

Guitar Learner's Magic Bullet

Basic Chord Theory, Just for Guitar

Handbook

by Lisa McCormick
GettingStartedWithGuitar.net

Guitar Learner's Magic Bullet

Basic Chord Theory, Just for Guitar

These are all the chords that are covered in this course.

Master Chord Chart

Major Chords →

Minor Chords →

C minor & C# minor are Barre Chords or Beyond 1st Position

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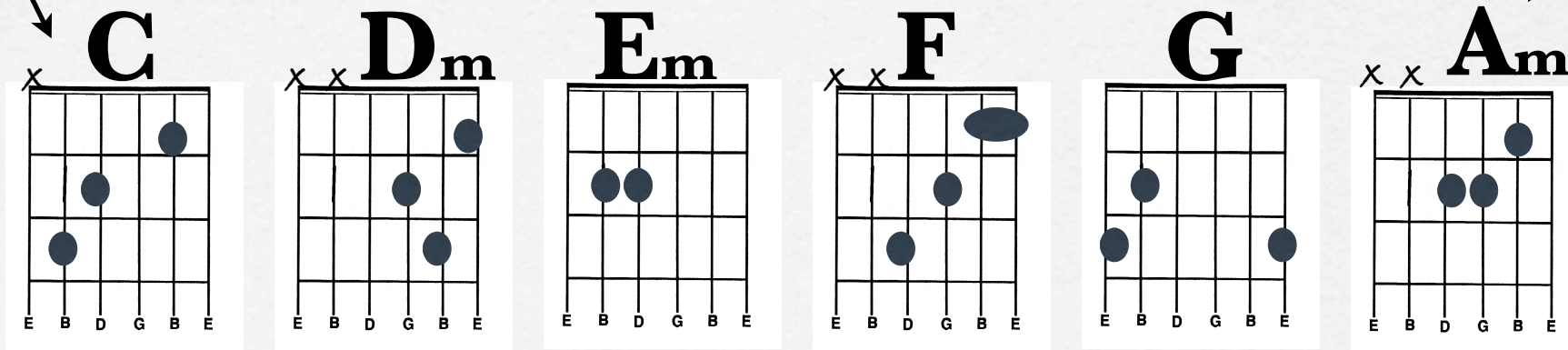
Basic Chord Theory, Just for Guitar

Chords in the Key of C

- I = C
- II = Dm
- III = Em
- IV = F
- V = G
- VI = Am

Quickstart:
Just the Major
Chords
C, F, G

Tip:
Most likely minor:
Am



I
Major

II
minor

III
minor

IV
Major

V
Major

VI
relative
minor

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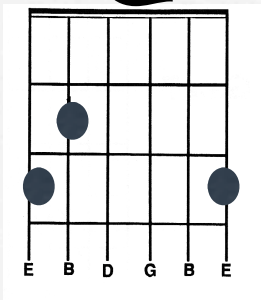
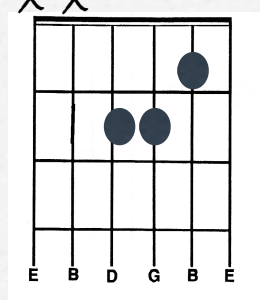
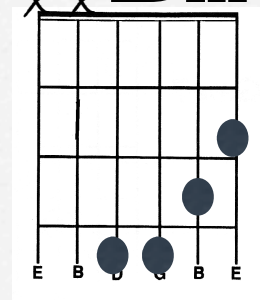
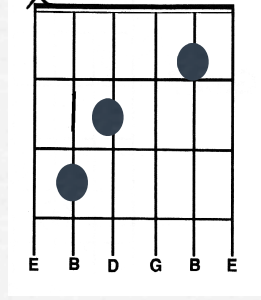
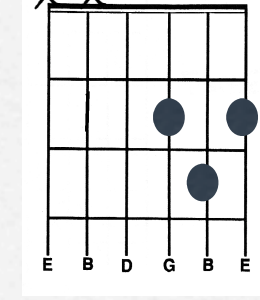
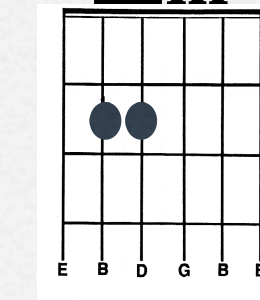
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Chords in the Key of G

- I = G
- II = Am
- III = Bm
- IV = C
- V = D
- VI = Em

Quickstart:
Just the Major
Chords
G, C, D

Tip:
Most likely minor:
Em

					
I Major	II minor	III minor	IV Major	V Major	VI relative minor

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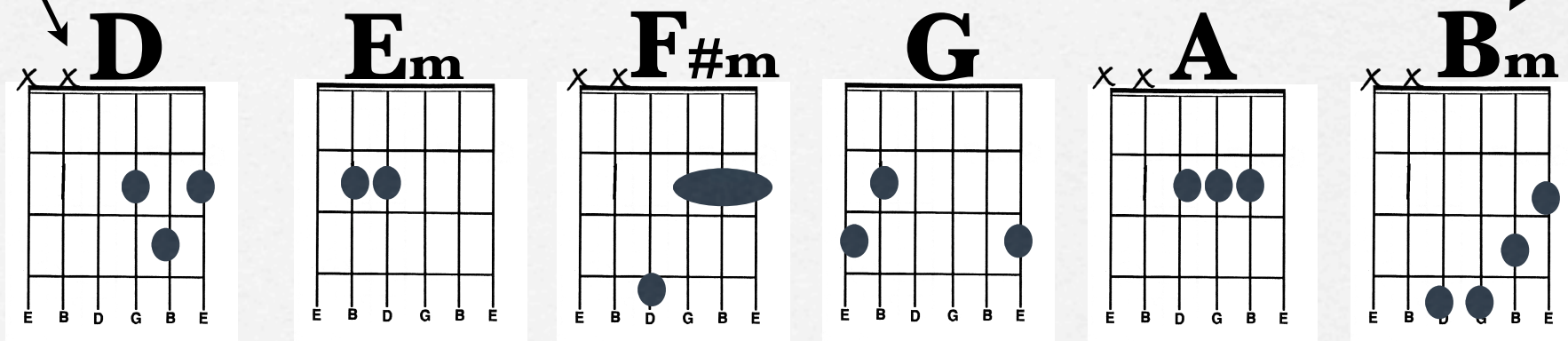
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Chords in the Key of D

- I = D
- II = Em
- III = F#m
- IV = G
- V = A
- VI = Bm

Quickstart:
Just the Major
Chords
D, G, A

Tip:
Most likely minor:
Bm



I
Major

II
minor

III
minor

IV
Major

V
Major

VI
relative
minor

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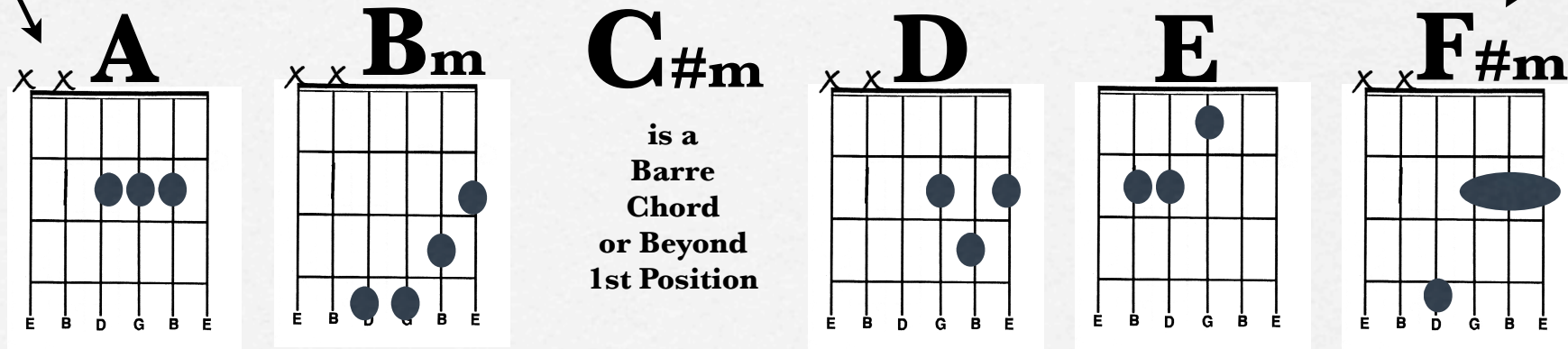
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Chords in the Key of A

