

Basic 1-Finger Chords

Chords are fingered using the left hand on the guitar fret board. To read chord symbols such as the one in figure 1 below, the first thing you do is look at the black dot or dots. Each dot tells you two things: which string to put a finger on and at what fret the finger pushes down the string. Just under the chord name is the fingerings. The fingerings will tell you which finger goes on what string. Notice in Figure 1, there is a 3 over string number 1 and there is a dot on string 1 between fret 2 and 3. So this dot and fingering tell us to put our 3rd finger (ring finger) of the left hand on string number 1 and push the string down with that finger between frets 2 and 3. Notice in the fingerings there is also some X's which means don't play that string. There is also a couple 0's which means play that string in open position (nothing fretted).

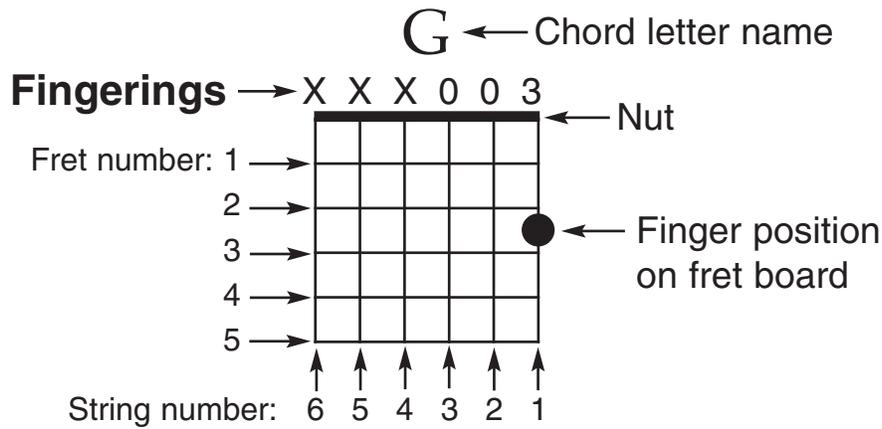
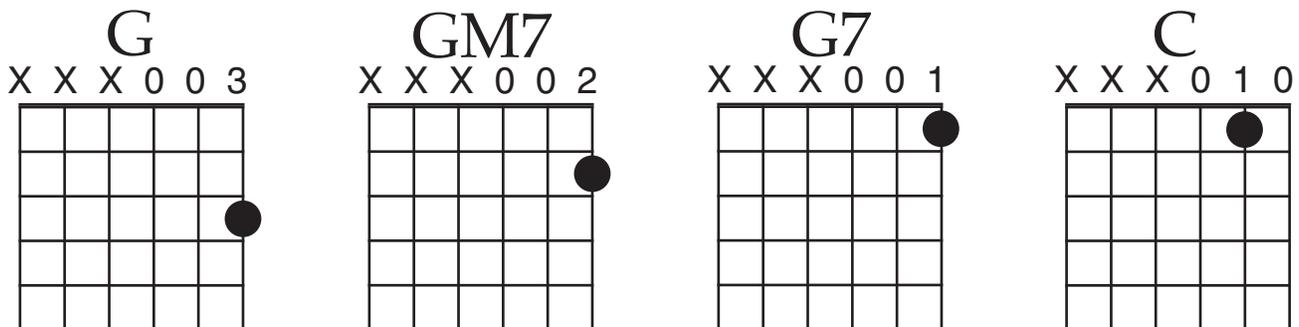


Figure 1

Other numbers can be in the fingerings too, 1 = First (index) finger, 2 = Second (middle) finger and 4 = Fourth (pinky) finger. When first learning to execute these chords properly make sure to double check that each finger is on the proper string and fret.

Play the following chords by strumming strings 1, 2 and 3 with the right hand and remember not to strum strings 4, 5 and 6. Make sure all notes are sounding. If they are not all sounding make sure the fingers on the left hand are not touching surrounding strings.



Also try picking strings 1, 2 and 3 separately and make sure none of the strings are being muffled by the left hand fingers touching surrounding strings. For finger picking use your right hand thumb on string 3, First finger on string 2 and Second finger on string 1.