

Lesson 2: Add Three Chords: C, G & D

Your Mission: Learn how to finger three more chords and how to switch between all six chords comfortably.

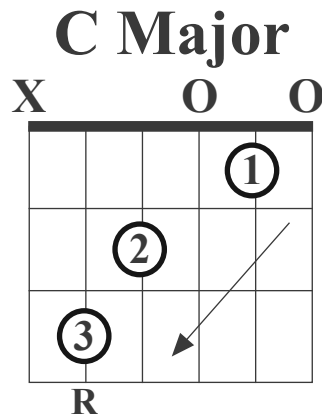
Notational Shortcut

Okay. We need three bits of information to locate a single note: (1) which **String** it's on, (2) which **Fret** to hold and (3) which **Finger** to use.

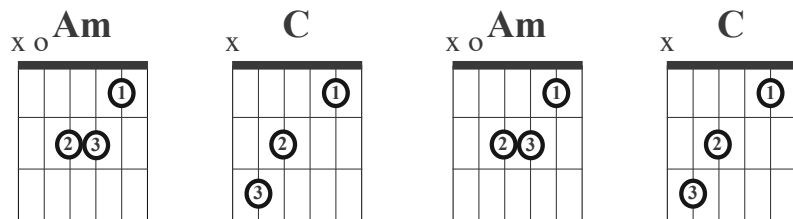
Let's do some abbreviating for the string and fret, at least. Instead of giving you a direction such as: "Play the 4th string at the 2nd fret," we'll say, "Play **4:2**." *First find the string, then find the fret.* We'll still name the finger.

Here's a new chord, **C Major**, or **C**, with the same happy Chord Quality as **E Major**.

But before you try to finger it, look back at the **Am**. *The only difference between Am and C is the placement of the 3rd finger.* Start with the **Am**, keep the 1st and 2nd fingers where they are, then shift the 3rd finger to **5:3**, which happens to be the **Root Note** of the chord, and the preferred bass note. Arch your fingers to avoid muting any strings, press hard to get the fingered strings ringing, and *mute* or *avoid* the open 6th string.



Repeat these chord changes until they feel comfortable. You'll need to let your 2nd finger slip up and down the string a bit as you go from the cramped Am to the outstretched C.



Let's look at the following chord sequence, where the **2nd finger** plays the role of an **Anchor finger**. We can hold down the very same finger at **4:2**, all the way through, adding a lot of stability in switching from **Am** to **C** to **Em** back to **Am**.

Repeat this chord progression 3 or 4 times, or until it becomes smooth:

