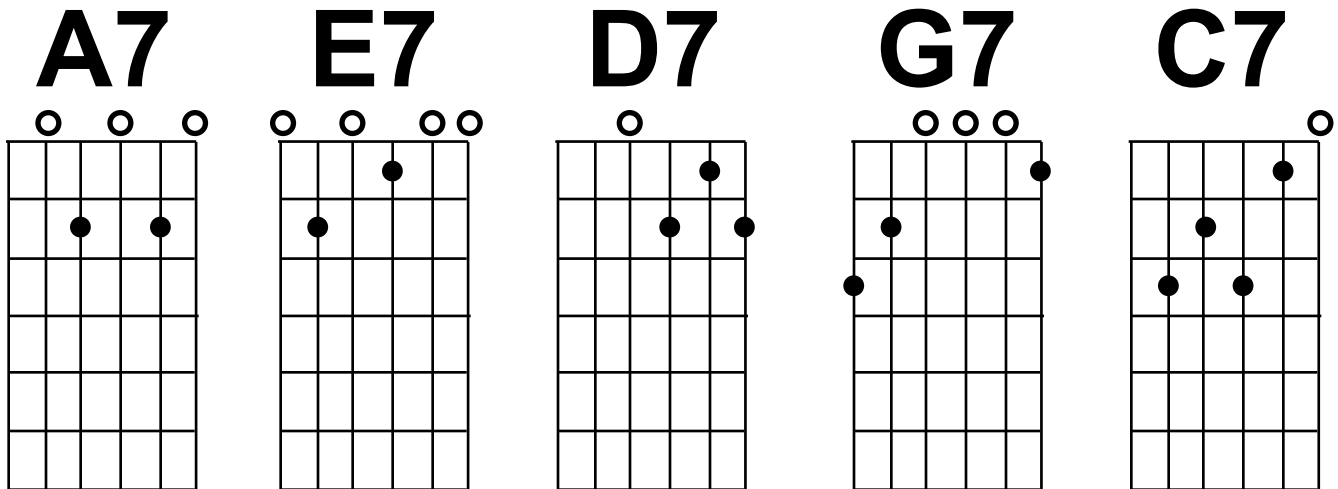
3. **Em - Dm**

4. **A -Am**

5. **E- Em**

6. **D - Dm**

Dominant 7th Chords



These are the five open Dominant 7th chords. These chords are very similar in shape to the open major chords. In the cases of A7 and E7 you have to take off a finger to make it a Dominant 7th Chord, while in the cases of D7 and G7 you have to slide one of the notes down two frets. In the case of C7, however, you have to add a note.

To play these chords, start by fingering one of the major chords, then change the one note to make it a Dominant 7th chord. For example, play the A chord then take off your middle finger to make it A7. This will give you a good understanding of how similar in shape Dominant 7th chords are with regular open chords.

Dominant 7th chords are based off the 5th degree of the major scale. Which means that you can play the major scale one note at a time until you reach the 5th note, then make that note the root of the Dominant 7th chord. For example, in the key of C, the note that is a 5th away is G which means that the dominant 7th chord would be G7.

Chord Switches

As soon as you've got the above chords memorized so that you can play them without looking at the diagrams, practice doing the chord switches listed below. Remember, strum each chord four times before switching to the next chord and play each set for 3 - 5 minutes. The goal is to strum each chord evenly and switch to the next chord without missing a beat.

1. D7 - G7
2. A7 - E7
3. C7 - C
4. A7 - A
5. D7 - D
6. G7 - G
7. E7 - E

Chord Strums

1.

Em ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ C D⁷ G
simile

Am D⁷ Em Em

2.

Am ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ G Dm G⁷
simile

C Am Dm G⁷ Am

3.

