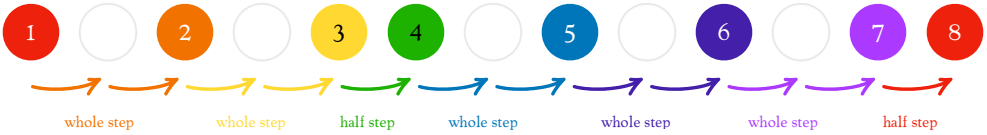
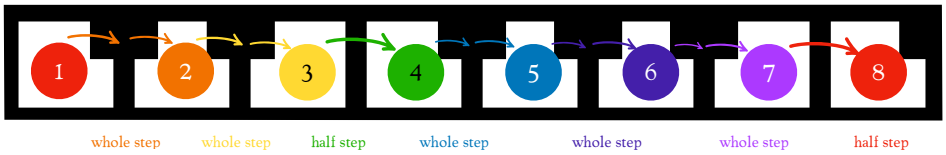
Electric Guitar Music Theory Basics

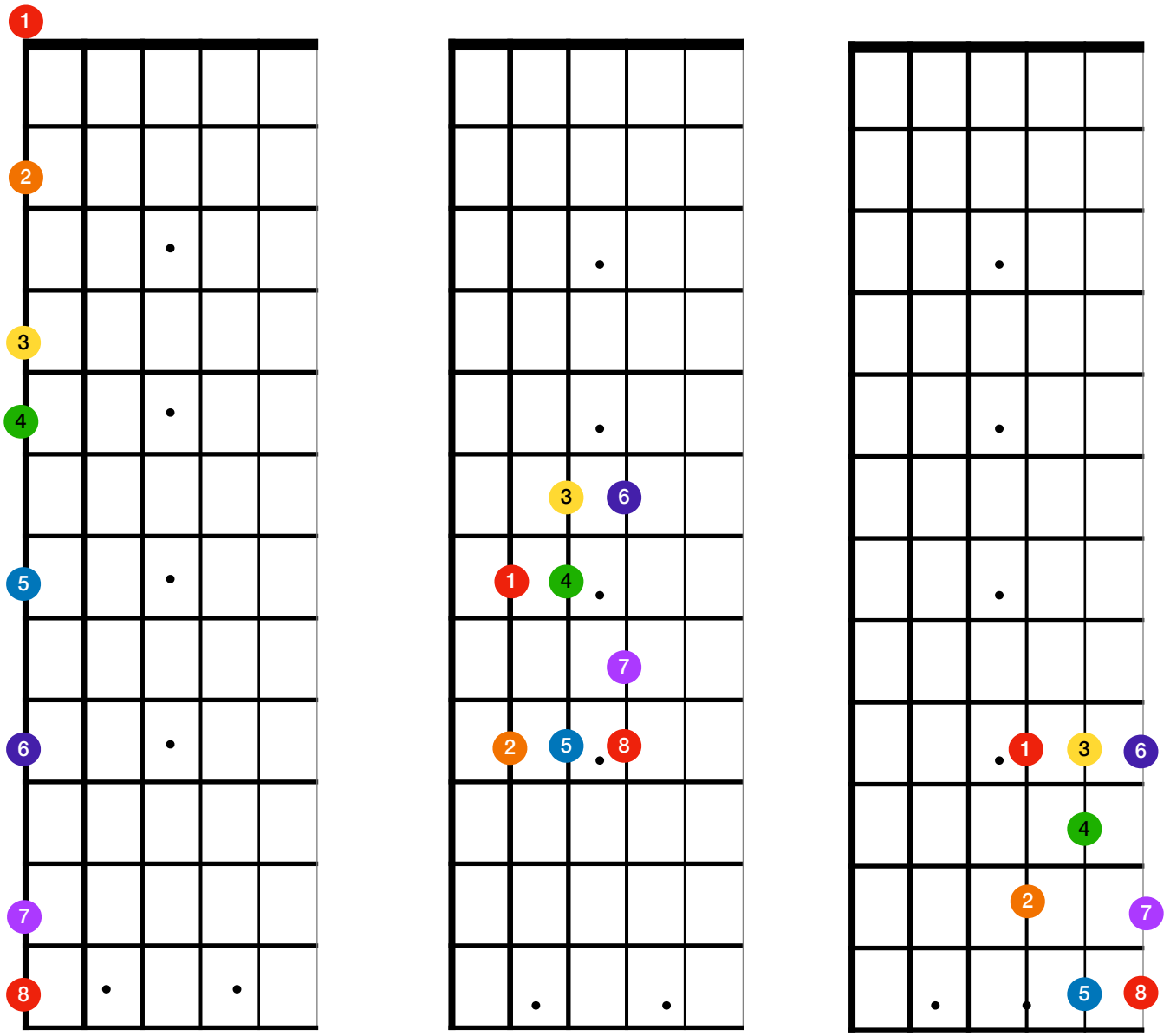
Major scale intervals:



On a piano...



...or on a guitar:

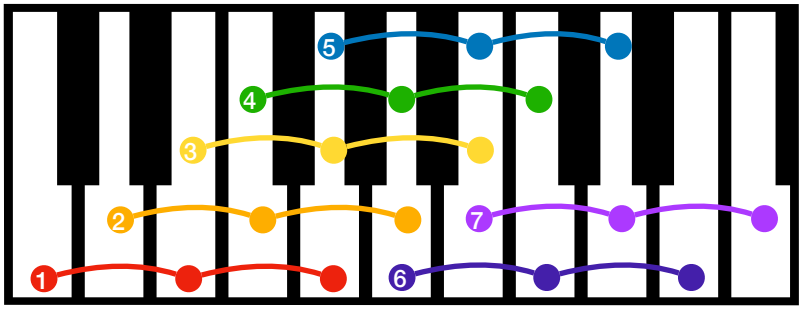


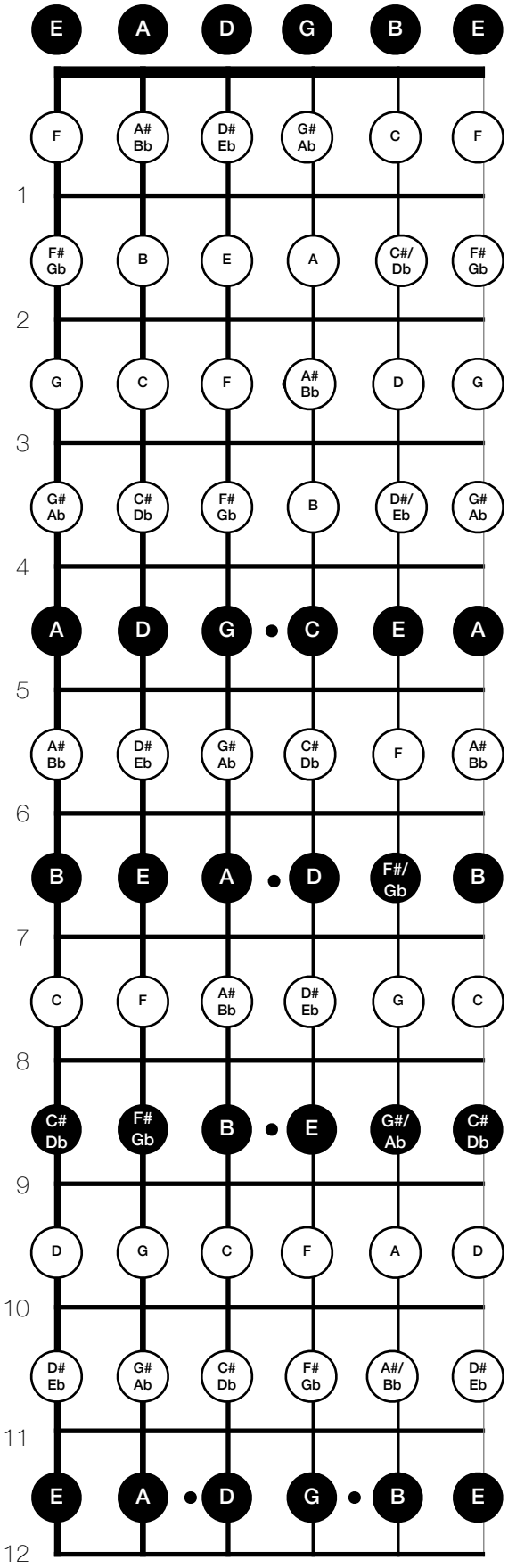
Major Scale Chords

Do	Re	Mi	Fa	So	La	Ti
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	E/G#
C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	G/B
D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	A/C#
E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	B/D#
G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	D/F#

