

Arpeggios: Tips for the Fretting Hand

1. The fretting fingers need to be as close to the frets as possible without touching them.
2. Bend the knuckles so the tips of the fretting fingers are pushing down on the strings.
3. Avoid *muting* strings by not having the fingers lean on other strings.



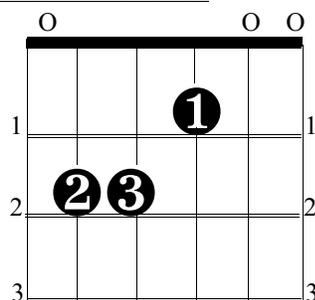
Arching fingers

Arpeggios: Tips for the Right Hand

Many beginners tend to apply too much pressure plucking the strings with the right hand while not applying enough pressure with the left (*fretting*) hand to fret the strings. The fretting hand controls the clarity of notes played, and beginners should focus on applying extra pressure with the fretting hand until finger strength improves.

Clarity = Left Hand
Volume = Right Hand

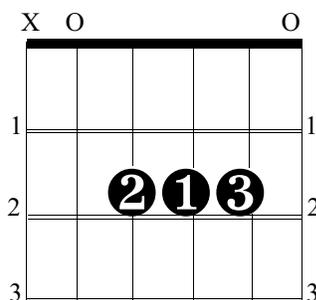
'E' & 'A' Chords



'E'



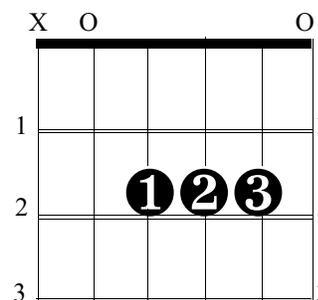
'E'



'A'



'A'



'A' (alt. shape)



'A' (alternate shape)

Alternate 'A' Chord Shape

Regardless of which 'A' chord is played (*both are popular*), all three fingers cannot actually 'fit' directly along the second fret. With the middle 'A' chord for example, the first finger on the third string will be slightly below the second fret, forming more of a 'mini-triangle' shape rather than a straight line.

Bass Notes

The *bass note* of a chord is the lowest sounding string played in the chord. The total number of strings that make up a chord determine the bass note of the chord. For example, a 'G' chord uses all six strings, so the bass note of a 'G' chord is the sixth string. The bass note of a 'C' chord is the fifth string, and the bass note for a 'D' chord will be the fourth string.

Five Chords - Five Seconds Each

A good test to verify if the five basic chords ('G', 'C', 'D', 'E', & 'A') are memorized properly is to have someone randomly 'call off' any of the five chords and to be able to play a clear-sounding arpeggio for each chord *within five seconds*.