

“Guitar Made Simple”

The Fastest, Easiest Way To Play All Your Favorite Songs On The Guitar



By Sam Lyons - “The Master Of Teaching Guitar”

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Forward

Hi: My name is Sam Lyons

I’m just a regular guy from Southwest Louisiana (Cajun Country as we like to call it here) who loves teaching people how to play the guitar locally and via the internet worldwide. I consider myself the luckiest person on earth with being able to share my expertise teaching you how to play guitar.

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I've been successfully teaching people how to play the guitar for over 40+ years. I've been playing guitar for over 50 years, have built a successful guitar coaching business, created many guitar related products, have helped thousands of people from around the world to be successful with playing the guitar, and have a worldwide following of loyal customers.

There is one main goal I have for you to achieve with this course:

Once you finish reading and implementing the lessons in this proven, effective, course, you will be able to play the guitar and 100's of your favorite songs using just 4 simple chords (**My MAGIC 4 CHORDS**)..

You won't find any added fluff in this course, it's short and to the point.

I will teach you only the essentials needed for you to get started playing the guitar fast and easy.

Many of the courses and books on the market today start with so many things that aren't necessary (especially when first starting to play).

The main idea is to keep it very simple and not be overwhelming for you and to make learning guitar fun and very rewarding.

You won't be learning things like "how to read music", "how to play scales", "different modes" "barre chords", etc., nothing to complicate things with all the music jargon or music theory.

Those are the type of things that get you frustrated right from the start and will make your guitar playing very boring and confusing and make you want to stop before you even get started.

There certainly is a time and place for this kinda stuff, but just not here for now.

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Instead, I'll be teaching a different approach to learning guitar. An approach that really works and one that I have been successfully using to teach thousands of students both locally and all over the world how to play the guitar and your favorite songs FAST!.

By the time you finish with my course, you will be strumming some of your favorite songs plus playing some basic chords on guitar and more.

This course is NOT for:

If you want to learn classical guitar or lead guitar.

If you want to learn music theory or complicated scales, modes etc.

If you want to learn sheet music.

Someone who already plays guitar.

Anyone who has a strong music background.

Anyone who already has a good understanding of the guitar.

Anyone who even has a BASIC understanding of guitar.

Who this guide IS for:

If you want to learn the guitar for fun, whether for your own enjoyment or for family and friends.

If you are retired and ready to kick learning the guitar off your bucket list.

If you want to learn the guitar to join your church worship team or small group.

Those who've tried learning in the past and have been discouraged.

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Those who always wanted to learn but are too busy and have a tight schedule.

You struggle with strumming.

You struggle with chord transitions moving from one chord to another.

Someone without any or very little knowledge about playing the guitar.

What You'll Learn:

What chords and strum patterns you should learn first.

How to transpose and simplify songs to play more with fewer chords.

Barre chord alternatives that allow you to play hundreds of songs without ever needing to learn one barre chord.

How to make smooth chord transitions from one chord to another..

How to get clean and good sounding chords.

How to strum fluently and without pauses in-between chord changes.

How to practice effectively and how long should you practice.

You will be able to play 100's of popular songs with just a handful of chords that I will show you.

Know what chord charts are and how to read them properly.

Play one of the most popular guitar chord progressions that can be used in hundreds and hundreds of your favorite songs.

Plus you will have a basic understanding of the guitar, which will allow you to be able to continue to learn how to play guitar on your own or even

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better get you prepared for future guitar lessons that you may be taking.

Here's what you need:

1. A good quality guitar (an acoustic or electric, it really doesn't matter).
2. The guitar must have all six strings. If you have a 12 string guitar - it's going to be hard to follow this course and hard for you to make the chords sound properly. If you have any broken strings, I suggest you take it to a local music store who has a qualified guitar repair man to get them replaced.
3. **Your guitar must be in proper tune.** I'd strongly suggest purchasing a electronic guitar tuner (I like the digital clip on kind).

