

Flamenco Guitar Chords and Progressions

By Tomas Michaud



Including 5-Step Quick Learn System

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Hi, I'm Tomas Michaud. Welcome to my course Flamenco Guitar Chords and Progressions. You've made a great choice.

My intention in creating this course is to give you the student a very practical workbook with fingerings for the most common chords used in the style of music I'll call Rumba Flamenco. For people outside of Spain this is the most well-known subgenre of flamenco, made famous by groups like the Gipsy Kings and guitarists like Ottmar Liebert and Jesse Cook, just to name a few.

I've also included a series of common chord progressions used in this style. Learning the basic chord fingerings will be helpful, but even more important will be applying the chords to simple progressions.

I've also want this be something you could use as a reference for years to come. I've yet to find a clear and simple collection of these most used chords that I could refer to with accurate names and simple fingering. If you continue to learn this style of music I believe you'll find this an invaluable resource.

At the end of the chords and progression section you'll find my step-by-step process for learning . I will admit now there is just a little bit of trickery going on here. I snuck in something much more profound than just a technique to learn a few chords.

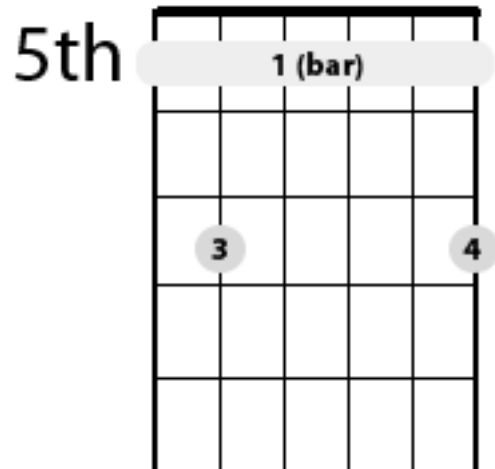
I have spent years and years not only learning how to play guitar but studying and applying techniques to help people learn efficiently and effectively. This is a very real passion of mine. This step-by-step system is a glimpse into easiest way to learn any physical skill.

I not only want to teach you how to play these flamenco chords, but my sincere desire is to give you an edge in learning anything you want to learn. Of course I'm hoping you will go on to play beautiful Spanish guitar.

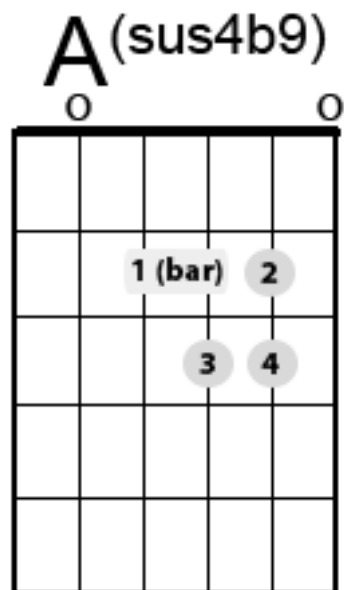
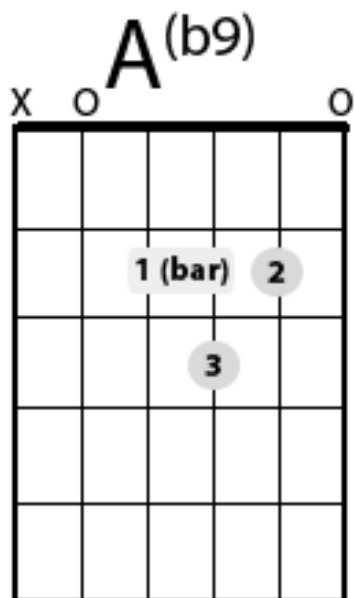
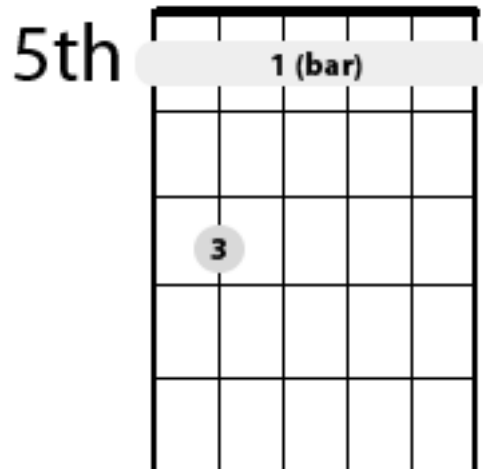
Thanks for putting your faith in me. I do my absolute best not to let you down.

