

F Guitar Chord – 3 Easy Alternatives

The F guitar chord is notoriously difficult for beginner guitarists. In this free lesson you will learn:

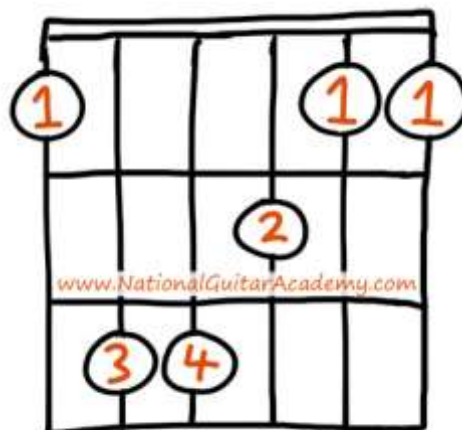
- How to play the F guitar chord correctly
- The best F chord for beginner guitarists to use
- A simple 3-string version of the F guitar chord
- 3 bonus tricks you can use to make your F chords sound better

How to play the F guitar chord properly

Let's look at the correct way to play an F guitar chord first, then we'll look at the easier alternatives. Sound like a plan? Let's do it.

Ok, this is how an accomplished guitarist plays an F chord. (By the way, did you know that the full name of an F chord is "F Major"? Most of the time people just call it "F".)

F Major



(If you don't understand the above image please read our article "[How To Read Guitar Chordboxes In 60 Seconds](#)". It will make everything clear!)

In real-life the F chord looks like this:

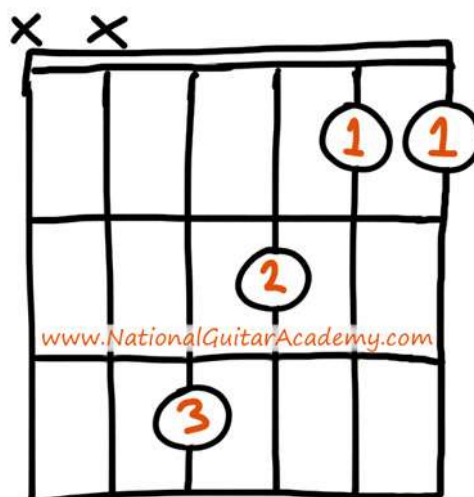


As you can see this is a difficult chord – it's simply not possible for a beginner guitarist to play an F guitar chord (in this way). Clearly we need to find easier alternatives, so let's get to it!

Some easier ways to play an F guitar chord

This is the most widely-used easier version of an F chord on guitar:

F Major

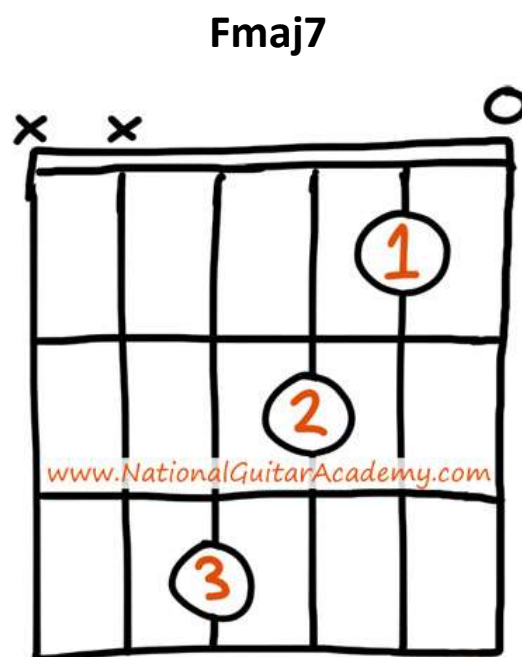


As you can see, we no longer need to totally barre the first fret, so that's a huge relief for a beginner guitarist. Even so, this chord still requires solid concentration and a good level of dexterity to play.