Note: Tuning the guitar can be a tricky thing, especially if you don't have a tuner. I strongly recommend picking one up.

Stringing the guitar can be even harder. If you're not comfortable with stringing your own guitar, you may want to bring it in to a local music store and have them do it for you properly.

Optional (but recommended):

A Kyser guitar capo like the one pictured below. **Here is a link to check it out on Amazon:** [Kyser KG6B 6-String Guitar Capo Black](#)

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The electronic guitar tuner pictured below is the one I like: This is the kind of electronic guitar tuner that I have used for many years. The particular one shown below is the **Snark SN-1 Clip On style tuner. The #1 electronic tuner sold on Amazon for around \$15.** It simply clips on the headstock of the guitar to tune. [Click here to check it out on Amazon...](#)



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Just like any kind of quality course, there is a certain order in which you will need to follow.

Once you have the preparation work out of the way, it is very important that you **don't skip ahead**, and that you proceed to each step in order they are presented.

Each skill that is presented, builds upon the previous skill and utilizes terminology from previous sections.

It's not complicated, but it will may get confusing if you skip around.

Seriously - I know you're excited to learn guitar, but take your time... it will happen before you know it.

Once you feel comfortable with the first skill, move on to the next, and so on and so forth. You don't need to feel like you've mastered each skill perfectly before moving on to the next - that's not the point.

I just want you to feel that you have a general and basic understanding of what is being taught - and more importantly, that you can do what is being taught. That's it. Nothing more. That's all, I promise.

Here are the steps:

- **Learn the (very) basic parts of the guitar**
- **Learn what chord charts are and how to read them correctly**
- **Learn how to play chords (rhythm guitar) using chord charts**
- **Learn a chord progression (that will secretly teach you how to play hundreds of your favorite songs in no time at all.)**
- **Learn my secret to learning guitar using my "Magic 4 Chords"**

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That's it. Within those five steps you will have the building blocks and tools needed to continue on and learn more of what you desire.

These steps can be used to play any style of music. Rock, Country, Bluegrass Folk, etc. Every guitar player has to start from the beginning - and this is what the beginning looks like.

These five steps will give you a basic understanding of the guitar and what it means to be able to play the guitar the right way. More importantly, it will help you determine what kind of guitar player you want to become (or even if the guitar is the right instrument for you).

Most importantly, it will only take an hour or two of your time. (I recommend practicing only 10 minutes per day.)

So what's stopping you? **Let's get started!**

Below Are The (Very) Basic Parts of the Guitar



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Here is an acoustic guitar:

All of the basic parts are labeled above, but don't worry about learning them now. You can do that later.