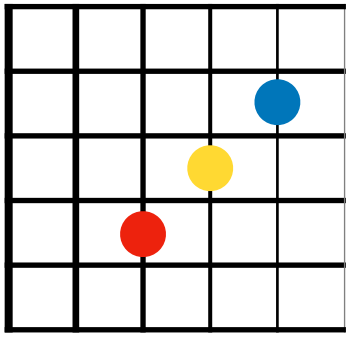
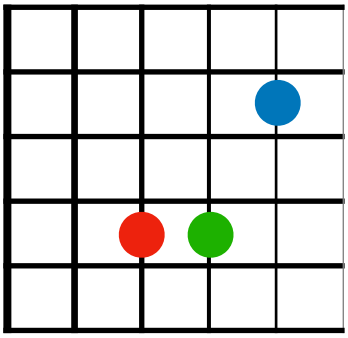
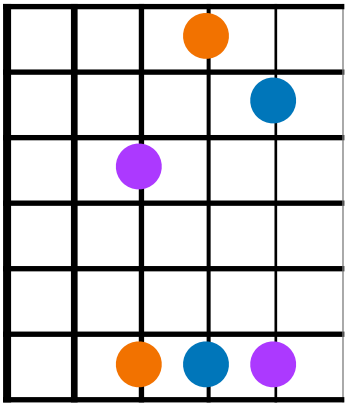
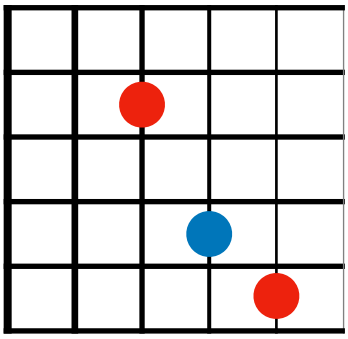
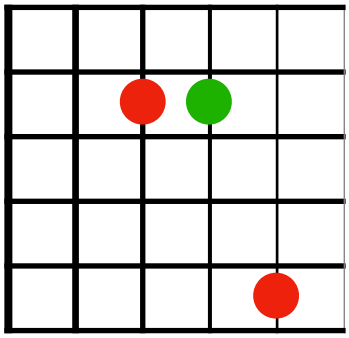
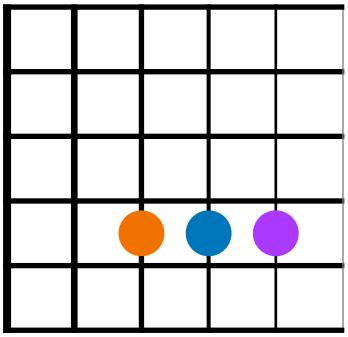
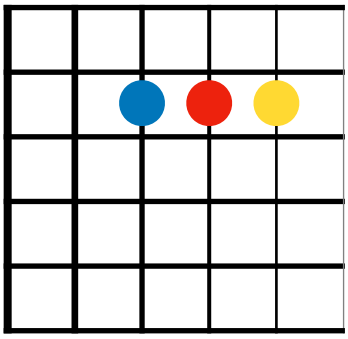
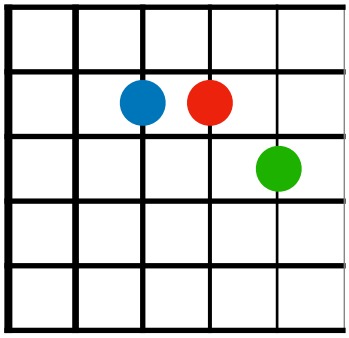
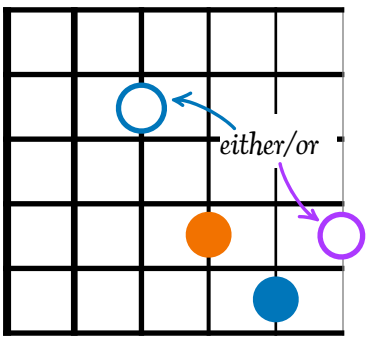
Notes in a Chord

Chord#	Type	Notes used			Name in C	Alternate
1	**Major**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**C maj**	
2	Minor	2	4	6	D min	minor 7th
3	Minor	3	5	7	E min	
4	**Major**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**F maj**	**(sus)2**
5	**Major**	**5**	**7**	**2**	**G maj**	**(sus)4**
6	Minor	6	1	3	A min	minor 7th
7	*Diminished*	7	2	4	B^0 *(dim)*	5/7





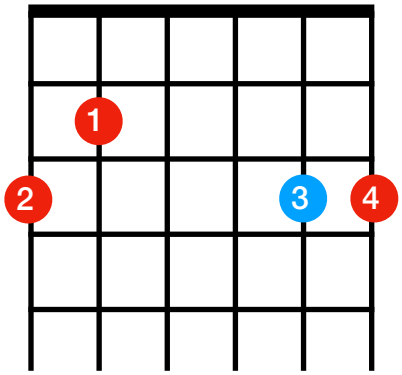
The Magic Shapes

	Use for **1** and **6** chords	Use for **2** and **4** chords	Use for the **5th** chord
Position 1			***or:*** 
Position 2			
Position 3			

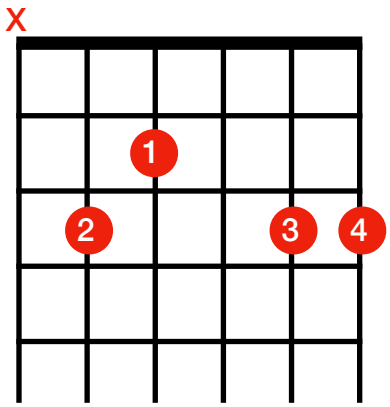
“Cheater” Chords (Or, How All Real Guitar Players Play Their Chords)

Red circles must be played; blue circles are optional. “X” shows which stings(s) to mute.

Key of G:

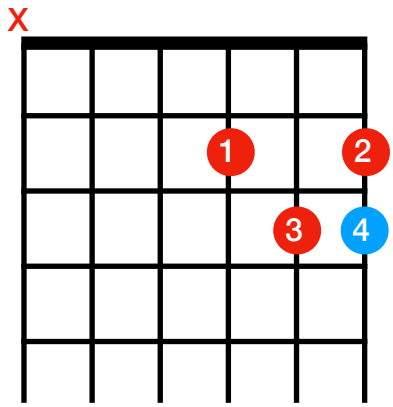


1 - G



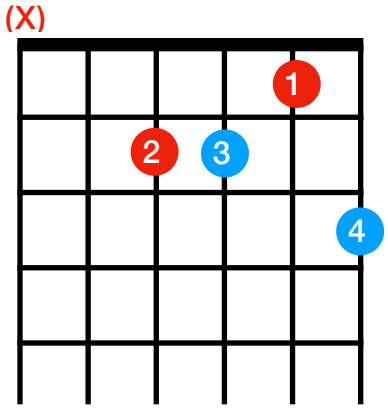
4 - C

(Usually played C2)



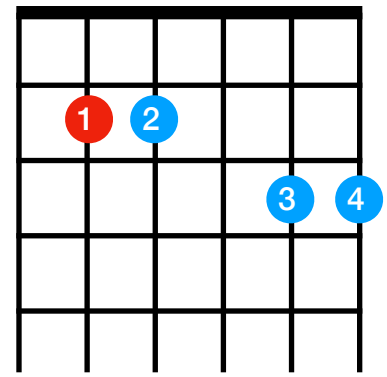
5 - D

(Often played Dsus)



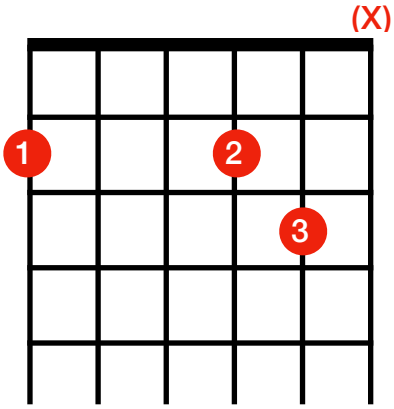
2 - Am

(Often played Am7)