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Am9

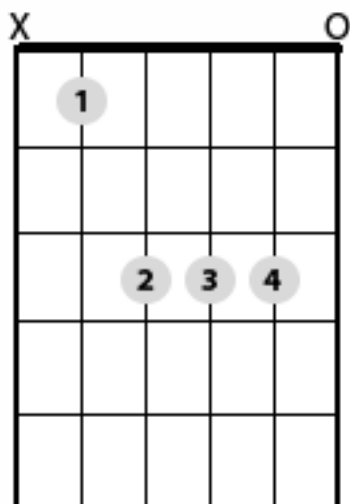


Am7

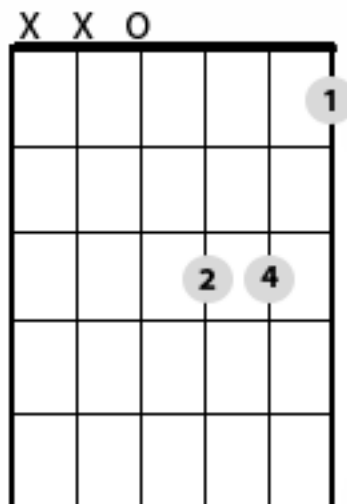


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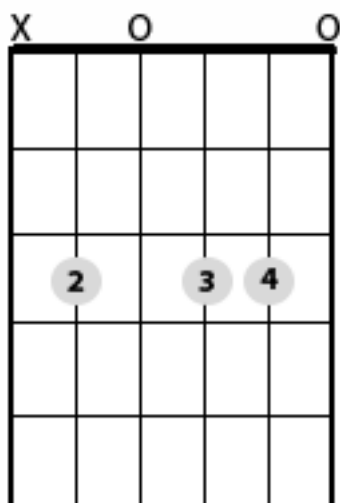
Bb(#4)