If you've been playing the guitar for only a few hours this will still be a very difficult chord for you to assemble quickly and consistently. We need an even easier alternative.

A 3-finger version of F

Ok, now we're getting to a lower barrier of entry. This chord is called "Fmaj7" (pronounced "F major seven").



As you can see, this is significantly easier than the first version of F that we looked at.

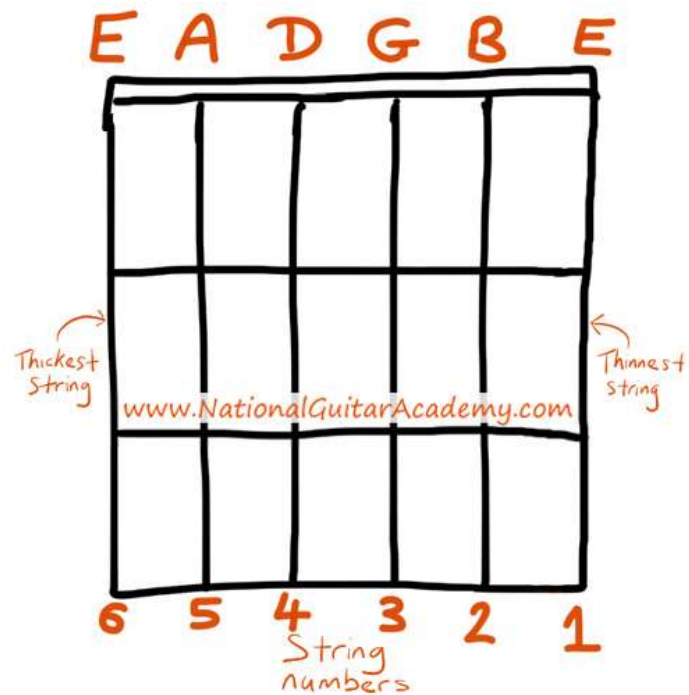
In a moment we'll look at the easiest-of-all ways to play an F guitar chord, but firstly there's an important point I need to flag to you.

F Guitar Chord – String Selection

Note that when playing both the above versions of an F guitar chord you should only play strings 1-4. **Your strumming/picking should begin on the 4th string.**

(Remember that an 'X' on a chordbox diagram means "don't play this string".)

Let's have a quick refresher on string numbers:



If you play the fifth string (the A string) when playing either of the above F guitar chords it won't kill the chord (it'll still sound ok, just) but if you accidentally play the 6th string (the E string) it will wreck the chord.

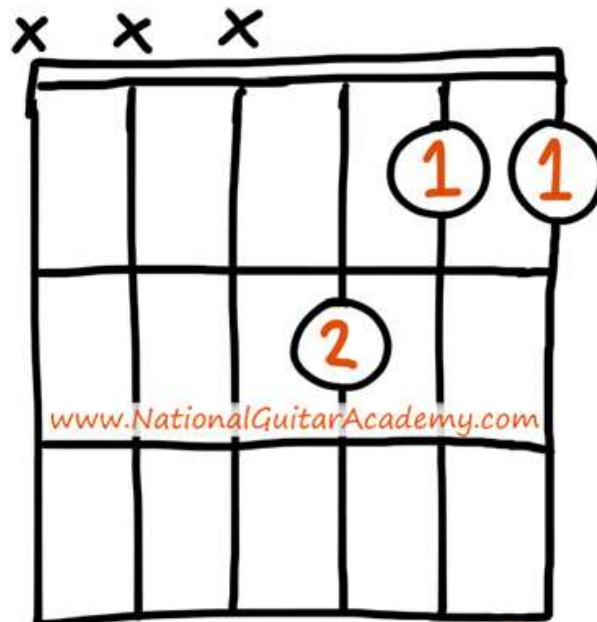
For tips on how to do this well read my free lesson: [How To Skip Strings When Strumming](#)



The Best Easy Versions Of This Chord

A super-simple, 3-string version of F

This version of an F guitar chord is fantastic for children and adults with learning difficulties or smaller hands:



This version of F doesn't sound as good as the earlier versions, but it's *passable*, and it will act as a stepping stone towards the better-sounding F chords.

