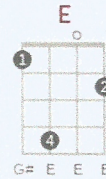


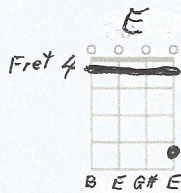
# Chords (Part 1)

We have seen how we can move from one note to the next by moving up (or down) the fretboard one or two frets at a time. Well, the same process can be applied to chords to enable us to play chords you may find difficult, a little bit easier.



Let's start with everyone's basic nightmare chord, E -

One alternative is to take the chord C. We can take this up 2 frets to make D, and a further 2 frets to play E. We must not forget to move the barre up 4 frets as well. So the barre will be on fret 4, and the ring or little finger will be on fret 7 of the A string. So this alternative E chord will look like this:-



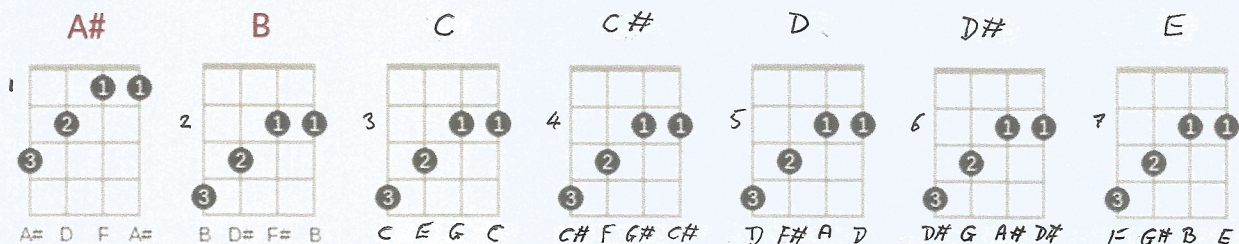
You will see from the first diagram, that the chord is made up of 3 notes – G#, E, & B ( the E is repeated but is the same note). In the 2<sup>nd</sup> diagram, the chord E is B, E, G#, (plus another E). So the 2 chords are made up of the same 3 notes and are therefore the same.

I briefly mentioned that C moved up 2 frets is D, and this way of playing D may be used. In the conventional way of playing D, the chord consists of the notes A, D, F# and A, and with the barre the notes are A, D, F# and D. This also makes it easier to play or move to chords Dmaj7, D7 & D6. Other advantages will be looked at in part 2 of Chords.

One chord that I struggled to play is Dm7. Dm is easy but putting your little finger on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret of the A string is difficult. Then I realised I could move chord Am7 up the fretboard to barre straight across fret 5. Dm7 consists of the notes A, D, E, & C – check it on your fretboard diagram.

There are 2 chords in particular, which are very useful as when moved along the fretboard, they open up different ways of playing not only major chords, but also sharps and flats. These 2 chords are A & F ( or more accurately A# & F#).

We will start with A. A moved up one fret is of course A# (or Bb). Moved up one fret at a time it becomes B, then C, C#(Db), D, D#(Eb), E and so on.

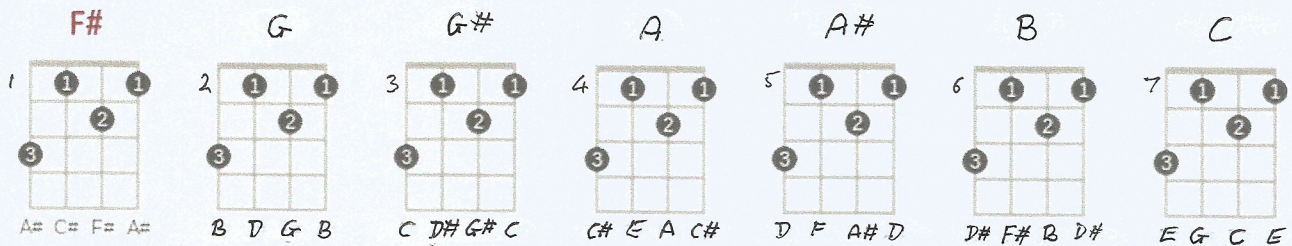


(NOTE: number to left indicates the fret for barre)

In the same way, with a full barre, we can move A7 & Am up to play the 7 & m versions of each of the above chord. For example:-

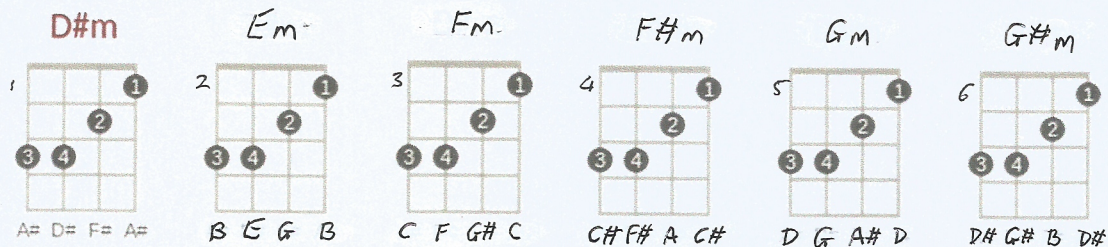


Now let us look at the chord F. As before, we can move the chord up one fret and bring the barre up one fret as well to play F#, then G, G# and so on:-



You will notice that each chord is made up of 3 notes, and that you will be playing the same note on the G string as on the A string. This will always happen if you are playing 2 frets up on the G string to the A string.

We can use this fact on some minor chords. If we take Dm and move it up 1 fret with a barre, or at least covering the first fret on the A string to play D#m, we can then move this up the fretboard as before:-



Most of these you will never need to play, but hopefully this has given you an insight into how you can use chords to play other chords by moving it into a different position on the fretboard. This will be especially useful when playing sharps and flats.

However, there are some instances where it is easier to move between chords by using one of these chords and simply moving one finger to form another. These chords often occur in combinations, but that is what we will look at in part 2.

We will also look at a couple of songs that sound better using the chords we have covered, and look at some hand strengthening exercises to help.