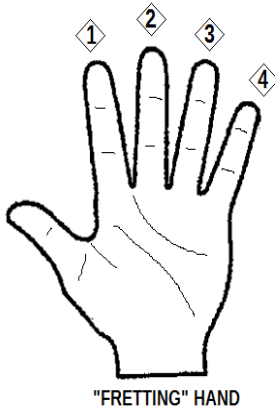
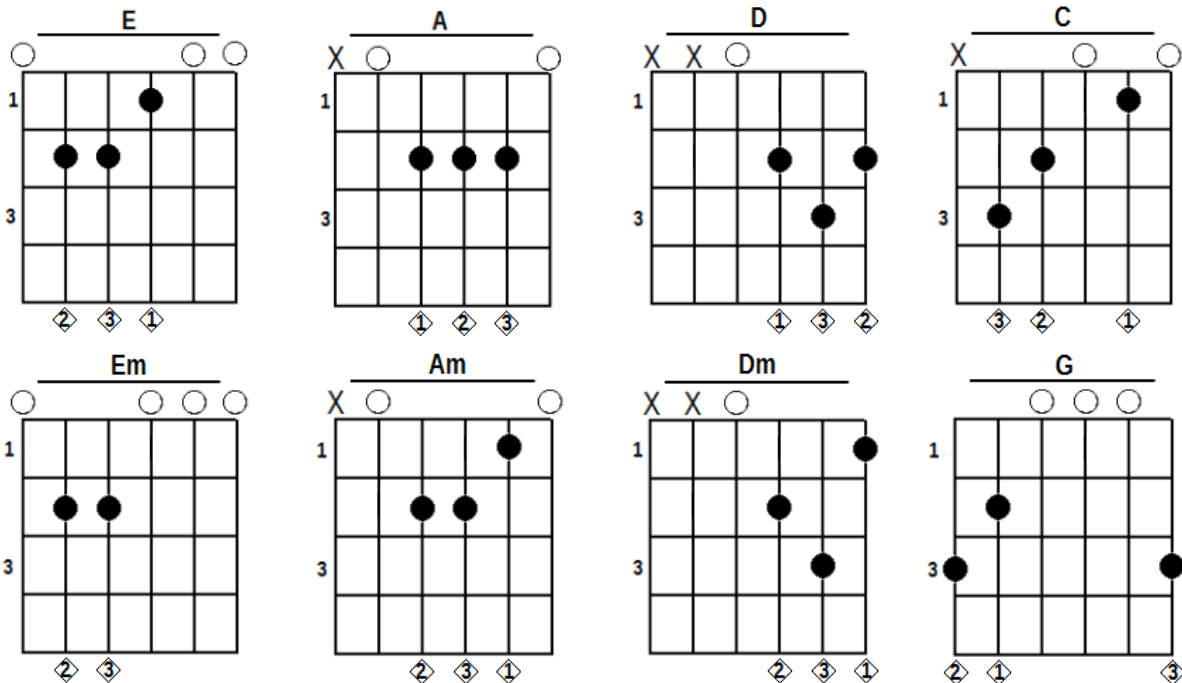


## YOUR FIRST 8 GUITAR CHORDS!!



### *In each of the following chord diagrams:*

- The chord name is written along the top.
- Each finger is represented by a number, and each chord diagram displays which finger should play which note on each string.
- The numbers on the left of the diagram indicates the fret location.
- A solid black dot ● represents a note which is fretted and played.
- An open white dot ○ represents a string that should be played open, i.e. neither fretted nor muted.
- An X indicates a string that should be muted or deadened- not played.



- Start by fingering these chord patterns on the guitar, and try to strum and pluck them.
- Listen for which strings are ringing, which are muted/deadened, and which are ringing 'open'.
- Play an **E**, then an **Em** (E minor). Play an **A** then an **Am** (A minor). Listen to the tonal qualities of each. Can you hear the change between major and minor chords? Minor chords exhibit a slightly darker or sadder sound.
- Choose any two or three chords, and practice switching between them. This is a great opportunity to begin playing along with a metronome. Play 4 or 8 counts of one chord, then switch to the next one for the same for the same count. Time to let the creativity flow!
- There are hundreds, if not thousands of popular songs that are made up of these very chords! Such as...

- "Sweet Home Alabama" - **D C G**
- "Hey Joe" - **C G D A E**
- "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" - **G D Am**
- "Time of Your Life" - **G C D - - Em D C G**
- "Yellow Submarine" - **D G Am D - - G D**
- Basic "Blues" pattern: **A D A E D A**

- As you get more comfortable with these shapes you will learn how to embellish them to add a touch more "zing". Keep in mind, there are many different ways to play any given chord up and down the guitar neck.
- Don't be deterred if you can't seem to finger these chords exactly at first, *never stop practicing!!*