Am ↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ C⁷ Dm G
simile

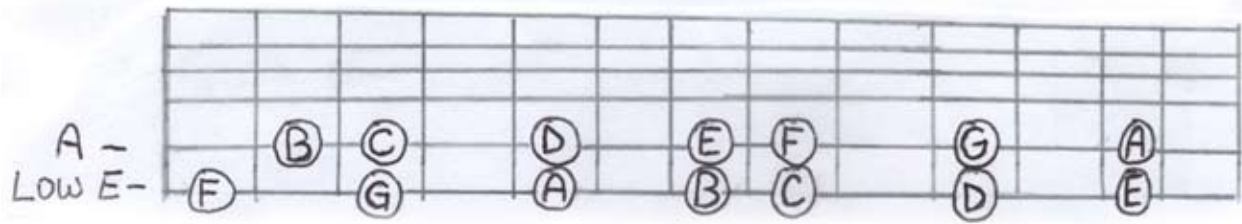
Am C⁷ E⁷ Am

4.

E ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ E⁷ A A⁷
simile

D G C C⁷

Notes and Power Chords



Low E String

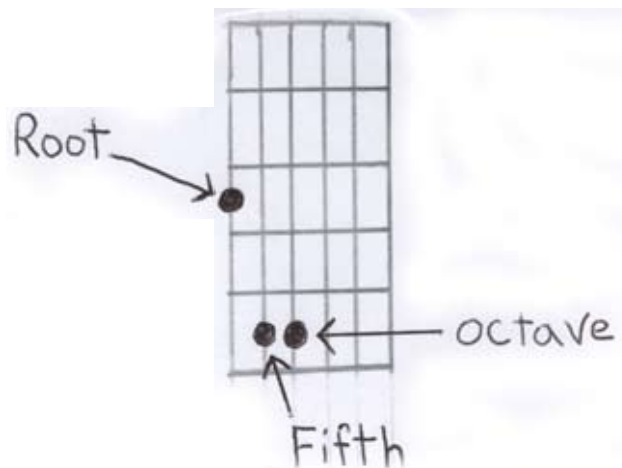
In this lesson we are going to talk about the notes on the low E and A strings . The first note on the low E string is E, of course. Now put your 1st finger in the 1st fret, that note is F. Now put your finger in the 3rd fret, that note is G. The 5th fret is A, the 7th fret is B, the 8th fret is C, the 10th fret is D, and the 12th fret is E again.

A String

Now let's switch to the A string. The first note on the A string is A, of course. Now put your first finger in the 2nd fret, that note is B. Now put your finger in the 3rd fret, that note is C. The 5th fret is D, the 7th fret is E, the 8th fret is F, the 10th fret is G, and the 12th fret is A.

Power Chords

A power chord is a chord that is very commonly used in music today . It is called a power chord because it sounds powerful, especially with distortion. It is made up of the Root, the 5th and the Octave. The Root is usually the lowest sounding note in the chord, and with power chords is the note that your first finger pushes down. The 5th is a note that is five notes away from the Root, and the octave is the same note as the root an octave higher.



Practice Chord Switches

1. G-D-E-C

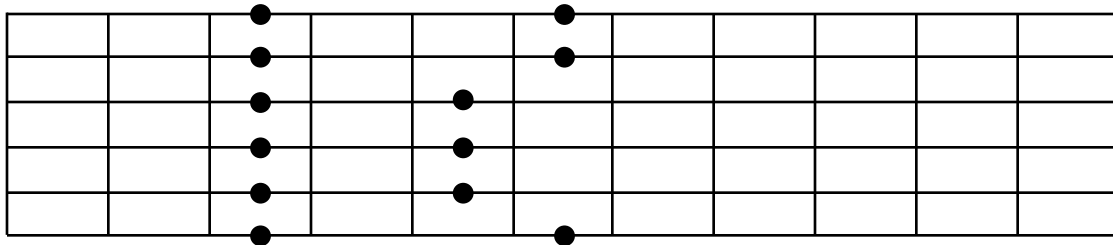
2. F - C - G - D

3. A - B - C

4. A - E - F - B

5. B - E - D

Pentatonic Scale



The Pentatonic scale is one of the scales most commonly used by guitarists. This scale is made up of 5 different notes, which is why it is called the “Penta”tonic scale, (penta means five). Starting on the low E string, two notes are played on each string. When people make music together and the guitarist does a solo, he is often using this scale in some shape or form.

Practice:

Put your first finger in the first fret and play the pentatonic scale. Go all the way up and then come all the way down. Next move your first finger to the second fret and do the same thing. Then go on to the third fret and fourth fret and so on until you reach the 12th fret then come back down until you reach the first fret.

Hammerons and Pulloffs

Hammerons and pulloffs are just what they sound like. They are hammering on the strings with one finger of the left hand, or pulling off the string with one finger of the left hand. This technique involves first picking the note with your right hand, then either hammering on to or pulling off the same string with your left hand.

Practice:

In this example, practice hammerons by first using your 1st finger, then 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

E ---0 1---02---03---04---05---06---07---08---09---0 10---0 11---0 12---

In this example, practice pulloffs in the same way, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

E ---1 0---20---3 0---40---50---60---70---80---90---10 0---11 0---120---

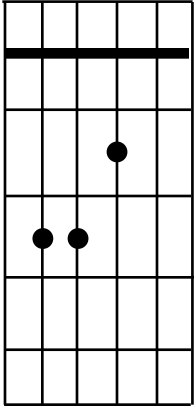
Now, practice hammerons and pulloffs together using the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th fingers

E --0 1 0--0 2 0--0 3 0--0 4 0--0 5 0--0 6 0--0 7 0--0 8 0--0 9 0--0 10 0--0 11 0--0 12 0-

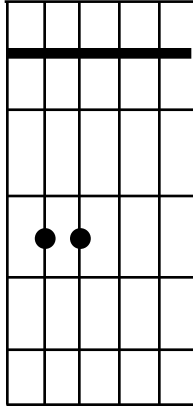
Bar Chords

6th String Root

F

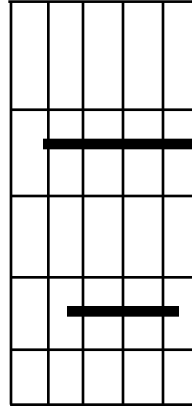


Fm

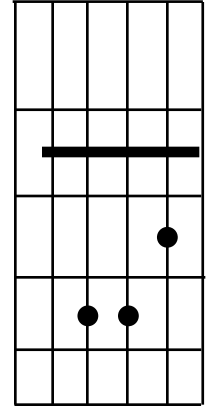


5th String Root

B



Bm



There are two different types of bar chords . Those whose root note is on the 6th string and those whose root note is on the 5th string. With 6th string bar chords, place your 1st finger across all of the strings and bar down, then place your remaining three fingers accordingly . With 5th string bar chords, place your finger across all the strings but the low - E strings, then place your fingers accordingly.

Bar chord shapes can also be used to play open chords. Take the F major chord and slide it up so that your 1st finger is in the 5th fret. Strum it, now strum an open A chord . They should sound exactly the same. Now take the B major chord, slide it up one fret and play, then play a C major chord. They should sound exactly the same.

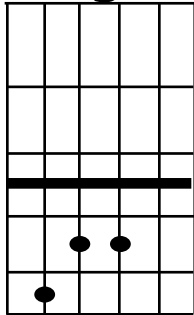
Practice

Play an F major bar chord in the 1st fret, now switch it to minor. Slide up one fret and play the major chord then minor chord . Continue to slide up the fretboard switching between major and minor until you reach the 12th fret, then come back down to the first. When you are finished, do the same thing with the 5th string root chords.

