

# are there many chords to learn?

## The two chord patterns of D and G

Chords like to hang around in families.

The head of the family decides who else will be in their family.

These are the chords with **D** as the head of their family

**D** **Em** **F#m** **G** **A** **Bm**

These are the chords with **G** as the head of their family

**G** **Am** **Bm** **C** **D** **Em**

It'll save you heaps of time if you learn these 8 chords **from memory**.

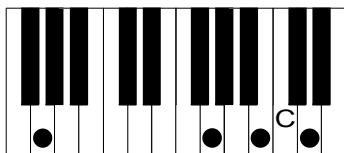
Remember to bend your knuckles so you play with your finger tips.

## 2 keys x 6 chords = 8!!

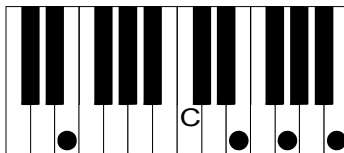
These are the 8 **different** chords in **D** and **G** for the keyboard.  
(**middle C** is marked to help you get used to the keyboard)

Use the thumb, middle and pinky fingers on your right hand.

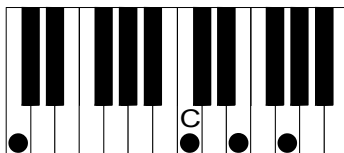
And check out **lessons 9,10,11** as well as the **video** on **CD1** for some great hints on how to learn these chords quicker and easier.