6 - Em

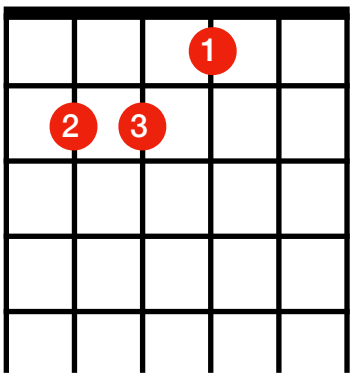
(Usually played Em7)



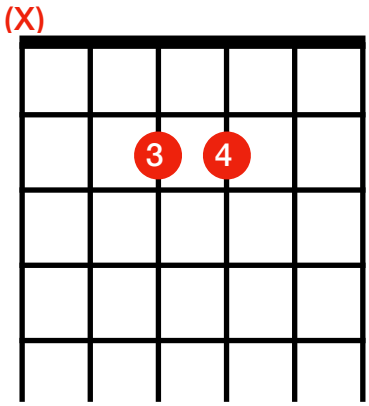
7 - D/F#

(Either mute the top string or let it ring for a D2/F#)

Key of E:

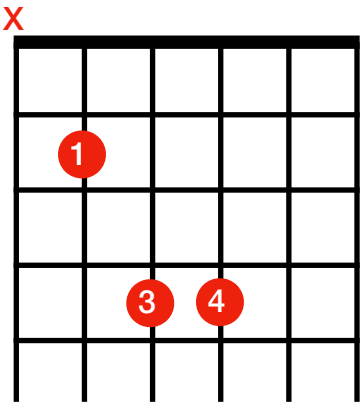


1 - E



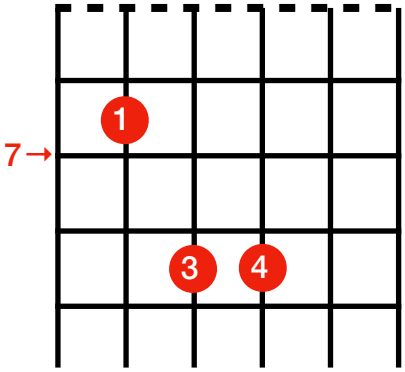
4 - A

(A2)



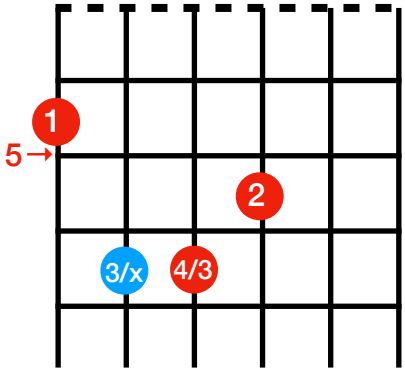
5 - B

(Bsus)



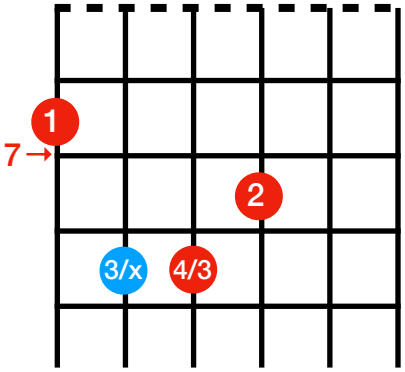
1 - E

(Actually an E5)



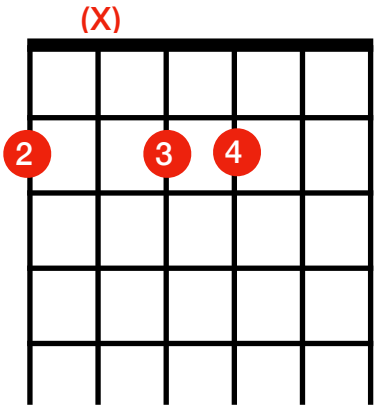
4 - A

(A2)