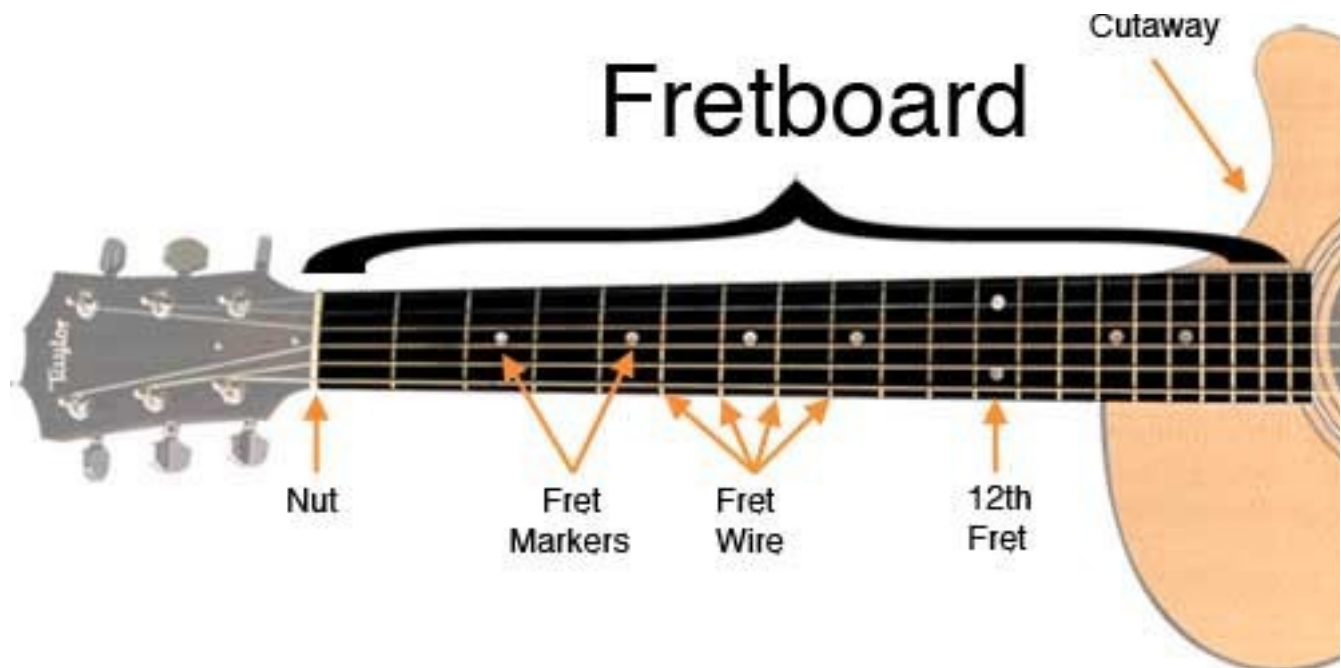
For the time being, here are the parts you need to know:

1. The headstock, neck, body, sound hole, and bridge.
2. The strings (ok - so technically not part of the guitar, but you get the idea). For the strings, I'll teach you the names and/or numbers of the different individual strings.
3. The frets. These are the little metal bars in the picture below. All of the frets are numbered, starting with 1 (at the top of the guitar closest to the headstock).

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Note: Most guitars have dots running down the neck of the guitar. These dots (called position markers) are used as visual markers that allow us to know which fret we're playing without having to count every single fret.



Most guitars have dots on the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 12th frets. Some have dots on the 3rd, and more on the 15th 17th, and 19th. It varies guitar to guitar.

I will assume that you are playing right-handed guitar (sorry left handed people).

Side note: Many left-handed people decide to learn to play the guitar right-handed, this is usually because most resources out there are geared towards right-handed playing, and most guitars are built for right handed playing. (They do make Left-handed guitars)

Below is a picture of how you should hold the guitar:



Notice a few things:

The curve of the guitar fits on the right leg.

The guitar is upright, as opposed to laying flat on the leg.

Try to maintain this position, though sometimes you may need to angle the

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guitar a little bit so you can see what you're doing.

The neck of the guitar is parallel to the floor or ceiling, and maybe even slightly pointing towards the ceiling (don't let the guitar point towards the floor or you may put unnecessary strain on your wrist).

Notice that the right arm is somewhat resting on the top of the body of the guitar.

How To Read Chord Charts

Chords charts are how I started learning to play the guitar.

I started to teach myself how to play chords on the guitar using chord charts.

So what are guitar chords? Generally speaking, the act of playing/strumming a group of notes (usually 3 or more) at the same time.

If you're playing the piano and you press down three random keys - you're playing some kind of chord (though if they're two random keys it will probably sounds terrible).

On the guitar, to play a chord, you simply strum one string or more at once (usually 3 or more strings).

But I don't want this to be more complicated than it needs to, **so let's just keep the definition of a chord as the result of strumming the strings of the guitar.**

So what about these fancy chord charts and what exactly are they? Don't worry.

Chord charts are basically just a diagram of the guitar neck.

See the pictures below:

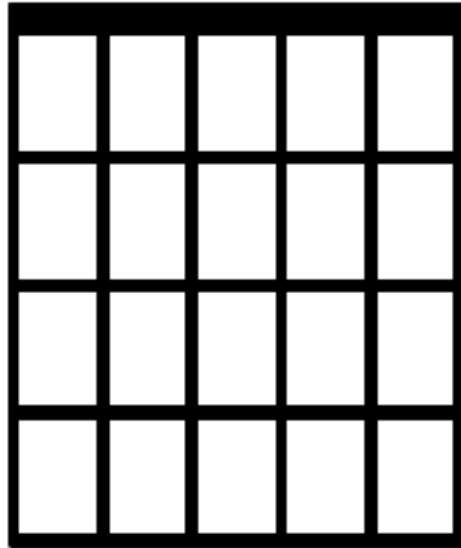
Here is a photo of the guitar neck. It shows the nut (the thick white bar near

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the top of the photo). It shows the first four frets.



Low High
E A D G B E



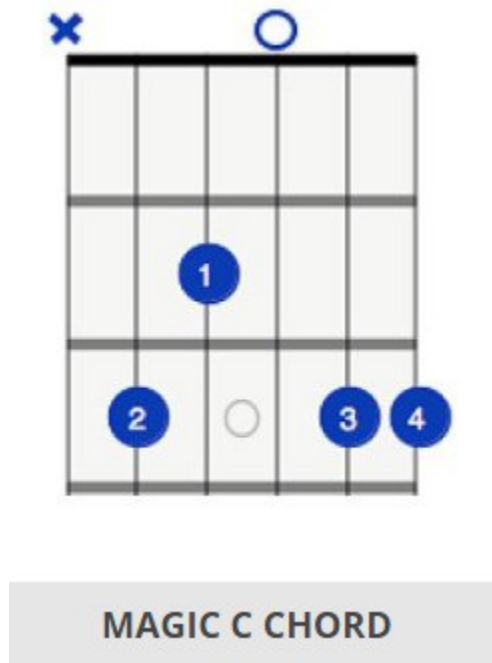
Find all six strings.

The image above is a chord chart. It also shows the nut (the thick horizontal black bar at the top) This holds the strings in place.

The horizontal lines represent the frets.

The vertical lines represent the six strings. It's even labeled with the appropriate string names.

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The image above is an example of a complete chord chart, identifying what I call the Magic C Chord.

The first 3 frets are shown, along with the six strings.

There are also dots which indicate where you fingers will press down to play a chord.

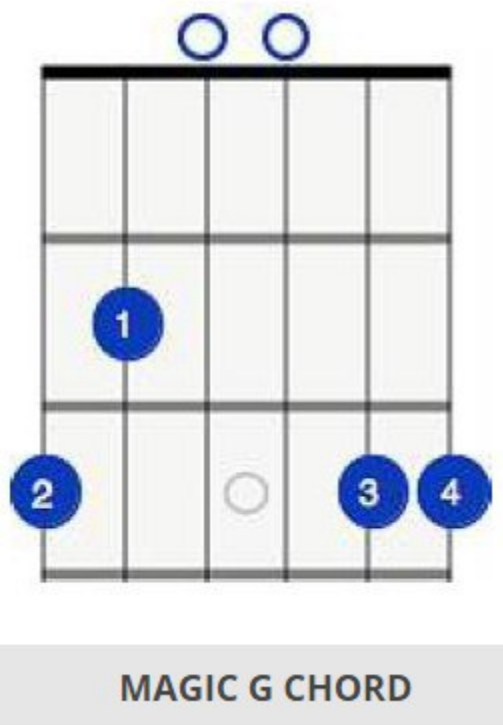
The dots are numbered to indicate which finger should be used.

- 1 = Index/Pointer Finger
- 2 - Middle finger
- 3 = Ring Finger
- 4 = Pinky Finger

Make sense? Great.

