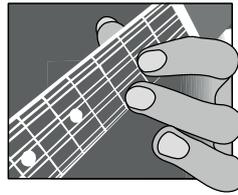




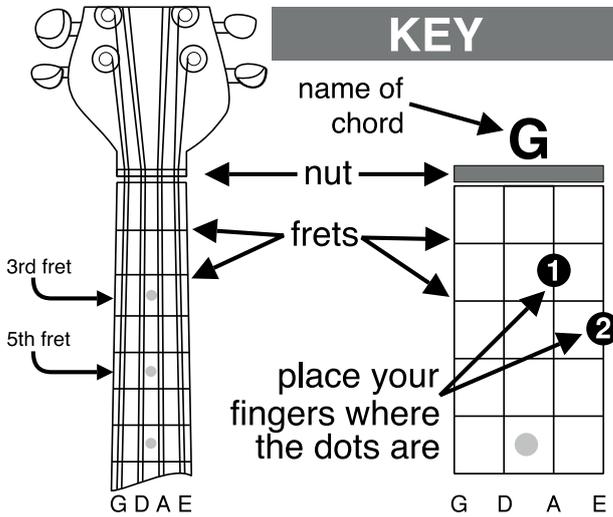
Chords 1

The two most important things at the beginning of playing chords are forming the chords and strumming. There are hundreds of chords on the mandolin, but actually, you only need two or three to get you started. I'm going



to give you three chords in the key of D to begin with. Practise forming the chords, and then changing from one chord to another.

Once you can change chords with a little more ease, we'll look at strumming.

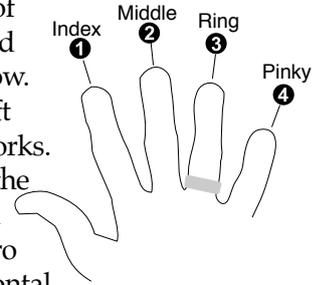


The most common way of showing chords is a chord diagram, or chord window.

The illustration on the left should explain how it works.

The thick, darker line at the top represents the nut on the mandolin, or the "zero fret". Each thinner horizontal line is a fret, and the vertical lines represent the string pairs.

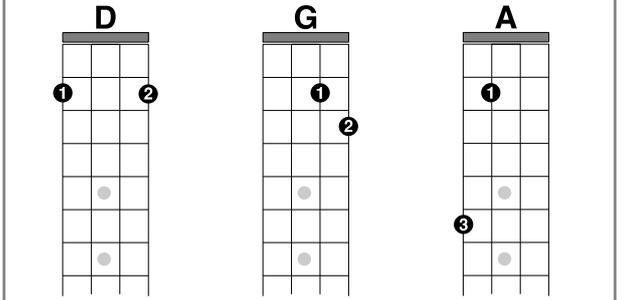
The black blobs show where you've to place your fingers, and sometimes there is a number in the blob which tells you which finger to use. Try forming some chords and strumming your pick through all the strings.



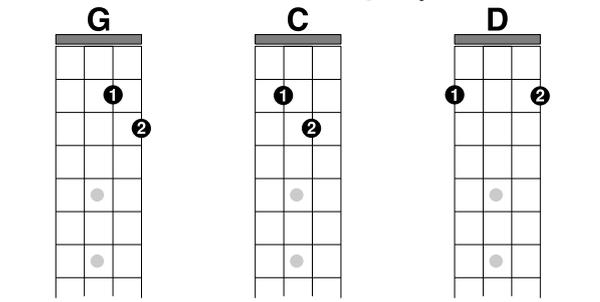
First Chords: The 3-Chord Trick

Every key has a set of three chords which are the most common chords used in that key. That set of chords is known as "The 3-Chord Trick", because once you know the three chords, you can play many, many songs. The chords for the key of D are D, G and A; for the key of G they're G, C and D; for the key of A they're A, D and E. Notice that different keys have some of the same chords in common.