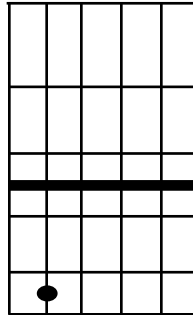
7th Bar Chords

6th String Root

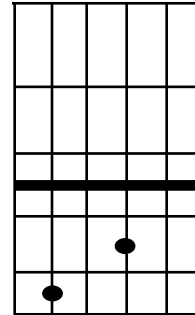
Mj7



-7

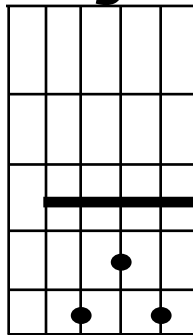


7

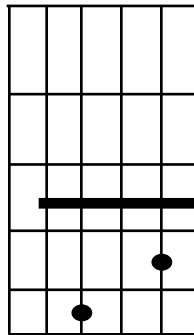


5th String Root

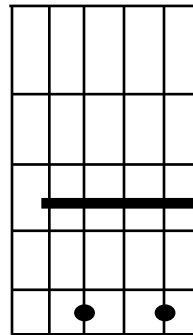
Mj7



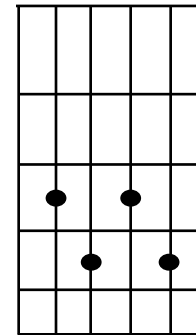
-7



7



-7^b5



Bar chords are played by holding the first finger of the left hand across all the strings of the fretboard. The remaining three fingers push down individual strings to form different qualities of chords.

Major Scale Relationship

Each degree of the major scale has a corresponding chord that goes with it. These chords are found by stacking thirds on the grand staff. For example, in the key of E, when you go up in 3rds, you get E, G#, B, and D#. These chords make a Major 7th chord. So the first chord of the E Major scale is EMj7.

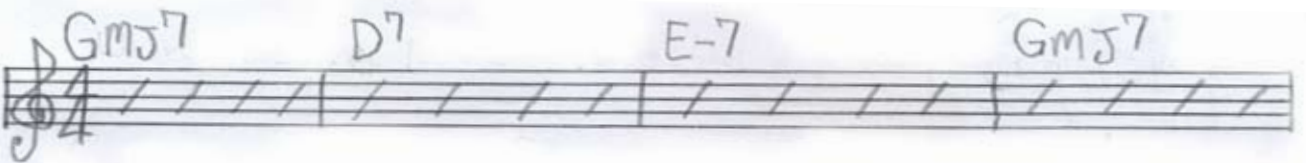
In the key of G, the chord to scale degree relationship is as follows:

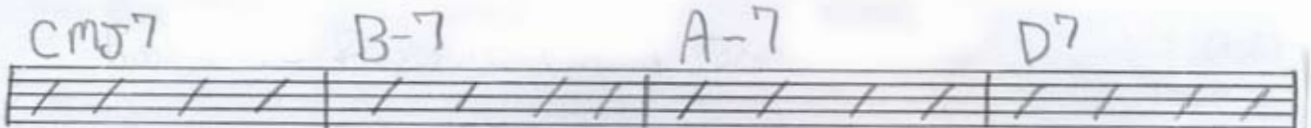
Degree of Scale:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Chord:	GMj7	A-7	B-7	CMj7	D7	E-7	F#-7b5

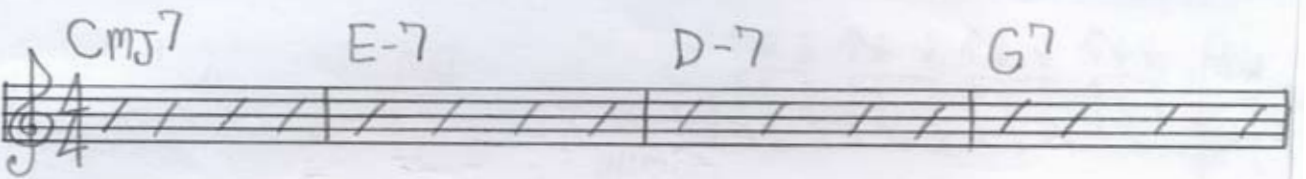
Practice

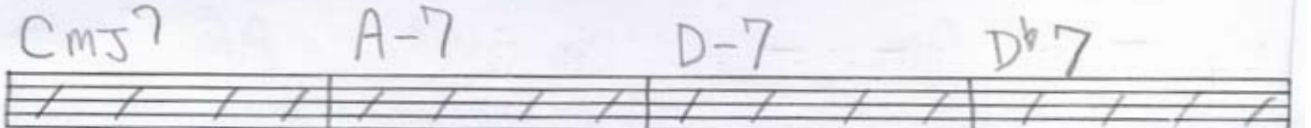
Play through each chord of the major scale in order using the 6th string root chords for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree of the scale and the 5th string root chords for the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th degrees. Play up the scale and then come back down the scale. Start in the first fret, then go to the second, then the 3rd, and so on until you get to the 12th fret, then come back down to the 1st.