Let's actually play some chords.

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The first chord we'll learn is G Major (normally, just referred to as "just the G Chord". I call it my **Magic G Chord** played a special way).

Here's what the chart for G looks like:

The dot on the 3rd fret of the High E string, indicates that you should place your finger there.

Which finger? Well the little number "4" shown within the dot lets you know that it should be your little (pinkie) finger.

Wait. Why does it matter? Why can't you use a different finger?

Good question. As you start to make progress, you'll actually be using more than one finger (four to be exact) to play the G chord.

When you first start using more fingers, the actual fingers we use will make a HUGE difference. It's better to build good habits in the beginning.

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Notice a few things about the photo above:

Ring and Pinkie fingers are both positioned on the 3rd fret, little finger on 1st string and ring finger on the 2nd string. The 1st finger is on the 2nd fret 5th string. The 2nd finger is on the 6th string 3rd fret.

- Use just the tip of the fingers. **(Very important)**
- The finger knuckles should be arched (not flattened out)

Now go ahead and strum all of the strings. Use your thumb on your right hand (or preferably a guitar pick if you have one).

Congratulations! You've just played a G Chord. Nice work!

Before we move on, it's important to address a few common mistakes that beginners tend to make.

Mistake 1 . Using the "fingerprint" or soft part of your finger:



The photo above shows what you should NOT to do. As you can see, you **DO NOT** want to flatten out your fingers, so the the "fingerprint" part of your finger is touching the string (**not the finger tip, as it should be**).

You can also see that the ring finger is rubbing up against the next string. This is not good and will cause a muted or buzzing sound. Make sure you only touch the string(s) indicated by the chord charts.

Mistake 2 . Pressing your finger too far away from the fret.

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The photo above shows the finger pressing very far away from the 3rd fret. This can also cause that muted or buzzing sounds. Not what you are looking for. You want your finger to be right next to the fret. Remember to keep firm pressure downward on the string. Pressing too light on the string will also cause a buzz or muted sound.

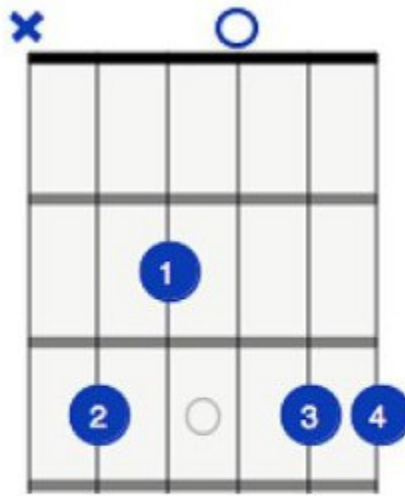
It may be painful when you first start. That's normal and ok. That's how it's supposed to be. The tips of your fingers will get sore. That's normal. If there is any other pain, something is wrong and you should stop what you're doing.

But if it's just soreness in the tips of your fingers, that's normal.

I'll talk about finger pain more towards the end of the course. Don't worry. There are some answers for finger soreness.

Ok. Now that you've got the G Chord down, let's move on to the C Chord.

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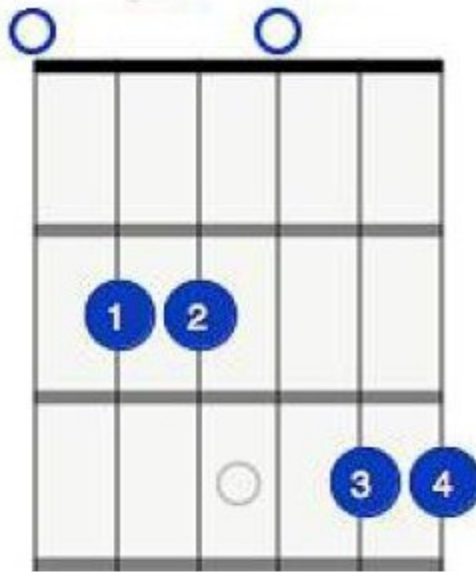


MAGIC C CHORD

Ok, now you place your index finger (1) on the 4th string 2nd fret, your 2nd finger (2) on the 5th string 3rd fret, **and the two bottom fingers (3 and 4) stay in the same place 1st and 2nd strings, 3rd fret, they never move while playing and changing from one chord to another.**

Ok. Now, on to the Em Chord.