Remember: F is a tough chord, so don't worry if you're struggling with it. Learning guitar takes time!

The F guitar chord is one of the very toughest chords for a beginner guitarist to play, so don't worry if you find it challenging. That's perfectly normal.

With this in mind, I tell my new students to skip all songs that feature an F chord until they've been playing guitar for at least a month.

After 4-6 weeks most people have mastered simpler chords like Em, G, Am, D and C. By that stage they have developed enough control and precision in their third finger that they can perform the above easier F chords without it being too tough.

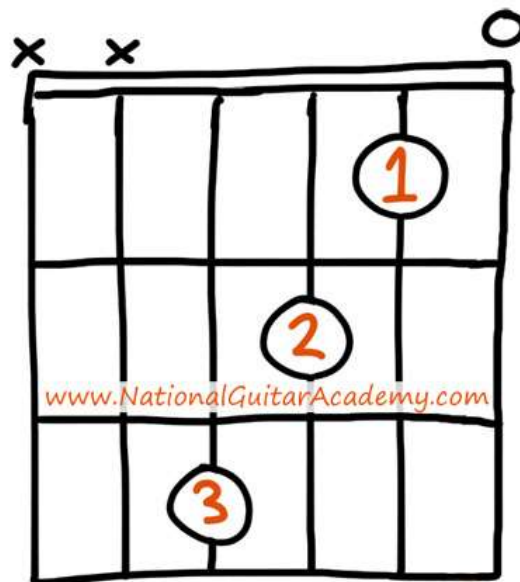
For the vast majority of adult learners, Fmaj7 should be the first goal. It sounds great and is much easier to play than a full F chord.

A Pro Tip For Using Fmaj7

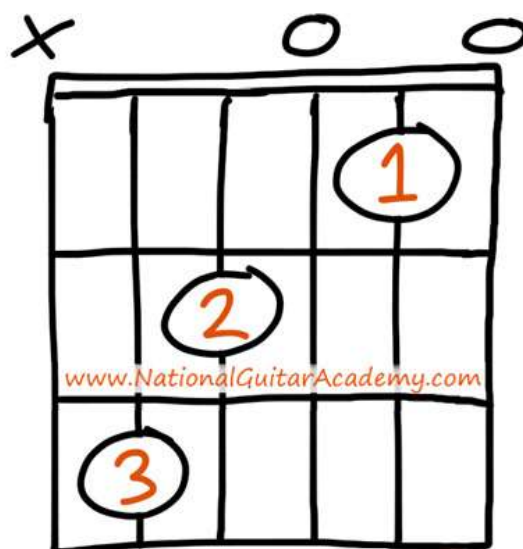
Note how closely a Fmaj7 chord resembles the shape of a C chord? This is one of the things that makes Fmaj7 a handy chord to know, because F and C are common bedfellows, they crop up together often, along with G.

You can combine Fmaj7, C and G in the following way. It sounds great and allows you to maintain a similar handshape as you play. (*This makes things easier for you and allows you to play with more fluidity.*)

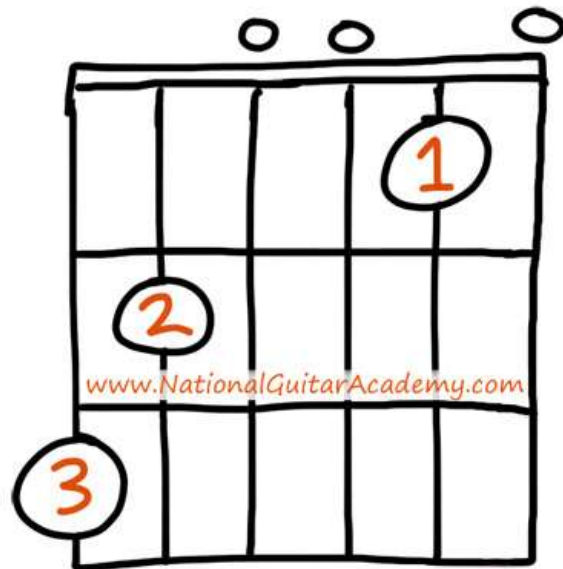
Check this pattern out. When you have F and/or C and/or G near to one another, try playing F like this:



...and C, as normal, like this...