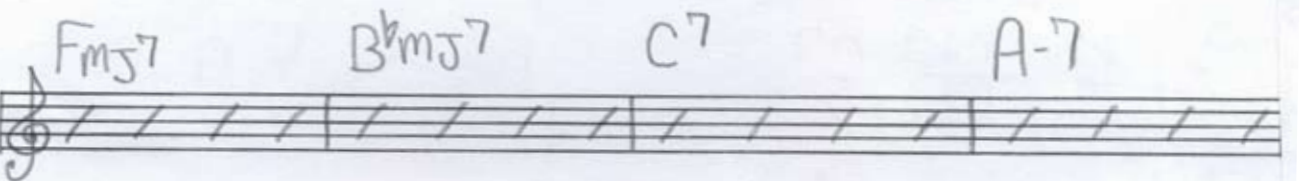
Bar Chords

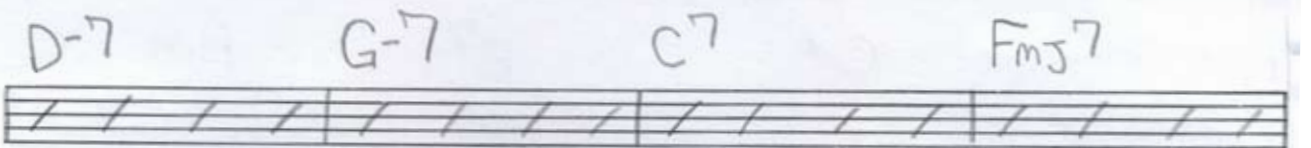
1. 

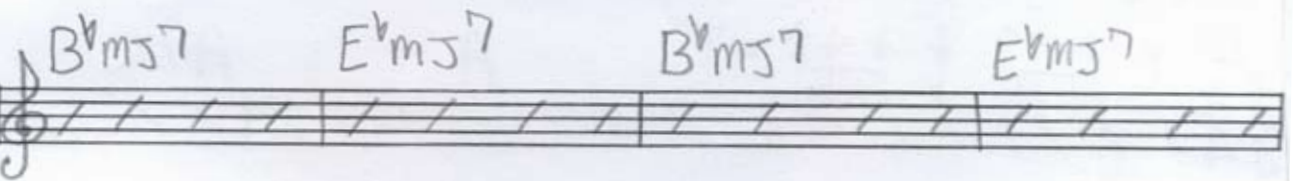


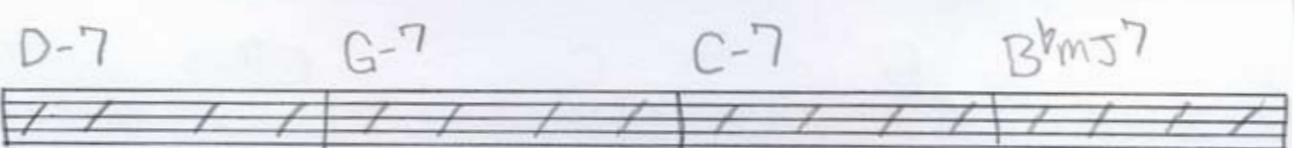
2. 



3. 



4. 



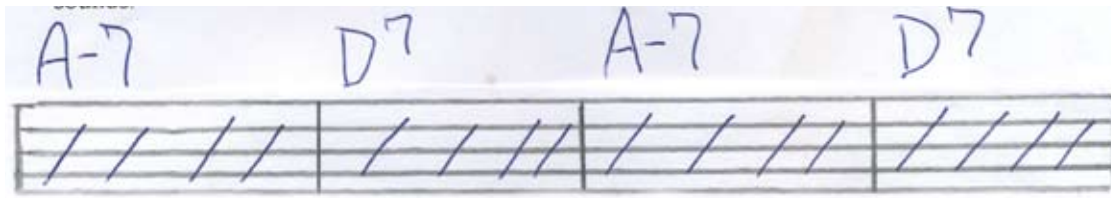
Modes of the Major Scale

The major scale is made up of 7 different notes. Each of those notes has a scale of its own that are called modes. Each mode sounds different and has a different feeling or color to it. The first mode of the major scale is one that you already know. It is the major scale itself, however, its modal name is Ionian. The other 6 modes are called Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, and Locrian.

Here is the Dorian mode:



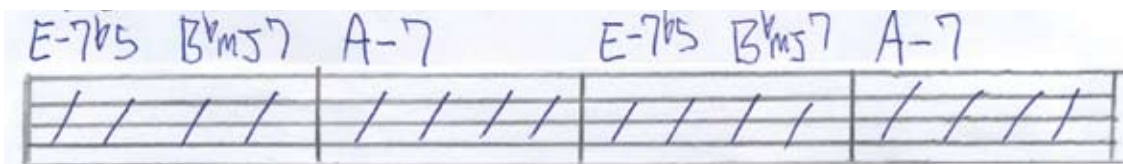
The main differences between the Dorian mode and Major scale, is that the Dorian mode has a flat 2nd degree, and a flat 7th degree. Here's a chord progression to show how it sounds.



Here is the Phrygian mode:



The main difference between the Phrygian mode and the major scale, is that the Phrygian has a flat 2nd degree, flat 3rd degree, flat 6th degree, and flat 7th degree. Here's a chord progression showing the Phrygian sound.



Practice:

Play the Dorian mode in the first fret. Go all the way up and then come back down. Then play it in the 2nd fret, then 3rd fret and so on until you get to the 12th fret. Then come back down to the first. When you're done with the Dorian mode, do the same thing with Phrygian.

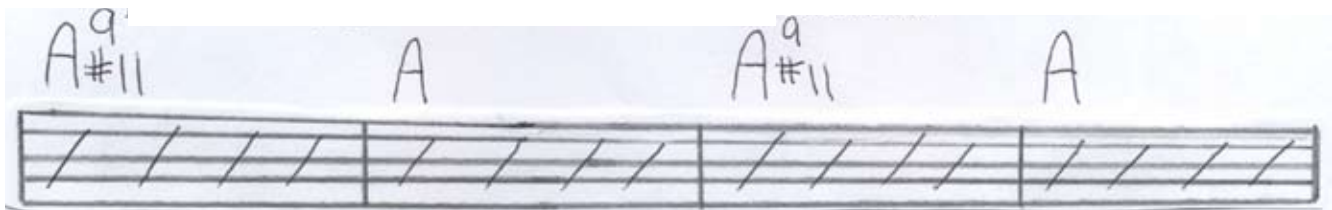
Modes of the Major Scale

Lydian Mode:



The lydian mode is based off of the 4th degree of the major scale. It's characteristic note is the # 4th degree. It is just like a major scale with a # 4th degree.

Here is a chord progression to illustrate how the lydian mode sounds:

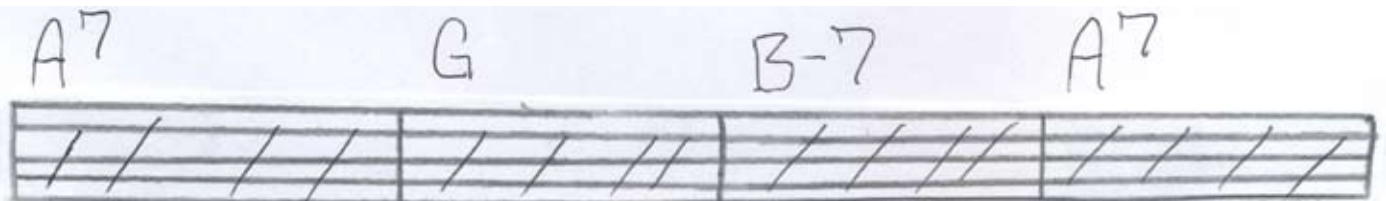


Mixolydian Mode:



The mixolydian mode is based off of the 5th degree of the major scale. It's characteristic note is the b7th degree. It is just like a major scale with a b7th degree.

