The Key of A

All we need to do now is to pick a musical **KEY** and learn some of the chords
that inhabit the Twelve Bar Blues progression in that key. Let's go with the **Key of A**.
Not only is the **Key of A** one of the most comfortable keys to play on the mandolin,
but it's also a favorite key on the *guitar*. You'll get a better feeling for what
a key is as we go through this section.

See, *there are 12 keys in music*, each one named after a different note. The **A** note is
the ***overriding*** note in the **Key of A**, making the **A** *chord* the boss. But other chords will
be sprinkled in, secondarily, to any song that's in the **Key of A**. But not just any chords.
To figure out the other subsidiary chords that "belong" to **Key of A**:

Lay out the Musical Alphabet, which contains 7 letters **ABCDEFG**,
starting with the **Root Note** A. These notes are the **Do-Re-Mi**... sequence
from "The Sound Of Music." *Pick off the 1st, the 4th and the 5th letters*,
which thus indicate the **1 - 4 - 5 chords** in the **Key of A**:

A	**B**	**C#**	**D**	**E**	**F#**	**G#**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

So A, D and E are the 1, 4 and 5 chords in the Key of A.

For any key, the **1 chord** will sound *in charge*, and predominates. The **4 chord** will have a
supportive, *friendly* feel, while the **5 chord** will be *pushier,* almost *at odds* with the **1 chord**.

Another thing: *These chords CAN have either (1) a **Major** or (2) a **Seventh** chord quality*.
You'll hear the difference below. Looking at the above diagram again, do NOT worry about
the **2**, **3**, **6**, and **7 chords** in this **Chord Family Lineup** (they have mostly **Minor chord
qualities**) and do NOT worry (yet) about what that "#" ("sharp") means.

You can check *Mando From Scratch* for further analysis. All we care about right now
are the **1 - 4 - 5 chords** in the **Key of A**. Below are some simple **A**, **D** and **E** chords that
have the Major and Seventh chord qualities. The Index, Middle and Ring fingers are
indicated by the numbers **1**, **2** and **3**, and the "**o**" indicates a string that rings open.