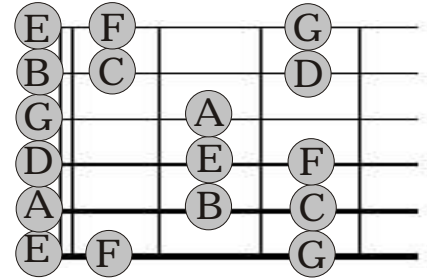


CHORD CONSTRUCTION.

There are a few things you have to know before you learn about how chords are constructed.

1. You have to know where all the notes are on the guitar, for now you only need to know the first three frets, including the open string names. You should have learnt about this at the beginning of the book, you have to know your sharps and flats too. For example the note in-between F & G in either F sharp or it can also be called G flat.



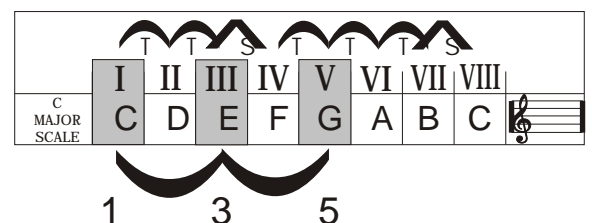
2. You have to have an understanding of how scales are constructed, including the make up of a major scale (tone - tone - semitone - tone - tone - tone - semitone).



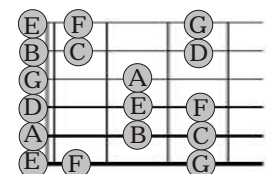
3. You should also have a good knowledge of "keys". For example in the key of C Major there are no sharps or flats. So the 1st note in a C Major scale is "C", the second is "D", the third is "E" and so on.

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
C MAJOR SCALE	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
G MAJOR SCALE	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
D MAJOR SCALE	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
A MAJOR SCALE	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
E MAJOR SCALE	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#	E
B MAJOR SCALE	B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#	B

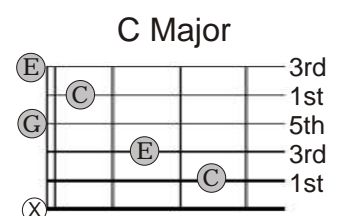
Any major chord is only made up from three different notes, that is the first, third and the fifth notes from the major scale.



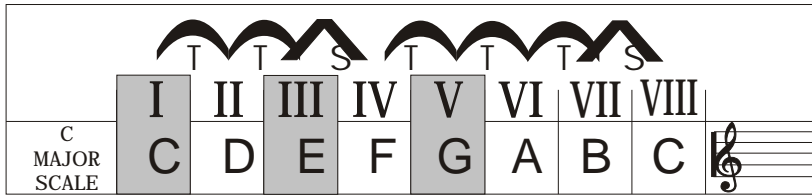
As you can see the first note of the C Major scale is "C", the third is "E" and the fifth is "G". These are the three note that make up a C major chord. Use the diagram to the left to see where every C, E and G are, then have a look and try and find the C chord amongst it.



The picture is the chord you are constructing, in this case C major. Next to the chord are some numbers (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc). This is showing you that C is the 1st note of the scale, E in the third and G is the 5th.

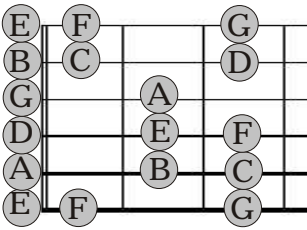


1.



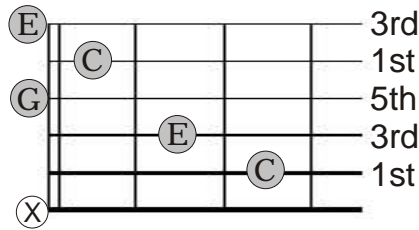
Now we will look at the five most common chord shapes. These chords would have been close to the first chords you learnt and they are the most important because we put these open chords to bar chord. Always take note of the structure of the chord as seen to the right of diagram number 3.

2.



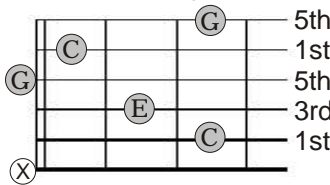
3.

C Major



3.

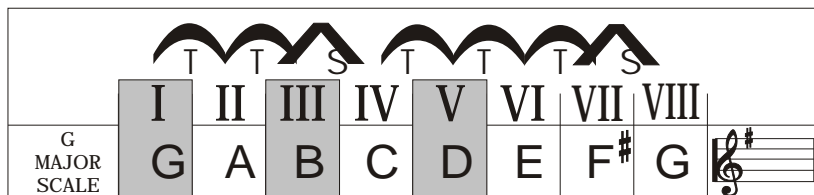
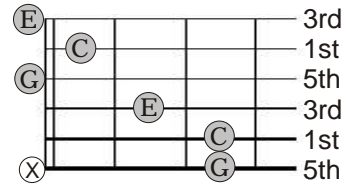
C Major



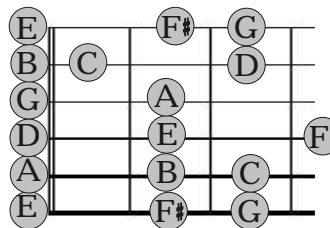
These two chords could also be classed as C major chords because they are still only using the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes of the C major scale. Any one of these C major chords are only using the notes C, E and G.

3.

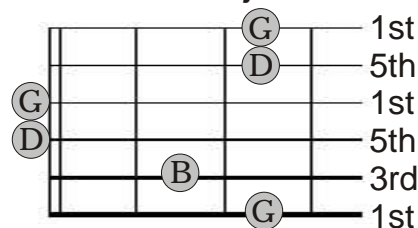
C Major



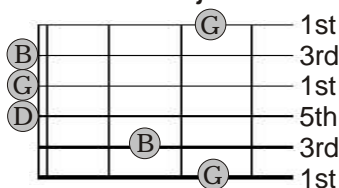
To the left again is the same three diagrams, this time it is in the key of G Major. You can see that the G Major scale has one sharp (F#). This sharp note does not effect the chord structure because it is not a 1st, 3rd or 5th.



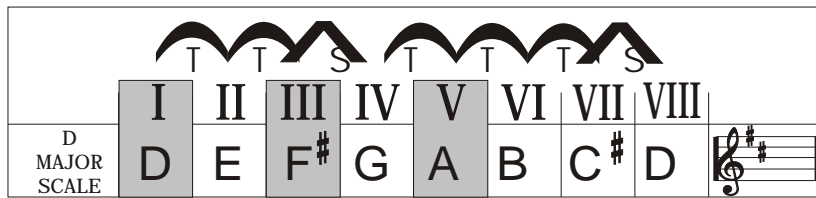
G Major



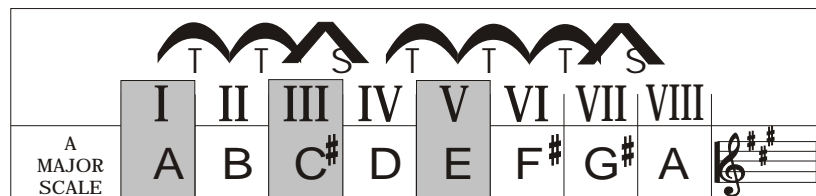
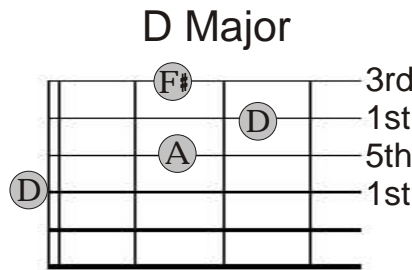
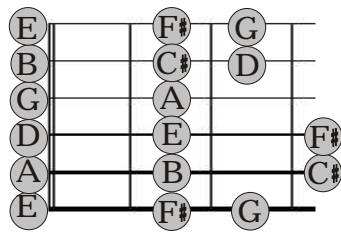
G Major



