



**SUPER SIMPLE GUITAR.ORG**

# FINALLY

## A SIMPLE CHORD BOOK!

- Easy to read
- All the important chords
- Real guitar examples



**HENRY OLSEN**

## INTRODUCTION

Hi, my name is Henry Olsen, and I've been teaching guitar professionally for the last three years!

After a while, I got tired of showing people the "standard" way of reading chords and seeing them get totally overwhelmed with confusion. I decided it was time I put an end to this madness and develop an easy-to-read, clear, and simple chord book for beginners and advanced players to learn and look up new chords in.

In the first section of the book, I have included open chords that any beginner guitarist needs to know in order to play all their favorite songs without any difficult barre chords!

In the second section, I've added variations to those chords that make them sound a bit more colorful. These chords will come in very handy, and you will see them in TONS of modern songs.

In the last section, I'll be teaching you how to take just one chord and turn it into 12 chords just by sliding it up and down the neck of the guitar. I've watched many of my private students have a HUGE "ah-ha!" moment using this system, and I can't wait to share it with you!

My goal is to make the simplest and easiest to understand chord book you'll ever find. Please send me an email at [supersimpleguitar1@gmail.com](mailto:supersimpleguitar1@gmail.com) telling me what you think. I would love to hear from you!

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## How To Use This Book

I've set up the book with pictures of a REAL guitar and me playing the chords. It's as if you were one of my private students and I was sitting right in front of you!

Each finger on the left hand has been given a number:

- ① = First finger
- ② = Middle finger
- ③ = Ring finger
- ④ = Pinkie
- ✗ = Don't let string ring



This way you will always know EXACTLY which finger goes where on each separate chord!

On the left side, you can see how I'm holding the chord. On the right side, there is an empty fretboard showing only the numbers, so it's crystal clear EXACTLY what notes are being played.

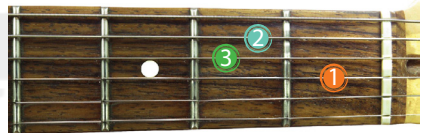
Super simple, right?



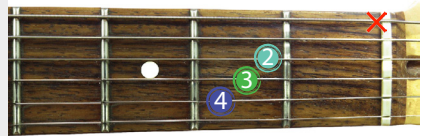
# Most Common Beginner Chords



E major



A major

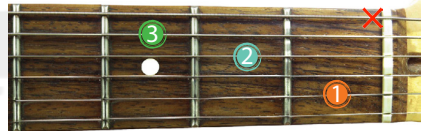


D major

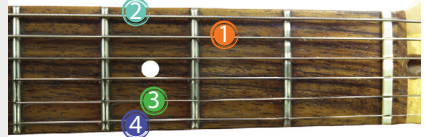




C major



G major

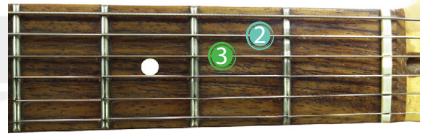


F major

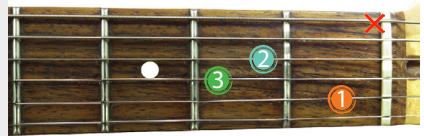




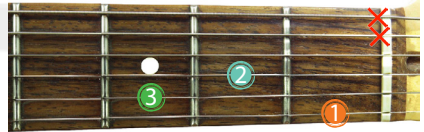
E minor



A minor

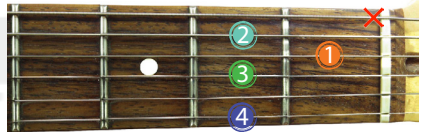


D minor





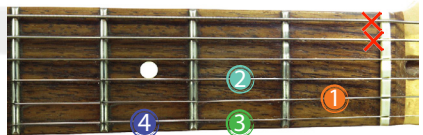
B 7



B minor (easy)



D 7 sus4

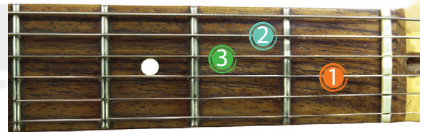




## E Chord Variations



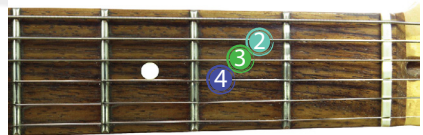
E major



E7

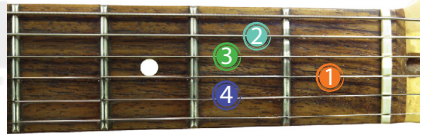


E sus4

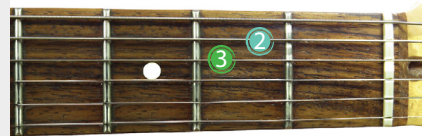




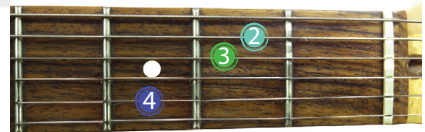
E 6



E minor



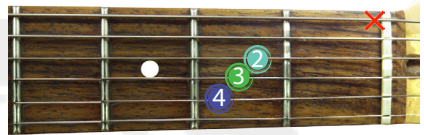
E minor 7



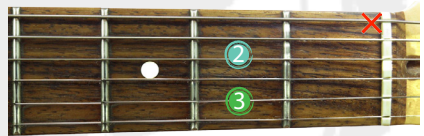
## A Chords Variations



A major



A 7



A 7 variation





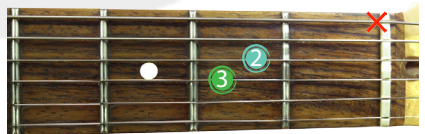
A major 7



A sus4

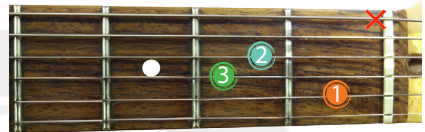


A sus2





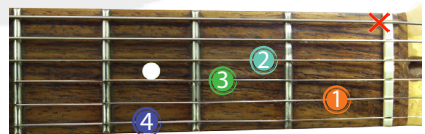
A minor



A minor 7



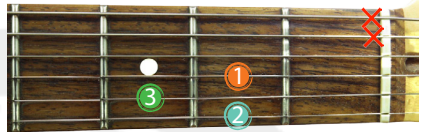
A minor 7 variation



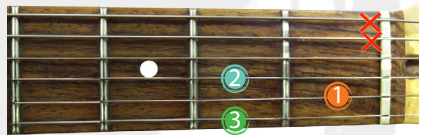
## D Chord Variations



D major



D7



D major 7

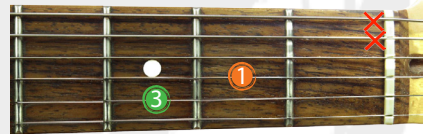




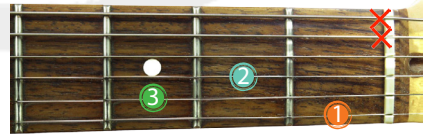
D sus4



D sus2



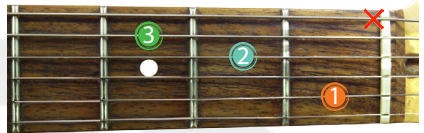
D minor



## C Chord Variations



C major



C7



C major 7



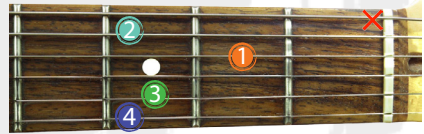




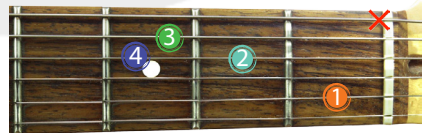
C add 9



C add 9 variation



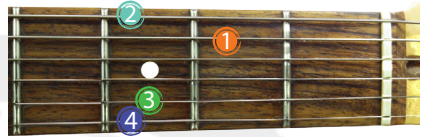
C sus4



## G Chord Variations



G major



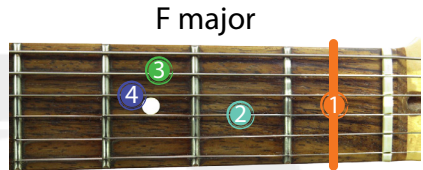
G7



G sus4



## F Chord variations





F sus4



F 6



F add 9



## How to Build 12 Chords with Just One Shape

In order to create 12 chords out of just one shape, we need to know the notes on the 6th string of the guitar. Let's take a look at the guitar neck

I've written down the names of the notes on the sixth string of the guitar, leaving out the sharps and flats.

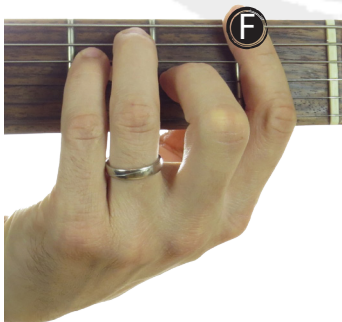


I have also colored in the notes just to create clarity. We are going to be using these notes in the examples.

Now let's get into our first shape. I'm going to call it the "F major shape."

Example 1:

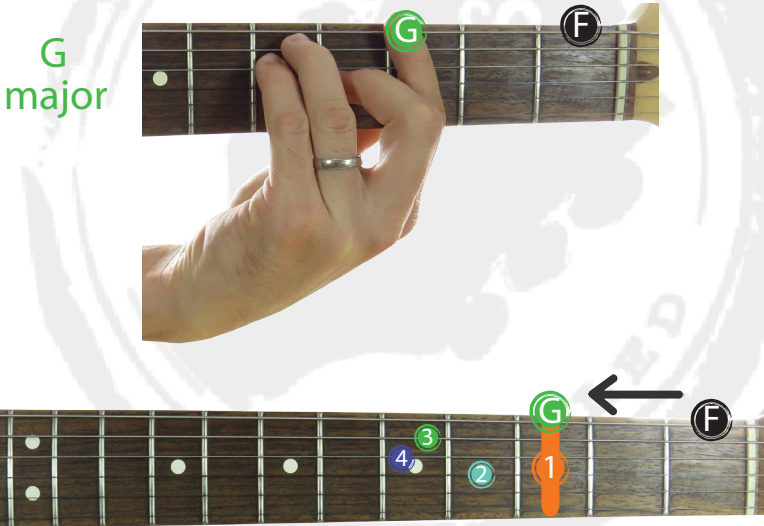
The F major shape



What I want you to notice is that when we use the “F major shape”, the note being played on the sixth string is an F. I’m only calling this the “F major shape” in order for you to remember the shape, NOT THE CHORD! The chord is always going to be determined by the NOTE ON THE SIXTH STRING!

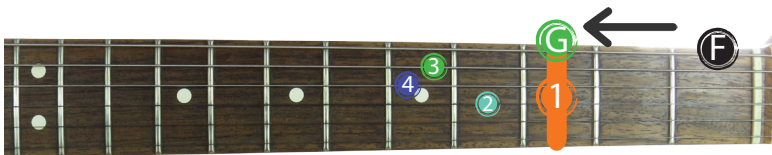
Now let’s take our “F major shape” and turn it into a **G major chord**, using the exact same shape.

Example 2: Using the “F major shape” to play a **G major**



As you can see, the shape is still exactly the same. The only difference is that I’ve pushed it two frets up the fretboard. Notice that the sixth string **G** note determines the chord.

Now let's take a look at the two next to each other!

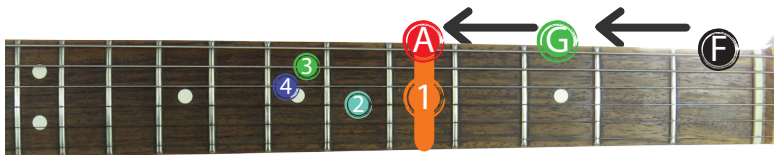


By now, I'm really hoping you're having one of those "AH-HA!" moments.

Just in case you're not, I'll give one more example using the "F major shape" to play a **A major chord**.



You see, the **SHAPE NEVER CHANGES**, but the **CHORD DOES** as we slide up and down the neck of the guitar. This, my friend, is how we can play 12 chords just by sliding **ONE SHAPE** up and down the guitar fretboard.





## Other Shapes

Let's quickly recap what we've learned so far...

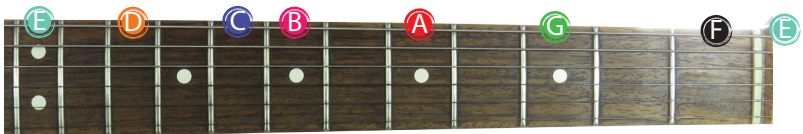
1. We can take certain, specific shapes and create 12 chords out of them, just by sliding up and down the fretboard.
2. The note on the sixth string of the guitar determines the name of the chord.
3. Our shape can slide to any fret, and the sixth string note will determine the chord name.

So now that we understand movable chord shapes and how to determine their names, I bet you're wondering if there are any other chord shapes that can just slide around. The answer is...

# YES!

First I'm going to show you 12 sixth string root note chord shapes like we did with the "F major shape," and then we're going to move on to fifth and fourth string root note movable chord shapes.

Before we move on, let's take a look at the guitar fretboard again. I hope you can see the importance of memorizing the sixth string notes! If you know your shapes and the sixth string notes, you can play different chords all over the neck totally freely. First try to memorize the notes I've colored in for you, then you can easily fill in the blanks with a sharp or a flat.



## What Are Sharps and Flats?

Here's what a sharp and flat symbols look like, in case you don't already know.



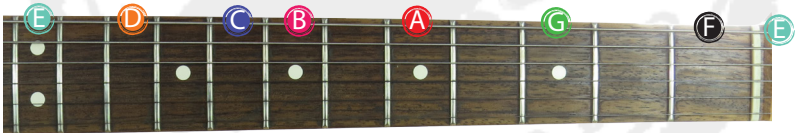
Sharp



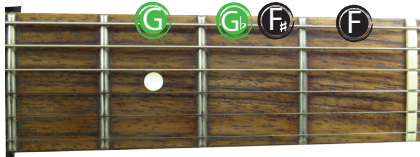
Flat

A sharp simply means taking a note and raising it one fret up the fretboard. A flat simply means taking a note and lowering it one fret down the fretboard.

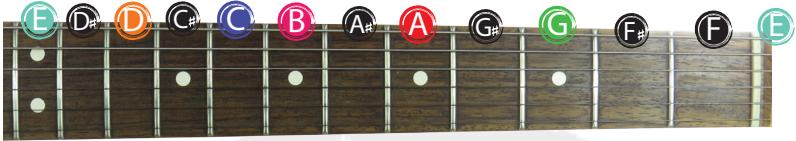
Now let's take a look at the fretboard again. It only has perfect notes in this picture (no sharps or flats).



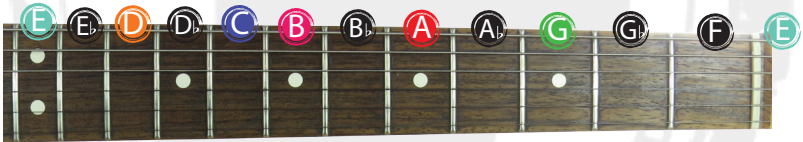
Now let's find an F sharp and G flat! You can see the SAME NOTE has two names: F sharp and G flat. This rule works with all the notes except between E to F and B to C; they are simply next to each other with no fret in between.



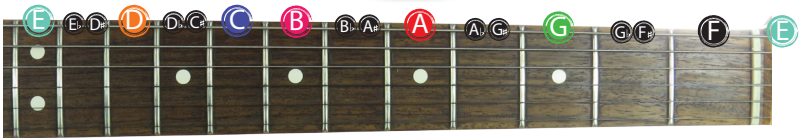
Now let's take a look at the fretboard that includes the sharp notes. You can see I've taken the F, G, A, C, D and pushed them one fret up the fretboard, creating sharps.



Now let's do the same thing with flats! You can see that now I took those same notes and pushed them down the neck of the guitar, creating flats. This can be quite confusing at first, but just take your time to understand it. The important thing to remember is that no matter what we call the note (flat or sharp), it sounds EXACTLY the same and is the SAME NOTE!



Here is one more picture of the sixth string notes that includes both sharps and flats. Remember, the notes are EXACTLY THE SAME; they just have two different names. You can choose which one you prefer, sharp or flat.



Let's recap what we've learned so far again!

1. We can take certain, specific chord shapes and create 12 chords out of them just by sliding up and down the fretboard.

2. The note on the sixth string of the guitar determines the name of the chord.

3. It can be any fret (including sharps or flats), but the note on the sixth will determine the chord name.

4. The musical alphabet has 12 notes when we include sharps and flats.

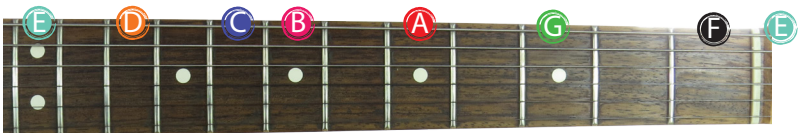
5. If we raise a note one fret, we have sharpened it, and if we lower a note, we have flattened it.

6. The musical alphabet starts with the note A, including sharps and flats.

A, A# or Bb, B, C, C# or Db, D, D# or Eb, E, F, F# or Gb, G, G# or Ab, A— then repeat!

7. The musical alphabet never changes and always repeats.

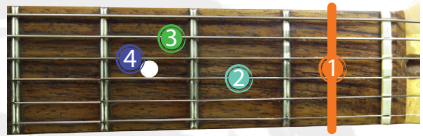
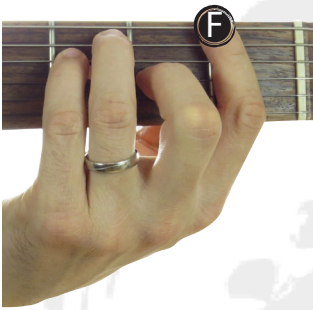
8. Start learning the sixth string notes by skipping the sharps and flats then simply fill in the blanks when you know them well enough.



## Sixth String Movable Chord Shapes

Now that we understand how to slide chord shapes around, it's time to learn the most used sixth string chord shapes! You can slide ALL of these to the note of choice on the sixth string, and it will determine the chord name.

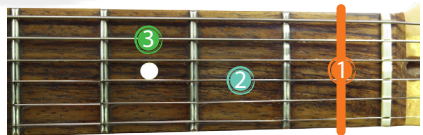
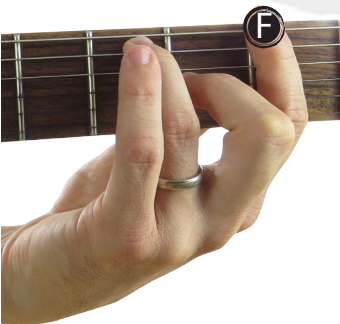
F major shape

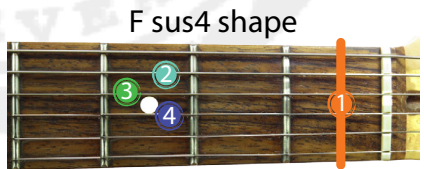
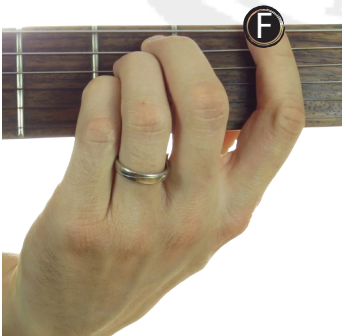


F minor shape



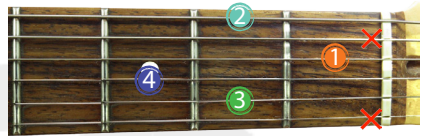
F 7 shape







F # 6 shape



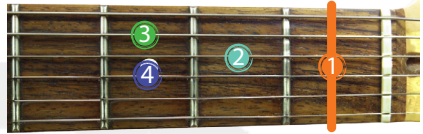
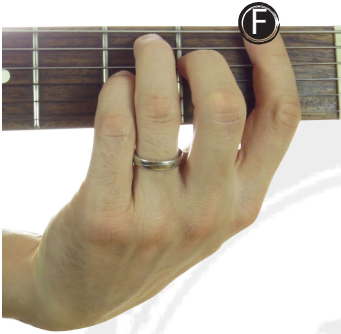
F 5 shape



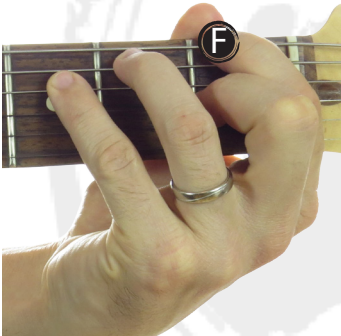
F 5 shape variation



### F major 7 sus4 shape



### F dim shape



### F aug shape





My friend, with just these 12 shapes I've showed you so far, you could play 144 chords just by sliding them up and down the fretboard to the note of your choice! 12 shapes x 12 possible notes in the musical alphabet = 144  
 NOW LET'S learn some more!

## Fifth String Root Note Chords

Now that you learned to play 144 chords in just minutes, let's take a look at fifth string root note chords!

The system never changes; the only difference is that the fifth string notes will determine the chord name. In order for us to use the system, all we need to know is the names of the notes on the fifth string, the same as we did with the sixth string.