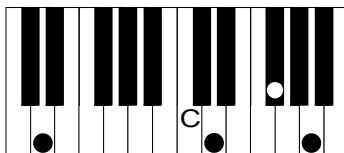
**G**



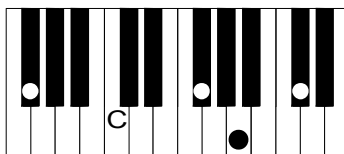
**Em**



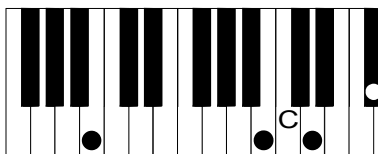
**C**



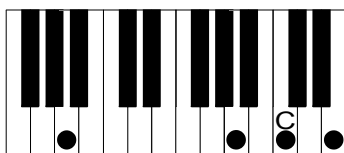
**D**



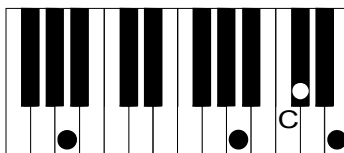
**F#m**



**Bm**



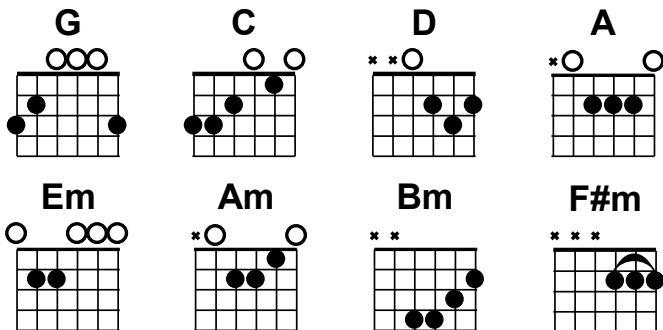
**Am**



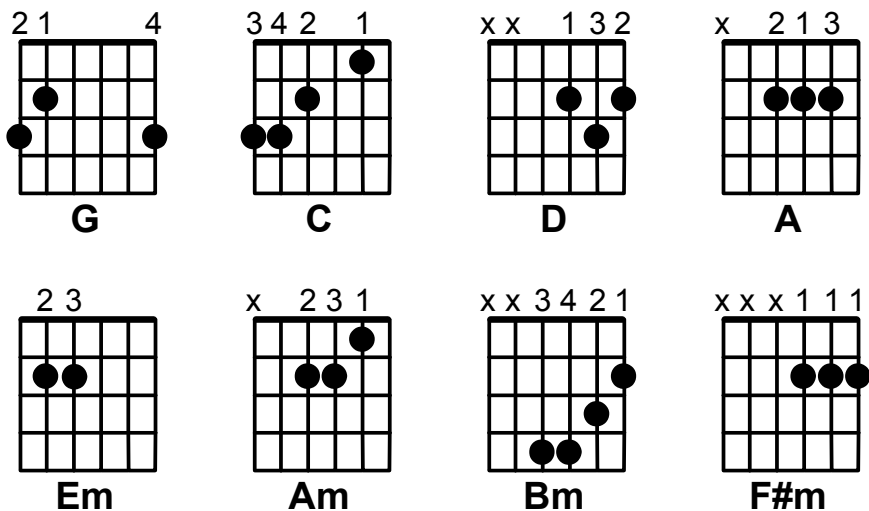
**A**

**Learn these 8 chords by memory and you're ready to play!**  
*(this chord chart is from cd 1 lesson 8.3)*

These are the 8 **different** chords in **D** and **G** for guitar.  
 Strings marked "o" are played "open" - no fingers stuck on them.  
 Strings marked "x" aren't played if you can avoid them.



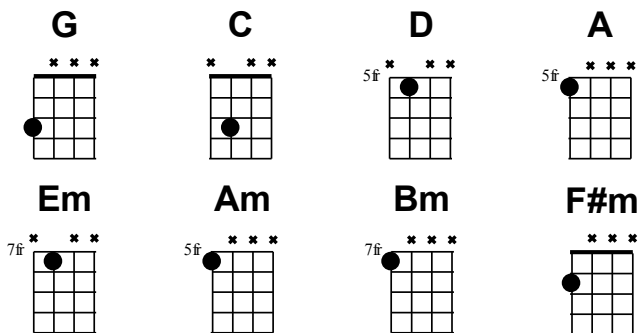
And here are the fingers to use on each string.  
 (1 is your index/pointer finger) You can use different fingers if you want, but these will save you time learning other chords later on in the course. Strum down with your thumb.



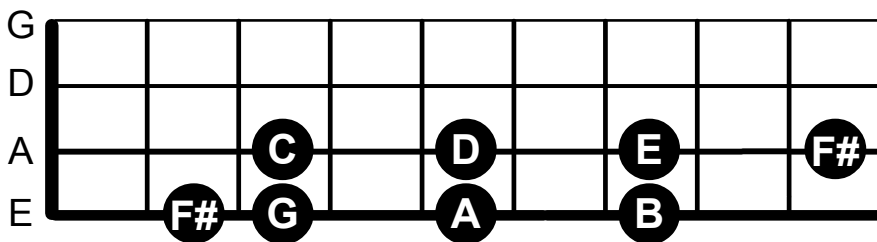
And check out **lessons 9,10,11** as well as the **video** on **CD1** for some great hints on how to learn these chords quicker and easier.

**Learn these 8 chords by memory and you're ready to play!**  
*(this chord chart is from cd 1 lesson 8.4)*

These are the 8 **different** chord notes in **D** and **G** for the bass.



And here's how they look on the fretboard. Anchor your thumb on, say, the pick up and pluck them with your pointer. (it's a good idea to learn **F#** in both spots right from the start)



## Bass chord notes

And check out **lessons 9,10,11** as well as the **video** on **CD1** for some great hints on how to learn these chords quicker and easier.

**Learn these 8 chords by memory and you're ready to play!**  
*(this chord chart is from cd 1 lesson 8.5)*

## Music is like a box of chocolates...

The easiest way to learn all the chords in **D** is in a pattern:

**D** **A** **Bm** **F#m** **G** **D** **Em** **A**

The easiest way to learn all the chords in **G** is in a pattern:

**G** **D** **Em** **Bm** **C** **G** **Am** **D**

There are stacks of ways to group these chords in different patterns. Different chord patterns make different **songs**.

You can download these two patterns **FREE** from the **website** and play them whenever you want on your own computer – even at different speeds.

Both patterns are variations on an old piece called *Pachelbel's Canon*, to help you practise every chord in **D** and **G** every time you play!

## Time to hit'n'run!

Make sure you can **hit'n'run** – play the chord once, lift it quickly and find the next chord ready to play it on the **1** beat of the very next bar! The most important beat to play in **any song** is where the chord changes.

As you become more confident, you can hold the note for longer before playing the next chord.

# Playing blind

Play a chord, sing its name and see its shape in your memory as you play it.

Out loud, say which fingers are on which notes.  
Hear the chord playing in your memory.

Lift your fingers off slightly but freeze the chord shape.  
That'll help to memory lock your muscles.

See and say each finger again.  
OK?

Now put your fingers back on the chord again without looking.  
Check how close you are.