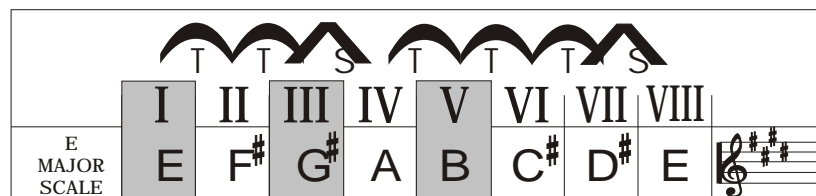
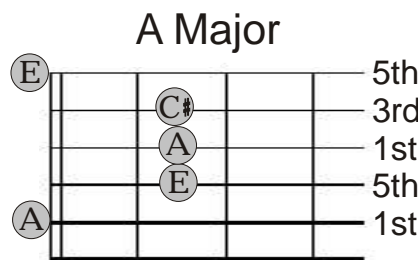
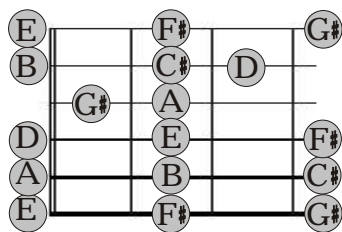
The G major chord to the left is different because of the second string, the D note becomes a B note. You will see in most books G major chord played like this because it is a bit easier to play. I prefer the sound of the G chord to the top than to the left. Have a go at playing both and see which one you like the sound of, don't be fooled they don't sound the same when played properly.



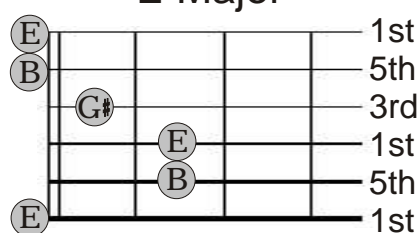
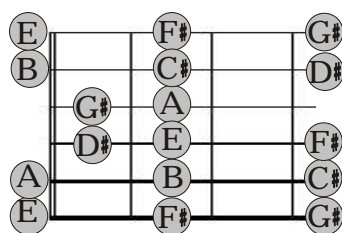
The D major scale has two sharps (F# and C#), this time the F sharp does effect the chord structure. If you were to start on the D note and count up to the third note (D, E, F) without knowing you scales, you can see that you get to an F note instead of an F sharp Then if you applied the 1st, 3rd, 5th theory to that your chord shape would be wrong. This is why it is important to know you scales well.



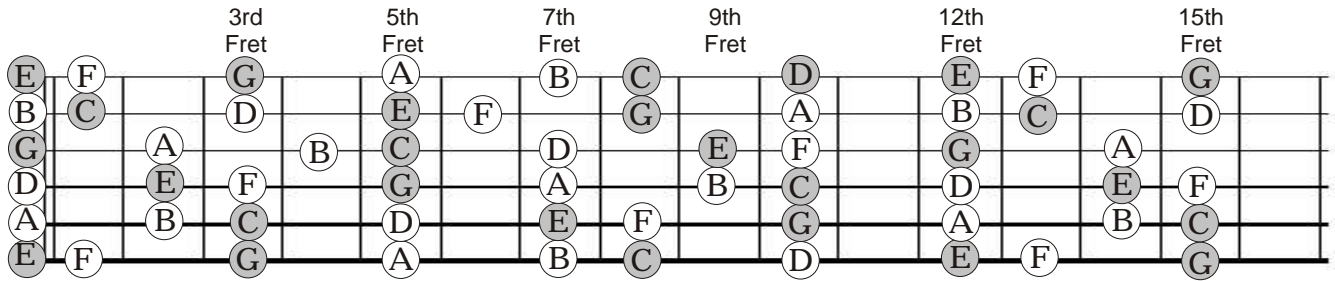
Songs are usually made up around arpeggios and arpeggios are just broken chords (the notes of a chord played one at a time). Soloing uses this same idea as well so you can see the importance of knowing how your chords are constructed.