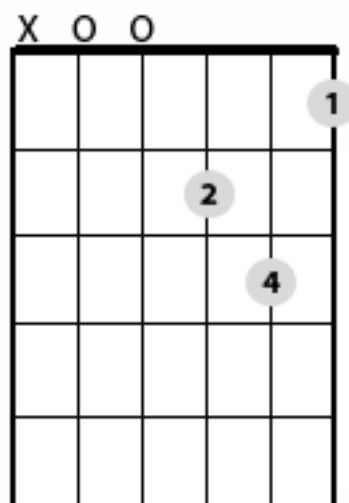
Bb



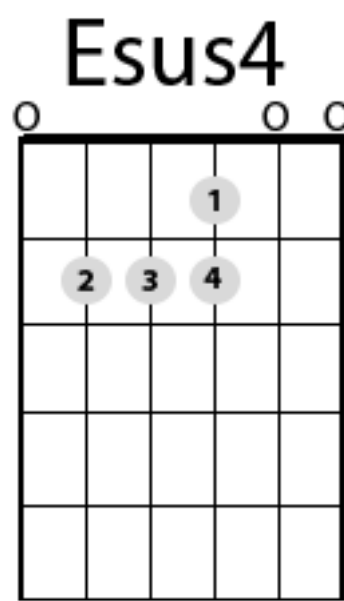
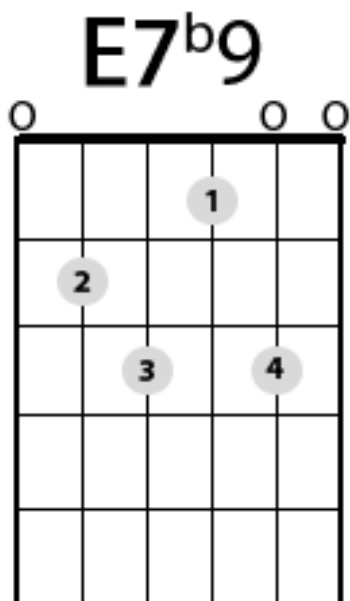
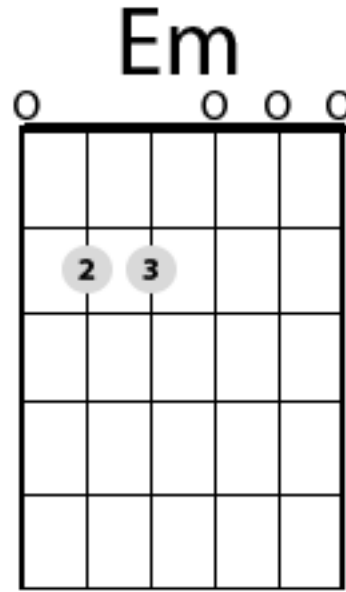
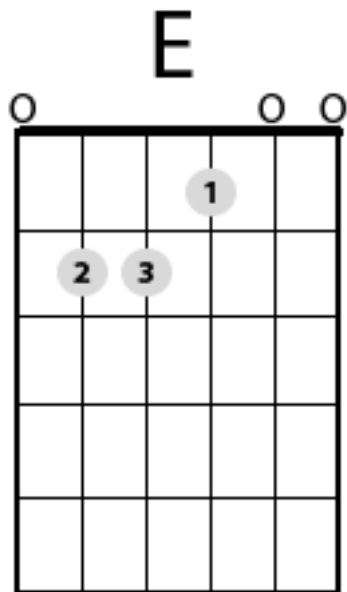
C9



Dm

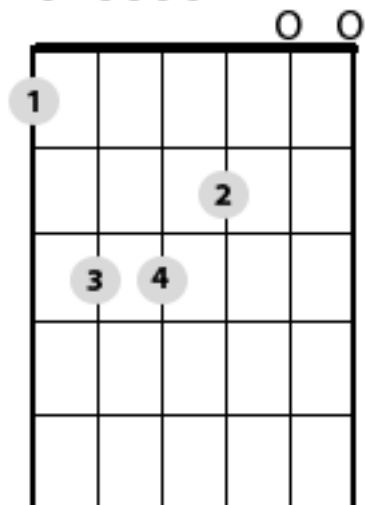


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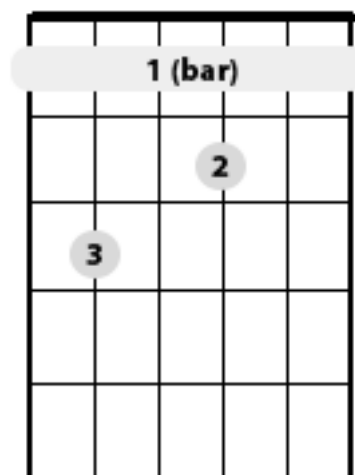


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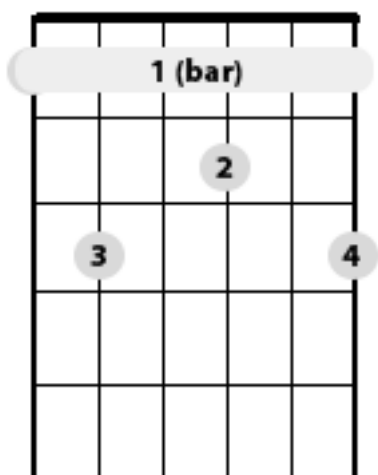
FM7(#11)