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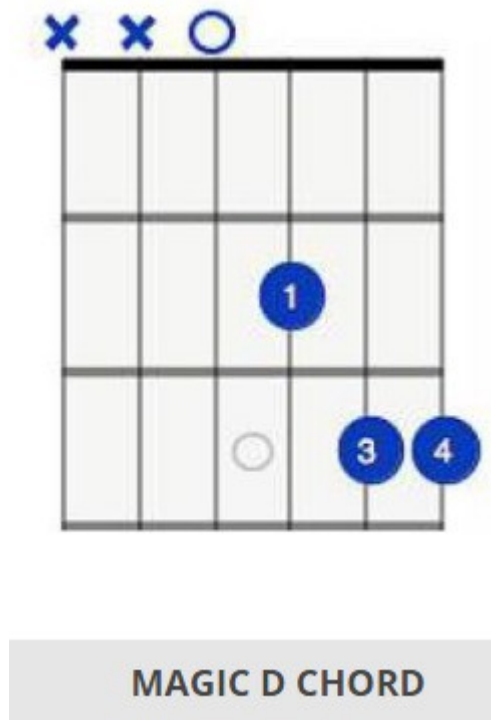
MAGIC Em (Minor) CHORD

Em (pronounced "E Minor"), also uses four fingers, 1st finger on 5th string 2nd fret, 2nd finger on 4th string second fret and the bottom two finger (3 and 4 stay in the same place on the bottom two strings, remember they don't move).

Take your time and get those fingers in the correct spots with the correct string pressure.

Once you're feeling pretty comfortable with Em, move on to the D Chord below. Now this is getting exciting!

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Start by placing your first (1) finger on the second fret, 3rd string.

The 3rd and 4th fingers remain down throughout all the chord changes on 3rd fret. Now you are playing the D chord (**My "Magic Chord D"**)

Take your time. Practice (**It only takes 10 minutes practice time per day**). Don't over practice. Take breaks. Be patient. You will be playing the D chord in no time at all.

Playing chords is a little challenging at first. So, don't worry if it takes a few days to get those fingers exactly right. Just do the best you can for now. You will be playing these 4 chords in no time at all and playing your favorite songs.

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How to Play a Chord Progression

Now that you can play and strum four different chords. You can technically play a **TON OF SONGS**. Hundreds and hundreds of songs using just these 4 chords!

Ok....

So what does all of this mean?

What exactly is a chord progression?

That's Simple:

A chord progression is just a set of chords, played in a particular order (usually being repeated throughout a song). Think of it as a chord pattern.

How to Play Rhythm Guitar

Playing rhythm guitar is essentially just putting a beat/pattern/rhythm using the chords we've learned.

By now you should be able to play four chords on the guitar: G, C, Em, and D. (What I like to call my "**Magic 4 Chords**).

If your D chord is still giving you a little trouble:

THAT'S OK!

It's not as easy chord to play. All that matters, right now, is that you understand how to play it and where to put your fingers.

So let's get started working on a strumming pattern!

Most songs will require strumming chords more than one time. We're going to start with the super-basic Down Strum.

As we've already gone over, down strumming is simply the act of strumming the strings downward from the **Low E BIG string** to the **High E LITTLE string**.

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But now I want you to do it in sets of four.

Here's how:

G
Down - Down - Down - Down

C
Down - Down - Down - Down

Em
Down - Down - Down - Down

D
Down - Down - Down - Down

Then repeat this!

