



Beautiful Simple Guitar Chord Progressions

By

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The purpose of beautiful simple guitar chord progressions is to present – guitar mechanisms as simply as possible. Using mostly three finger chords – beautiful guitar music can be made. Adding in finger-picking techniques the music made can be striking.

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Lesson 1 – Simple Standard Chords

Using simple standard chords – will allow the guitar player to have a good groundwork for more complex techniques.

The guitar is broken down into frets – on each fret are notes – that when depressed sound that note. The below picture shows the head of the guitar and each block below is a fret:



For simplicity – the first five frets will be explained and utilized throughout this short tutorial book. Strumming a single string without pressing a note on a fret – actually plays a note!

Therefore, selecting the first string closest to the top of the guitar is a low E note, the next string down in a low A note, then a low D note, low G note and a high E note. So playing the open strings makes up the following notes:



| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Open Strings | E | A | D | G | B | E |





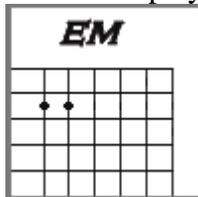
Now, the rest of the notes explained will have to be pressed then that string selected in order for that note to be sounded:

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| F | A# Eb | D# Eb | G# Ab | C | F | 1 st Fret |
| Eb | B | E | A | C# Db | F# Gb | 2 nd Fret |
| F# Gb | C | F | A# Bb | D | G | 3 rd Fret |
| G# Ab | C# Db | F# Gb | B | D# Eb | G# Ab | 4 th Fret |
| A | D | G | C | E | A | 5 th Fret |

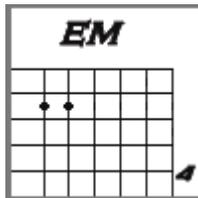
Note that some notes have dual names as their formal note depends on what note is needed to make-up a chord.

A chord is a series of notes that when played together form a sound. This book uses two and three note chords.

For simplicity, most standard sheet music shows chord charts. These are little square boxes that appear on the music. Reading the chord charts are easy – one selects the notes that the chord chart displays. Example:



This chart states that on the second fret of the guitar the fourth and fifth notes should be selected then either strummed with ones thumb or use a guitar pick¹ – strumming all the notes with the two notes selected – makes up a Em chord. Sometimes what fret to be selected is stated in the chord chart ->



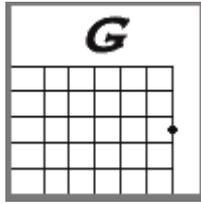
this means that on the fourth fret one should select the fourth and fifth notes – then strum all notes.

¹ Hint – I cut-up old credit cards and shape the picks of all sorts myself – it’s fun and cheap!





The second chord presented is a simple G chord – this chord can be played by pressing just one string and one note then strumming the guitar.



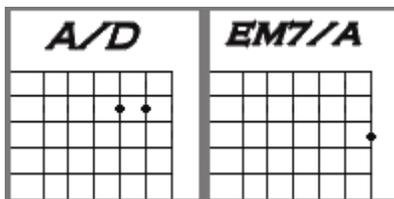
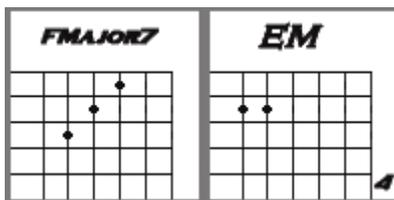
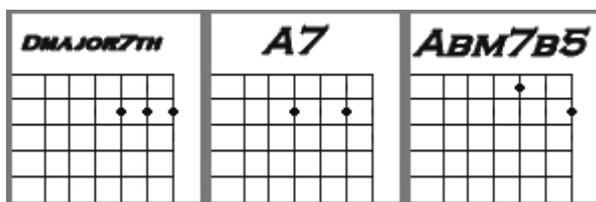
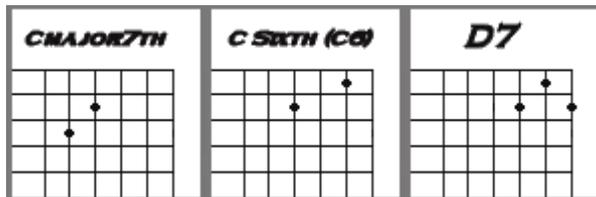
So to play these two chords that you just learned the Em and G chords one-after the other makes a nice sound:





Lesson 2 – Easy Chord Progressions

Other chord progressions to strum include:





| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| G6/B | CADD9 | EM7/A |
| | | |



| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Bsus4/A | EM | CMAJOR7TH | EM |
| | | | |



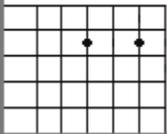
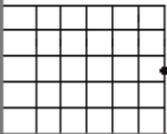
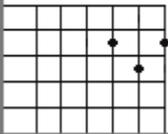
| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| AM7/D | D7 | F# |
| | | |



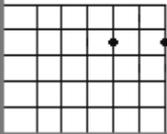
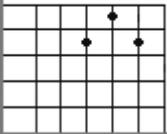
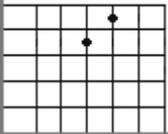
| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| EM9/D | EM | CMAJOR7TH |
| | | |





| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <i>A7</i> | <i>EM7/A</i> | <i>D</i> |
|  |  |  |



| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <i>D6</i> | <i>C#M/E</i> | <i>E/A</i> |
|  |  |  |





Lesson 3 – Finger picking the Chords 4/4 Style

With finger picking – instead of chords being strummed they are selected and picked gracefully which create a whole new sound. Taking the same chord progressions shown thus far and finger picking creates a whole new style. The following style shown below is what is known as 4/4 style. When first learning this style I use to play the guitar with my back against a wall so that my hands would be in the right position and stay in place easily.

Example – placing ones hands in a D chord position then finger picking the chord by selecting the strings with ones thumb (T), index finger (I) and middle finger (M) as such:

D

T I T M T I T M

***T = THUMB
I = INDEX
M = MIDDLE***

Then keep repeating until the next chord is selected.

This creates a whole new variety of musical fun. One can now merely by just finger picking the chords – play just about any song with a mesmerizing style.





The below image shows where my hands are as I finger pick a chord:





Lesson 4 – Finger picking the Chords 3/4 Arpeggio Style

Similar to 4/4 finger picking – instead of chords being strummed – they are selected and picked – gracefully which creates a whole new sound. Taking the same chord progressions shown thus far and finger picking creates a whole new style. The following style shown below is what is known as 3/4 style. When first learning this style I use to play the guitar with my back against a wall so that my hands would be in the right position and stay in place easily.

Example – placing ones hands in an Em chord position then finger picking the chord by selecting the strings with ones thumb (T), index finger (I), middle finger (M) and ring finger (R) as such:

EM

T I M R M I

T = THUMB
I = INDEX
M = MIDDLE
R = RING

Then keep repeating until the next chord is selected.

It is a matter of alternating the fingers which alternates the bass notes as well (typically strings 4,5,6).

This creates a whole new variety of musical fun. One can now merely by just finger picking the chords – play just about any song with a dashing new style.

For additional fun – mix and match the 4/4 and 3/4 style between chords – play the first chord in 4/4 style – then the second in 3/4 style.





About the Author

Kevin O'Neill has been playing guitar since college. While in Jr. High and High School he took piano lessons but found he liked the guitar much better. Mr. O'Neill has a minor in music from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He writes music in his spare time and has recorded several hundred original songs. Mr. O'Neill lives in Canonsburg, PA with his wife and two children.