F7

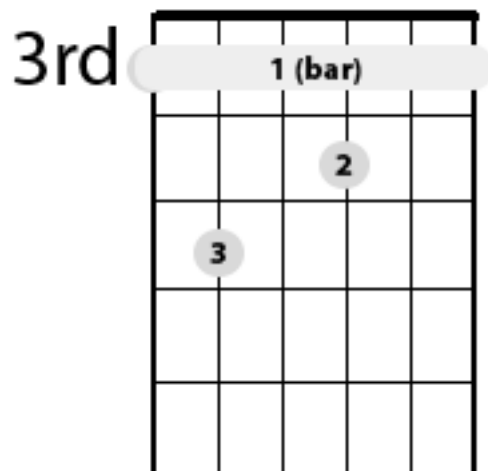


F9

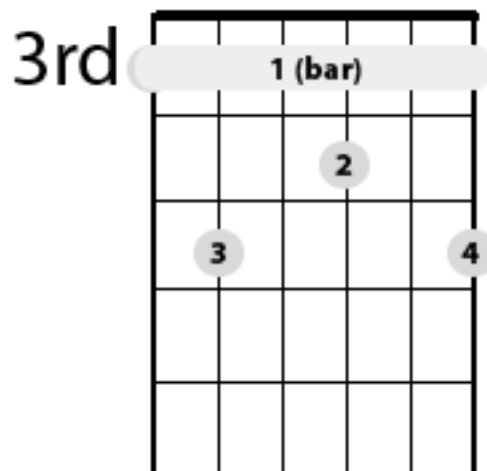


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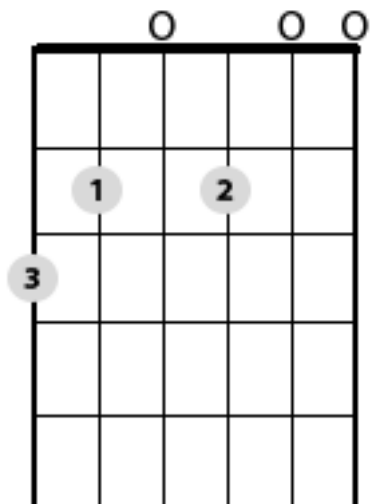
G7



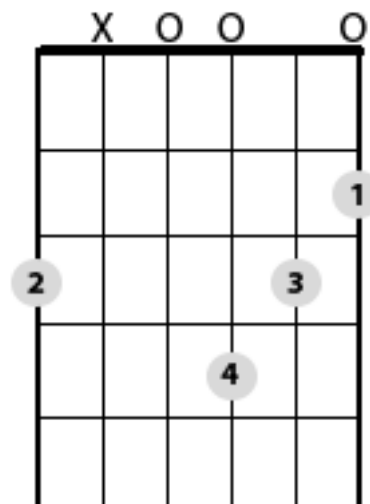
G9



G6/9



GM7



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Progression #1

Am⁹ G^{6/9} G⁶ Fmaj7(♯11) E7(b9)

Progression #2

5 Bm Em Gmaj7 F♯11

Progression #3

9 Dm C(add2) B♭(♯4) Gm⁶ A(sus4b9) A(b9)

Progression #4

15 Dm C⁹ B♭ A(b9)

Progression #5

19 Am⁹ Am⁷ G⁹ G⁷ F⁹ F⁷ E(sus4) E

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5-Step Flamenco Chords Quick Learn Process

Learning to play chords doesn't have to be painful and frustrating. The key is to break down the learning process into small steps.

Here's a couple of principles to start.

START EASY - Start with the easier chords and work your way up to the more difficult chords. I'll give you a list of the easier ones at the end of this, but in general the ones that use the pinky and have a stretch are the more difficult ones.

DISSONANCE - What makes Flamenco chord progressions sound interesting and exotic is tension and release. If you are not familiar with this style you'll find many of the chords sound strange by themselves. That's tension, also known as dissonance. Much of the fun comes from playing the chords in the progression. It's the movement from one chord to another that makes the cool effect.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT - In some cases you'll have to get accustomed to the sound. Like a different spice you are not accustomed to it may grow on you.

At the same time you are not obligated to like everything. I'm only asking you to sit with the discomfort of something new for awhile before discarding it. In the end you decide what to keep and what doesn't work for you.