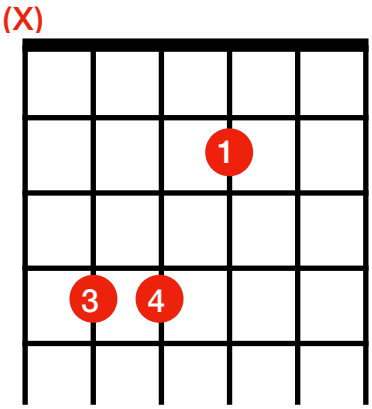
5 - B

(Bsus)



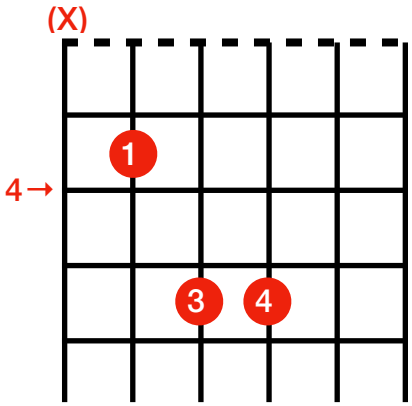
2 - F#m

(F#m7add4)



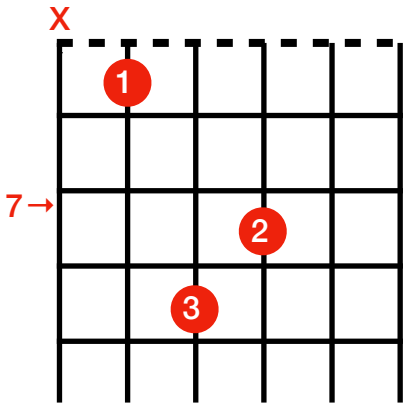
2 - F#m

(F#m7add4/C#)



6 - C#m

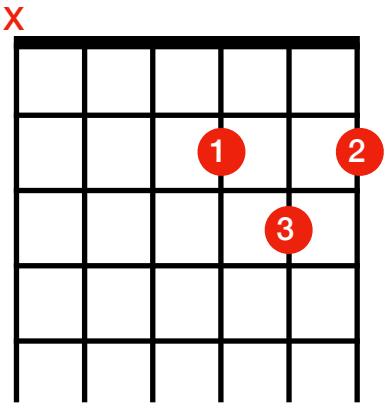
(C#m7)



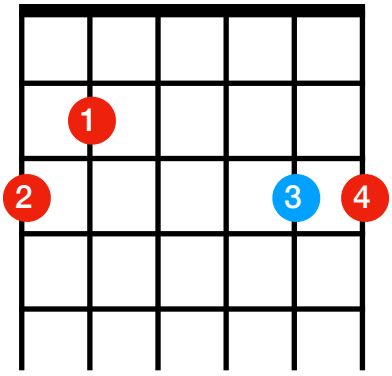
7 - B/D#

(Bsus/D#)

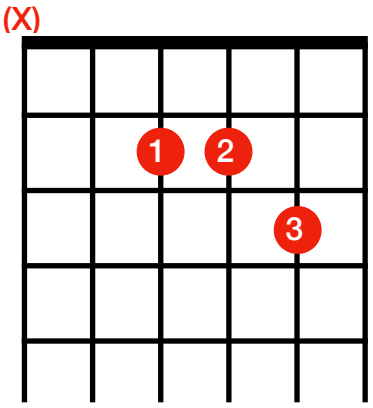
Key of D:



1 - D

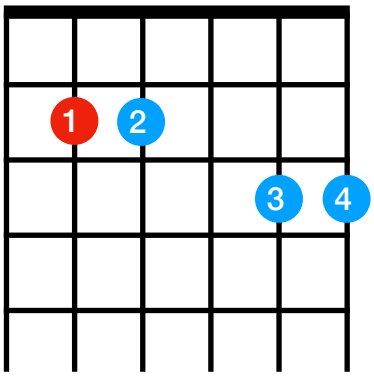


4 - G



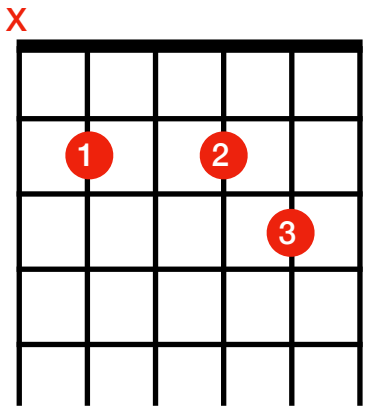
5 - A

(Usually played Asus)