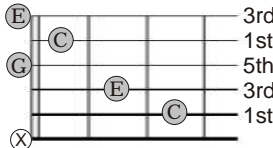
It's only natural that in the key of E major if you were to select any E, G# or B note, anywhere on the guitar and play those three notes at the same time, you would always be playing an E major chord.



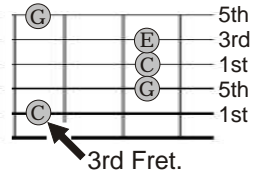
The diagram below is showing all the notes in a C major scale laid out on the guitar. We have established that the first, third and fifth notes of any major scale makes up that scales major chord. The first, third and fifth notes of a C major scale is C, E & G. On the diagram below you can see that the C, E & G notes are marked in darker circles. If you look hard enough you can see the five open chords in different places up the neck.



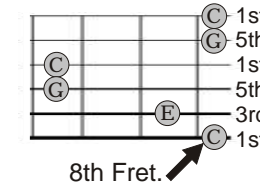
C Major (C Shape)



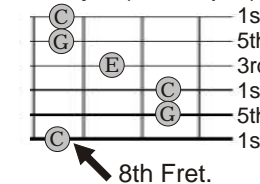
C Major (A Shape)



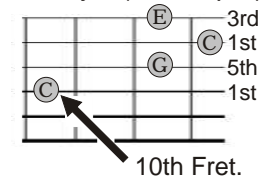
C Major (G Shape)



C Major (E shape)

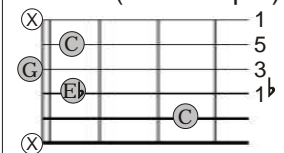


C Major (D Shape)

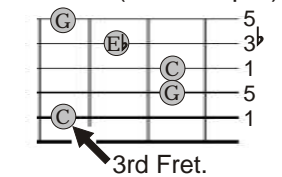


Now that you have learnt how major chords are constructed, let's have a look at minor chords. Don't be disheartened, since you have already learnt the major chord structure (1 - 3 - 5), all you have to do is flatten the third note of the scale. So now your chord formula looks like this (1 - 3^b - 5). This means that any third note you come across in any of the major chord structures, has to be taken down a semitone (one fret).

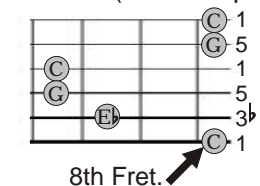
C Minor (Cm Shape)



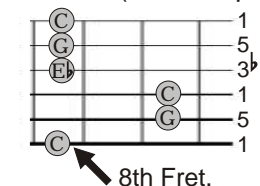
C Minor (Am Shape)



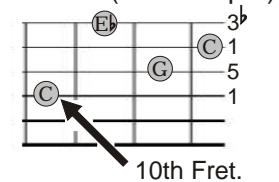
C Minor (Gm Shape)



C Minor (Em Shape)



C Minor (Dm Shape)



If you had a go at playing some of the minor shapes above you might find them a little hard, for example the Cm Shape and the Gm Shape. This is why you rarely see a Gm and Cm open chords, they are usually covered by using a bar chord of some easy version of a bar chord.

OTHER FORMULAS

Seventh chord	(7)	=	(1 - 3 - 5 - 7 ^b)
Minor seventh chord	(m7)	=	(1 - 3 ^b - 5 - 7 ^b)
Major seventh chord	(Maj 7)	=	(1 - 3 - 5 - 7)
sixth chord	(6)	=	(1 - 3 - 5 - 6)
ninth chord	(9)	=	(1 - 3 - 5 - 9)