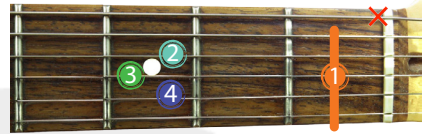
Let's take a look at the fretboard again, this time looking at the fifth string notes.



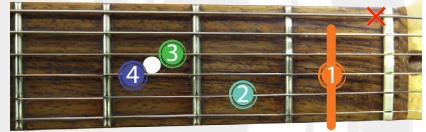
Again, I've left out the sharps and flats just to keep things simple!

Remember, with all of the shapes using the fifth string root notes, the note being played on the fifth string will determine the name of the chord. We can slide it to any note—just like we did in the sixth string examples.

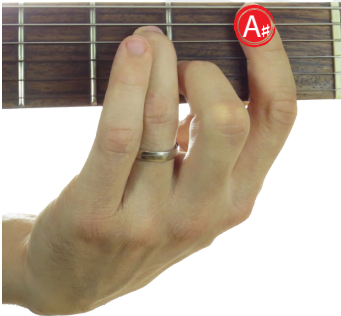
### A # major shape



### A # minor shape

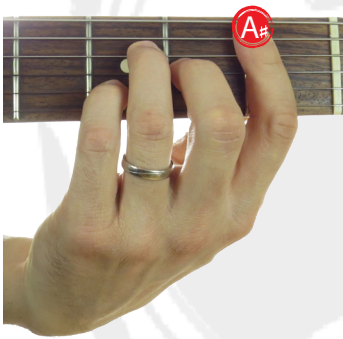
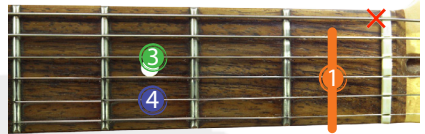


### A # minor 7 shape

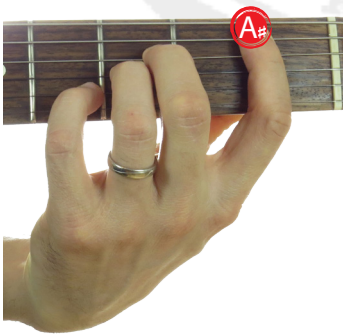




A # 7 shape



A # major 7 Shape

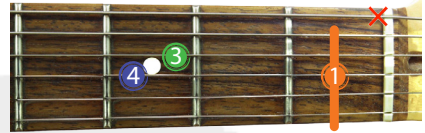


A # sus4 Shape





A # sus2 shape



A # dim shape



A # 5 shape





C 7 Shape



C # major shape



C # major 7 shape



## Forth String Root Note Chords

We've learned 288 chords in just a few minutes with 24 chord shapes so far! Remember, these are the same chord shapes that ALL the chord books will teach you. They just won't tell you that most shapes are movable. Instead, most books will print out the same shape 12 times, using each note on the fretboard. I hope you can see how much time I'm saving you with this

**"super simple chord system."**

Okay, just the fourth string left to go—let's take a look at the fretboard again!



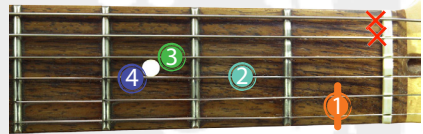
The system again is the same. Spend a little time learning the notes on the fourth string and you're **ready to rock!**



### F major shape



### F sus4 shape



### F 6 shape



### D # minor shape



### D # sus2 shape



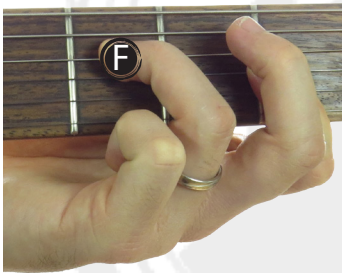
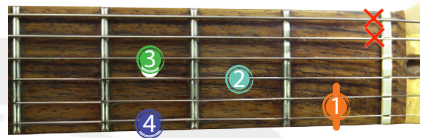
### D # dim shape







F add 9 shape



F minor shape



F minor 7 shape



My friend, with the 33 shapes I've just shown you, you will be able to build

## 396 Chords!

Please feel free to write to me to tell me what you think. Also feel free to ask me any questions if there is something you didn't understand!

[supersimpleguitar1@gmail.com](mailto:supersimpleguitar1@gmail.com)

I hope we can stay in touch :-)  
Henry