Here is a chord progression to illustrate how it sounds:



Practice:

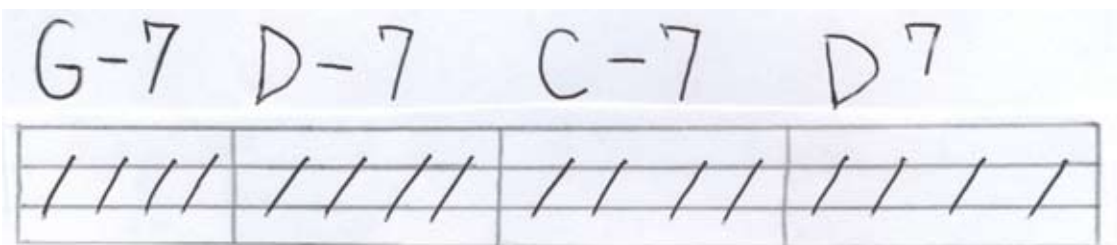
Play the lydian scale up and down in the first fret. Then move to the second fret and play it. Continue to move up the frets until you reach the 12th fret, then play it down 1 fret at a time until you come back to the first fret. Then do the exact same thing with the Mixolydian mode.

Modes

Aeolian:



The Aeolian mode is also called the Minor scale. It is based off of the 6th degree of the Major scale. It 's characteristic notes are the b6 b3, and b7. Here is a chord progression that has the Aeolian modes sound.



Locrian:



The Locrian mode is based off of the 7th degree of the major scale. It is the last mode of the 7 modes. It 's characteristic note is the b5. This mode is not used very often in music. But it's still important to learn the fingerings.

Practice:

Play the Aeolian mode in the 1st fret, up and down, then move to the 2nd fret and do the same thing. Then go to the 3rd, 4th, and so on until you reach the 12th fret, then cycle down to the 11th, 10th, and so on until you come back to the 1st fret. Then do the same thing with the Locrian mode.

Analyzing Chord Progressions

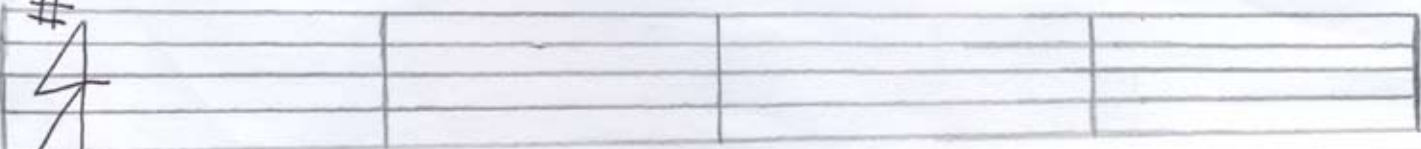
Analyzing chord progressions is the process of assigning a roman numeral with every chord symbol. Upper case roman numerals represent major chords, and lower case roman numerals represent minor chords. In the key of G major, that would be as follows:

GmJ7 A-7 B-7 CMJ7 D7 E-7 F#-7^{v5}



I Mj7 ii-7 iii-7 IV Mj7 V7 vi-7 vii-7b5

GmJ7 A-7 D7 GmJ7 CMJ7 B-7 A-7 GmJ7



GmJ7 E-7 A-7 D7 B-7 B^v7 A-7 D7



E-7 F#-7^{v5} B7 E-7 A-7 D7 GmJ7