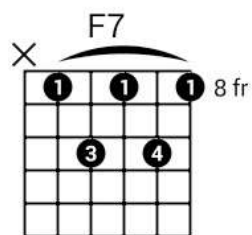
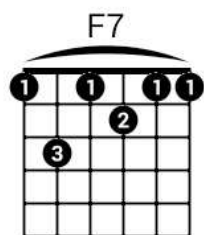
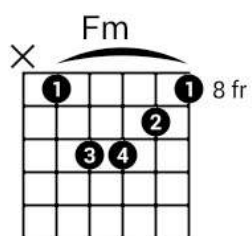
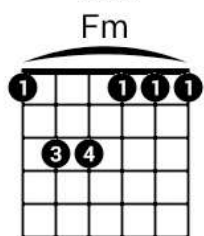
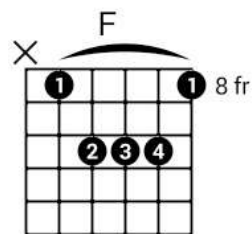
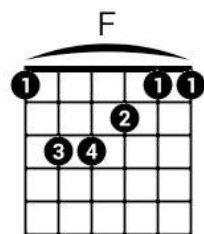


...and use this version of G (called Gsus4)...

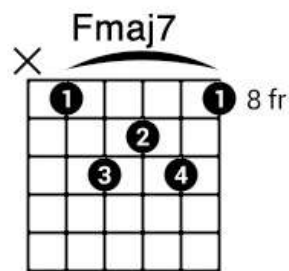
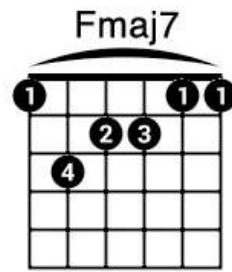
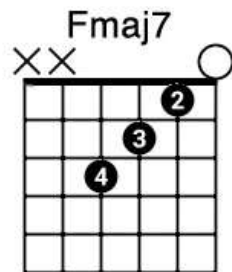
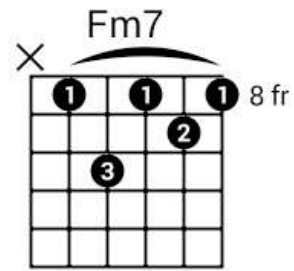
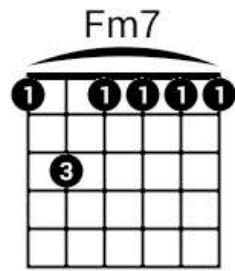


This is a great example of using broader chord knowledge to make things easier and sound better. (You'll do this a LOT as you progress as a guitarist!)

Common versions of F



Now let's look at some sevenths:



[More F chords \(6ths, augmented, diminished etc\).](#)

Popular Lessons

[How To Learn Guitar: An 11-Step Programme For Beginners](#)

[10 Easy Songs For Beginners](#)

[How To Strum A Guitar](#)

[How To Choose The Perfect Beginner Guitar](#)

[Guitar Notes Explained: A Guide For Beginners](#)

[How To Play Lead Guitar](#)

[3 Easy Ways To Play Bm](#)

More Cool Guitar Stuff

Learn about the National Guitar Academy: [About Us](#)

Join us on [Facebook](#) for daily guitar tips.

Listen to our [Learn Guitar Podcast](#) for rapid guitar progress.

Check out our [free chord lessons](#).

Another free guide from your friends at

 **National Guitar Academy**
Become the guitarist of **your dreams**