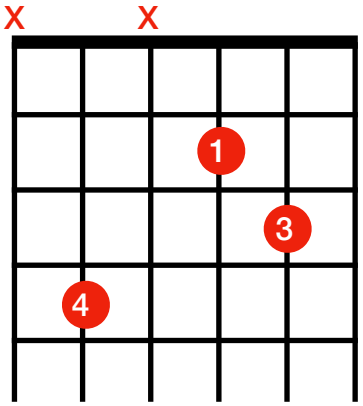
2 - Em

(Often played Em7)



6 - Bm

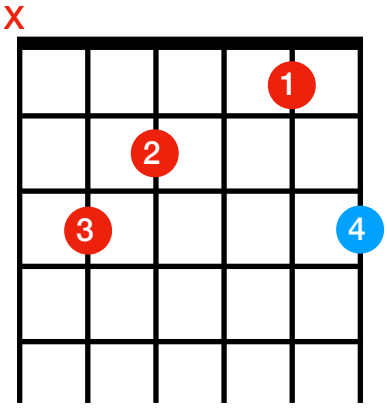
(Usually played Bm7add4)



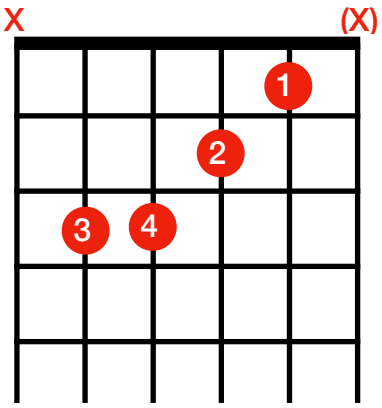
7 - D/C#

(Either a D2/C# or Asus/C#)

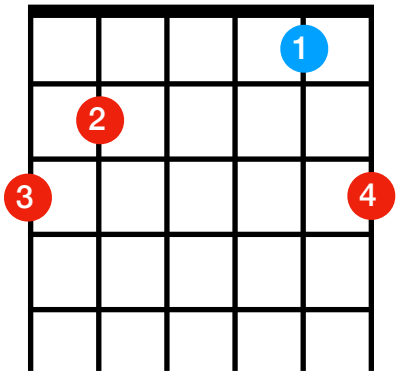
Key of C:



1 - C

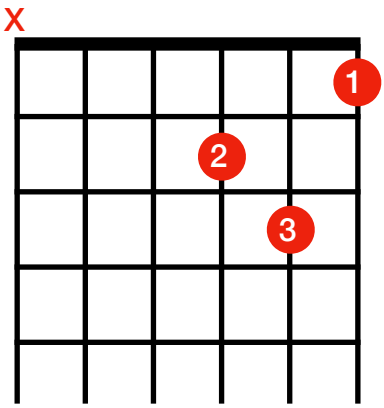


4 - F



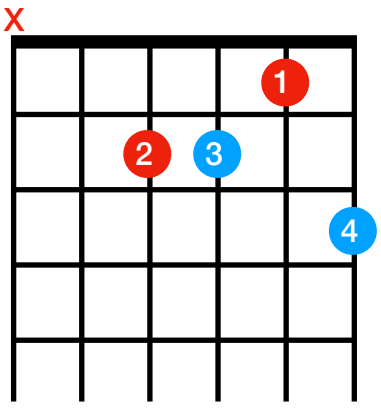
5 - G

(Often played Gsus)



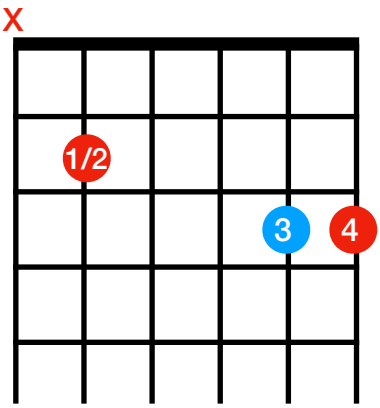
2 - Dm

(Often played Dm7)



6 - Am

(Often played Am7)



7 - G/B