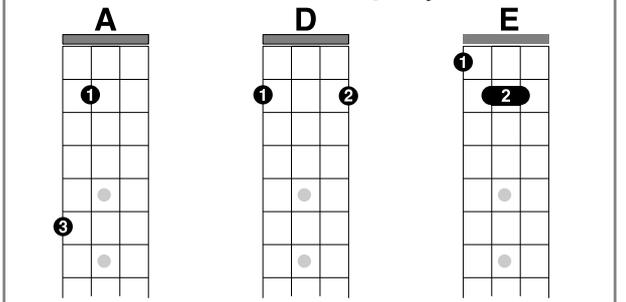
3-Chord Trick: Key of D



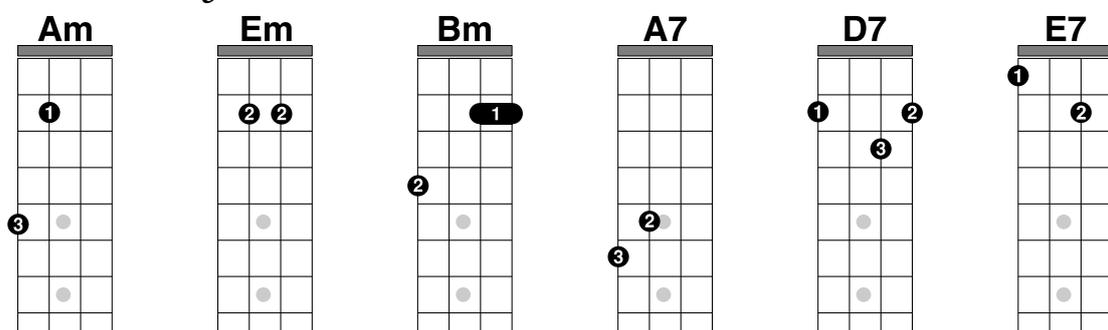
3-Chord Trick: Key of G



3-Chord Trick: Key of A



Subsidiary Chords: Minors and Sevenths

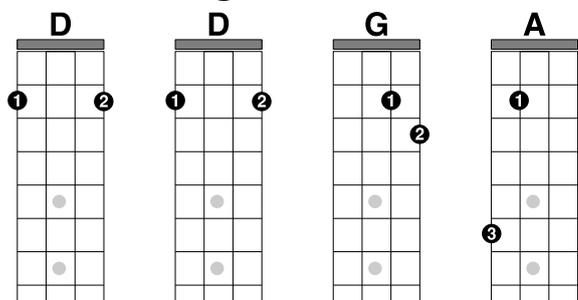


Chord Progressions

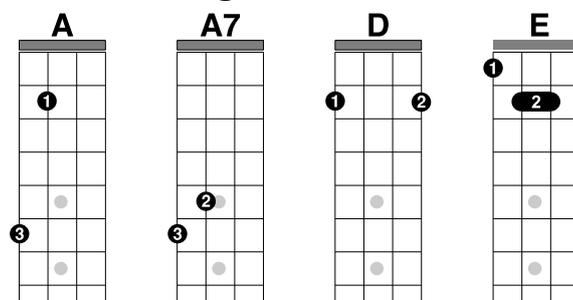
Once you can for a few chords and make them sound not bad, the next stage is to get used to changing from one chord to another in an increasingly smooth way. A "chord progression" is usually a short sequence

of chords which can be repeated. First use the chord progressions below to practise changing from chord to chord, and then use them to practise strumming patterns (see the next tutorial sheet, *Chords 2*).