Your goal is to transition smoothly from one chord to the other, without a break in the sound while strumming.

In other words there should be no delay between the strumming and changing of each chord. It should be smoothly and easy.

Now obviously, this is easier said than done in the beginning.

But here is a tip that will help a little bit...

You need to keep your right hand (the one that is strumming) moving at all times when playing and changing chords.

Rather than stopping or hesitating your right hand between changing chords so the left hand can catch up, **keep the right hand (strumming hand) moving EVEN IF THE LEFT HAND HASN'T FORMED the CHORD yet.**

There are two reasons why you need to do this:

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1. It will certainly sound better. No, it probably won't sound perfect at first. But the continuous flow of sound from your guitar will be much better than constant stopping and starting of the strumming when changing chords.
2. It makes your left hand (the one making the chords) to keep up with your right hand. It puts the pressure on your left hand to move quickly into position - rather than taking its old sweet time.

Dealing With Finger Pain

So the tips of your fingers are starting to hurt...

Don't worry! That's normal. And probably good thing. **WHAT?**

Well... specifically it's normal for the skin on your fingertips to be a little sore.

Your fingers need to develop calluses – these are basically toughened areas of skin on your fingertips. The more you play (i.e. the more your delicate fingertips rub up and down on the strings of your guitar), the sooner your fingertips will get tough and hard... and ultimately the sooner they will stop being sore.

This could take a week or a month depending on how often you play.

(Remember I recommend practice only 10 Minutes per day at first.

Also, the type of strings/guitar you're using can impact your fingers in different ways. For example, nylon/plastic strings on classical guitars will feel different (softer) on your fingers when compared to metal strings on electric and many acoustic guitars. I would recommend you play a Light Gauge string if you have an acoustic guitar. They are thinner in diameter and easier to press down.

I like to use [Elixir Strings Phosphor Bronze Acoustic Guitar Strings w/ NANOWEB Coating, Light \(.012-.053\)](#)

Neither type string is better or worse... they just play and feel different.

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You may also want to think about how old your strings are. Really old and dirty strings will do different things to your fingers when compared with slick, new clean strings.

If you're having fingertip soreness, maybe you should try some new strings.

(Again, light gauge strings for acoustic)

Early on, we talked about capos (remember those little guitar clamps that go on the neck of your guitar). Capos are used for a number of different reasons by amateurs and professionals alike.

I like to use a capo with beginner students who are experiencing finger pain.

To use a capo, follow these steps:

1. Pick the fret you want to clamp the capo on. I suggest 3rd or 4th fret. This should help decrease the distance of the string from the neck of the guitar (which makes it much easier to press down and make the chords sound great).



2. Clamp the capo so that it clamps right next to the fret. It should run parallel to the fret.

3. Be careful not to rub or bend any of the strings.

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4. Capo on the guitar. Like the picture below:



In the picture above see how the strings on the left are sort of bent? **That's not good.**

When properly placed it should look like the picture below:



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Looks great! Nice and straight. No bent strings.

Try it yourself and see if it helps!

I think you will find that it will.

I use and recommend the [Kyser 6B 6-String Guitar Capo Black](#)

In Conclusion

So that's it! If you've followed all of the instructions as presented, at this point you should be able to:

- 1. Read chord charts properly**
- 2. Play four of the most popular chords (G, D, Em, C) My "Magic 4 Chord" Way**
- 3. Play those chords as a chord progression, with a strumming pattern.**
- 4. Be able to play 100's of your favorite songs.**

But most importantly, you now have the tools that will allow you to continue onward and actually TEACH YOURSELF additional chords, melodies, strumming patterns, chord progressions, songs, etc.

Now, you are ready to take your guitar playing to a whole new level.

To Your Guitar Playing Success,

Sam Lyons
a.k.a. "The Master Of Teaching Guitar"

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