THINK PROGRESSIONS - Movement. You'll have to start with the individual chords to get the fingering, but you haven't learned the chord until you can change to the next chord with some level of fluidity. Don't wait until you can play the chord perfectly. Start practicing the progressions once you can play the chord about 70 - 80% accurately (your judgment is fine).

You'll find this a back and forth process. You'll first finger the individual chords in the progression, try moving from one to another, then go back and practice the more difficult chord again, then perhaps work one just two chords for awhile, and then back to the entire progression, and so on.

ATTITUDE MATTERS - Above all be patient, keep a light attitude and try to have FUN!

Now let's get on with the steps...



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THE STEPS

1. Choose An Individual Chord. Go ahead and finger it. Spend just a couple of minutes to adjust your hand and see how it sounds.

Release the chord and shake out the hand lightly.

Repeat this process about 10 times. Each time adjust your hand, try to get your fingers as close to the frets as possible, and then strum the chord. Remember... **we are NOT going for perfection here.** You are just training the hand to get accustomed to the chord fingering.

2. Choose Another Chord, but not just any chord. Choose a chord that is the next or previous chord in a progression.

For example, if you chose Bb, then the next chord could be C9 or A(b9), you choose (see progression #4).

Now repeat steps 1 through 3 with this new chord. The idea is to get a similar level of competency with this new chord as you did the first.

3. Changing Chords. Now here is where the fun begins. Finger the first chord, then change the fingering to the second chord. Now change back to the first chord. Do it again. Go slow. Each time you change to the new chord strum it once and see how the strings sound. Make a few adjustments and strum again.

Now repeat steps one through six adding another chord to the progression. At this point you'll have a three chord progression.

Again repeat steps one through six adding a fourth chord to the progression. At this point you are still strumming the chord one time, adjusting it, strumming again one time, then moving to the next court and doing the same thing.



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4. Rhythm & Timing. It's time to ease into working on timing. To do this start from the first chord in the progression and strum four times. Then move to the second chord in the progression and strum four times. Go onto the third chord strumming four times. Then finally the last chord and strum four times. Start over.

5. Add A Beat. Do the same thing as the previous step, only now try to keep a pulse. I'm referring to your own pulse doing the best you can. You can tap your foot if you want or just feel the pulse.

Go slow... probably slower than you think you need to go, and try not to slow down when it's time to change chords. It's natural to slow down when it comes time to finger a new chord. Try to keep a slow enough tempo that you can just get to the next chord without slowing down. This is often the more difficult step.

- Do the same thing as the previous step adding the beat of a metronome.
- Go slow but force yourself to change to the next chord in time.

When you can do this final step you can say that you know how to play these chords. The next thing to do is to speed up the metronome little by little to improve your ability to change between chords smoothly and easily.

Going on from here you would add a strum to the progression. That would be covered in another lesson.



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A Quick Word About Naming Chords

I spent a bit of time naming these chords. It's not easy. Many of these chords are just not standard fingering and there's no obvious name for them. Traditional flamenco guitar players are often no help either as most of them could care less what to call the chord.

After researching the web, asking several excellent guitarists and using my knowledge of chord naming principles I've done the best I could to give them accurate names. Don't get hung up on the names. You'll find some guitarist that will call them different names... and they could very well be correct.

Bonus Video

Here's a video lesson that you'll enjoy:

[Changing Common Chords Into Beautiful Spanish Guitar](http://www.tomasmichaud.com/changing-common-chords-beautiful-spanish-guitar/)

<http://www.tomasmichaud.com/changing-common-chords-beautiful-spanish-guitar/>

About Tomas

I'm Tomas Michaud, an American born guitarist and music educator with a French Canadian heritage.

I first developed my Starland Guitar System in 1982 when my 9 year old daughter asked me to teach her guitar. Since



then I've been having a great time helping thousands of students experience the joy of making music, either myself or through my trained instructors.

When I'm not making guitar instruction videos I'm creating my own beautiful music and currently have seven CDs of Contemporary Instrumental Guitar Music including, my latest top ten charting "Beauty and Fire".