It really gets your brain and your fingers working together quicker!  
But keep at it - your fingers won't usually like these strange chord shapes.

Too many people take too long to learn the chords, because they forget to **play blind!**  
(and yep – the bass notes are much easier to remember)

## The basic rock beat

Music mostly counts beats evenly from **1** to **4** then starts again. It happens over and over in every song – and each 4 beats is called a bar.

**Rock** is an **endless-loop of the same four beats**.

(with lots of possible variations)

The **kick drum** (big bass drum) still accents **beat 1** each bar, but the **snare drum** answers back on **beat 2...LOUDER!!**

Adding the snare on **beat 2** is what makes rock rock - it's called the back beat.

That simple pattern is repeated on **beat 3** and **beat 4**  
(the second half of the bar)

See if you can tap that on your legs.

Meanwhile the **cymbals** (called **hats** or **hi-hats**) fill out this basic rhythm pattern by playing two pulses on each beat.

Instead of counting **1** to **8**, just say “**and**” between each main beat.

**“1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & “**

That makes it a bit easier to keep track of where you are each bar. Make sure you know what happens on each beat of the bar!

Don't forget to **download** the rock beat and play along.

And download the **10 minutes of rock beat** and **play along** at **any tempo** you like for the songs **you** want to play.

You can even download **mp3 drum backings** if that's easier.

Just visit **FREE STUFF** on the website.

Add an “x” on the beats where each of the drums plays.

### ***THE BASIC ROCK BEAT***

|       | beat 1 | beat 2 | beat 3 | beat 4 |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| snare |        |        |        |        |
| kick  |        |        |        |        |
| hats  |        |        |        |        |

## **Part A and part B**

Rock music is made up of two vital ingredients:

**Part A** someone singing the tune

**PLUS**

**Part B** someone playing the rock rhythm with chords

The main driving force of contemporary music is now **rhythm**. You'd be flat out finding even two songs in any current top 20 which play the **melody** all the way through.

Many people think the band is playing the tune.

But they're not.

The tune is played by the singer - they are the tune!!

Some musicians don't quite understand all this. So they still try to focus on playing the **tune** over the top of non-rock rhythms.

But there are so many ways to combine the three voices of **kick, snare, hats** by playing them on different beats across different instruments.

## How do I hold the sticks on the drums?

You can hold the sticks any way it feels natural, or you can spend months (literally) in lessons just improving stick grip.

If you really want to be a professional drummer, it's probably worth taking specialist lessons to improve your grip – otherwise this **easier, quicker** grip will probably save you heaps of time, money and practice...

- Hold both sticks so that just a bit (about 1cm or half an inch) is poking out at the bottom.
- Hold both sticks so that the pressure (the pivot, or fulcrum) comes from holding the stick loosely across the first knuckle crease of your middle finger and the second of your index. Then curl those fingers right around.
- Let your thumb run almost parallel down the stick, and let your ring and pinky fingers hardly touch the stick at all.
- Try not to grip the stick too tight - and if you let it fall from close to its maximum height, you won't have to waste lots of muscle pressure to pull it back up between strokes.
- Rotate your wrist so the back of your hand is uppermost (do you like that word?) and keep the stick straight, in line with your arm to save energy.

CD 1 has a **video** for you of how to hold the sticks.

# How do I play a rhythm on the drums?

Hold the **hi-hats** closed together with your **left foot** flat on the pedal.

Use the **neck** of your **right hand stick** to hit the **edge** of the hats while you count **slowly, evenly**, and **out loud**...

**1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &**

Set the hats high enough so your wrists aren't playing at an uncomfortable angle.

Now **kick** the bass drum pedal every time you count **1** and **3**

Hit the **snare** with your left stick every time you count **2** and **4**

You can play on the **ball** of your foot, or keep your foot **flat** – it's up to you, but just like running, it's quicker on your toes.

And if you feel a bit unco,  
try **mixing the three parts up** to begin with...

play just the **kick** and **snare**

**OR**

play just the **kick** and **hats**

**OR**

play just the **hats** and **snare**

That helps your brain gets used to the idea - especially if you're not used to rubbing your head and patting your stomach at the same time – and even if you are, try swapping hands!

CD 1 has a **video** for you of how to play the rock beat.

**Learn this 1 beat by memory and you're ready to play!**

*(these hints are from cd 1 lesson 6.14)*