- I = A
- II = Bm
- III = C#m
- IV = D
- V = E
- VI = F#m

Quickstart:
Just the Major
Chords
A, D, E

Tip:
Most likely minor:
F#m



I
Major

II
minor

III
minor

IV
Major

V
Major

VI
relative
minor

C#m
is a
Barre
Chord
or Beyond
1st Position

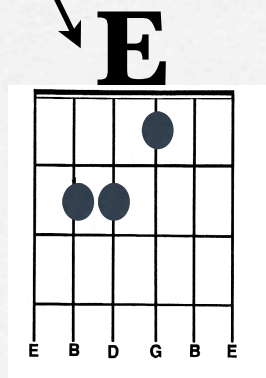
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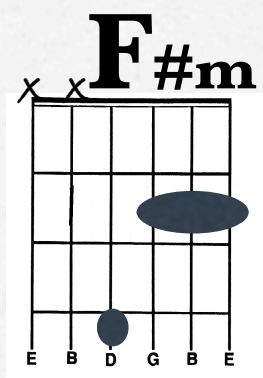
Chords in the Key of E

- I = E
- II = F#m
- III = G#m
- IV = A
- V = B
- VI = C#m

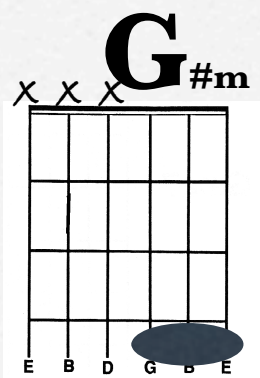
Quickstart:
Just the Major
Chords
E, A, B



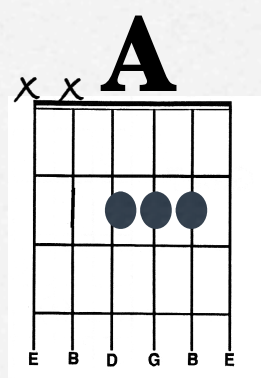
I
Major



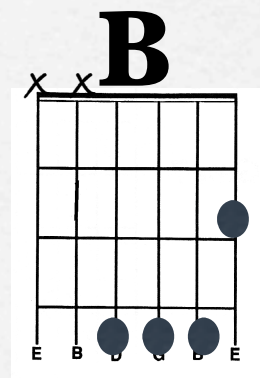
II
minor



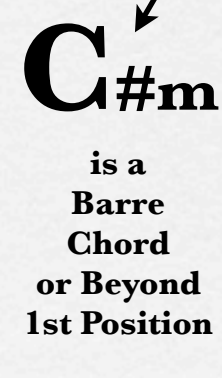
III
minor



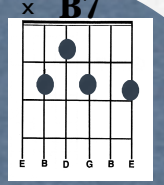
IV
Major



V
Major



VI
relative
minor

TIP: 
Try B7
in place of B

Tip:
Most likely minor:
C#m

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Write your own chord progressions

Tip: try the **I, IV, V, & VI** for starters.

Place the **I** in the first measure.
Mix up the order of the other chords.
Experiment with different rhythms and techniques.

example: key of G

G | Em | C | D

Can you play this on your guitar?
Can you transpose it to another key?

| | | :

this symbol means repeat what you just played

| | | :

| | | :

| | | :

Now, try adding in the **II** and/or the **III**. Shuffle the order until you're happy with your masterpiece.

Can you add some lyrics?

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Write your own chord progressions

||: | | | :|| ||: | | | :||

||: | | | :|| ||: | | | :||

||: | | | :|| ||: | | | :||

Can you write a longer phrase? It's fine to use chords more than once in a phrase.

||: | | | | | | | :||

||: | | | | | | | :||

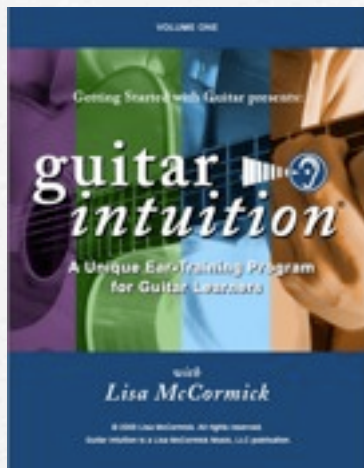
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Additional Resources

from Lisa McCormick

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GUITAR INTUITION
Audio Ear-Training
Program just for
guitar learners.
Practice just by listening!

- * Chord Identification
- * Chord Recognition
- * Major vs. Minor
- * Chord Sequences

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and Resources for
Guitar Learners.



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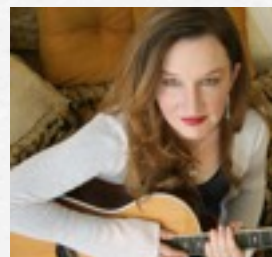
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EASIEST HOLIDAY SONGS
EVER for GUITAR
18 Classics you
probably know,
all with just the chords
G, C, and D.
Now, you can transpose
these songs into any of
five different keys
with ease!

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