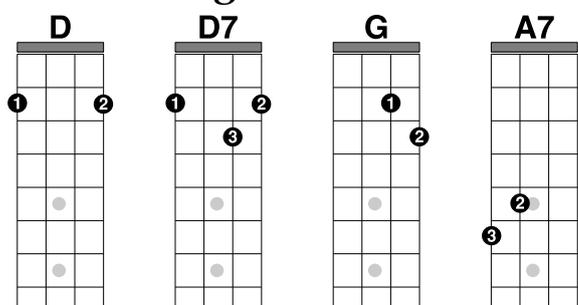
Chord Progression No.1



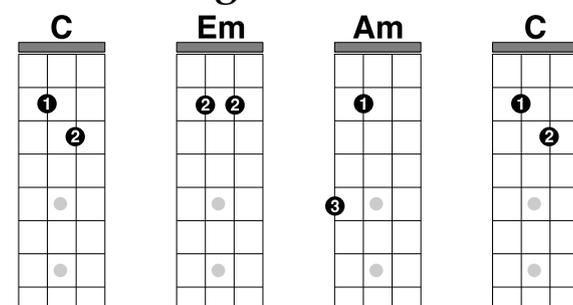
Chord Progression No.5



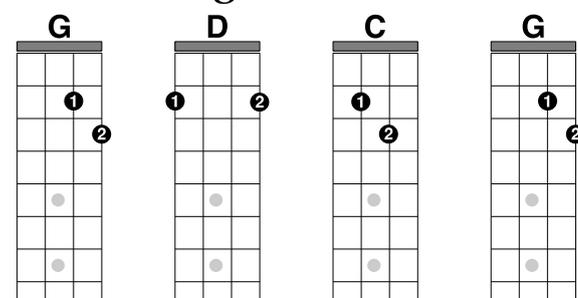
Chord Progression No.2



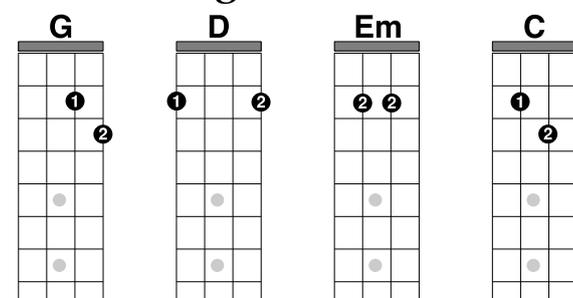
Chord Progression No.6



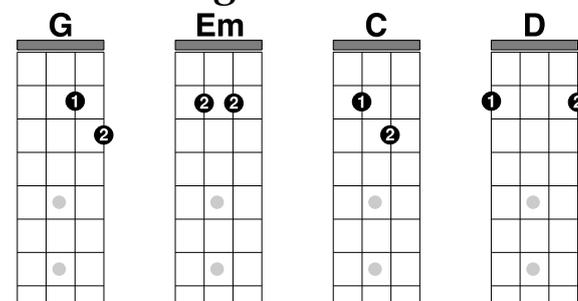
Chord Progression No.3



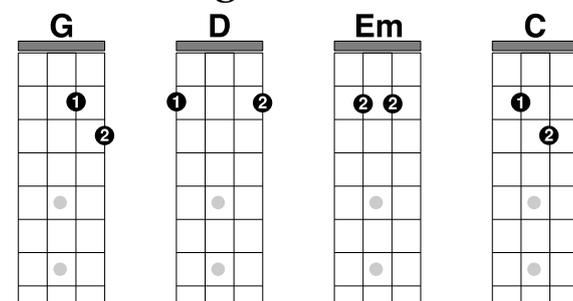
Chord Progression No.7



Chord Progression No.4



Chord Progression No.8



Chords 1

Some of these chord progressions are very recognisable. For example, **Progression No.4** was used for lots of hit songs from the 1950s and 60s: *Teenager in Love*, *Stand By Me*, *Cherry Baby*, *Blue Moon*, *Take Good Care of My Baby*, *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*, etc.

Progression No.8 can be heard in songs such as *Let It Be* (The Beatles), *No Woman, No Cry* (Bob Marley), *With Or Without You* (U2), *Country Roads* (John Denver), and even *Auld Lang Syne*!