

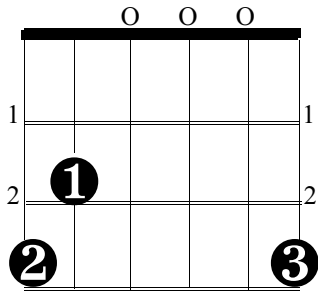
## Basic Major Chords

Learning to play chords is essential for every guitarist. A **chord** consists of three or more notes (or *strings on guitar*) played together in succession. Though there are hundreds of potential chords to play, a beginner guitarist only needs to memorize about several chord shapes in order to start learning some basic guitar songs. The following sections will be an introduction to learning some of the standard, most-often played chords for all styles of guitar music.

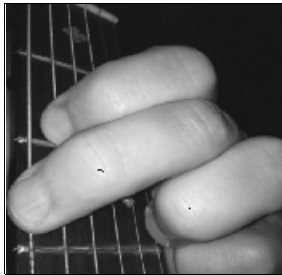
### Reading Chord Diagrams

The **chord diagrams** below present an ‘aerial view’ of the fretboard, with the sixth ‘bottom’ string being on the far left and the first ‘top’ string being on the far right. The fingers numbers to fret with are shown in black circles. The double lines represent the frets and are numbered. The thick black line on top represents the ‘nut’ or the open ‘0’ fret position. The ‘x’ above each string means the string is not played, while the ‘o’ above each string means the string is played ‘open’ (*not fretted*). Below each diagram is a corresponding photo of each chord.

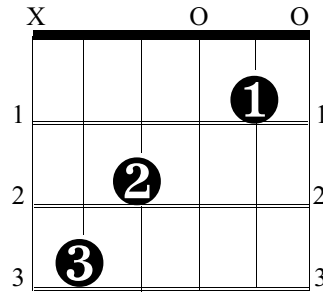
### Chord Diagrams



‘G’



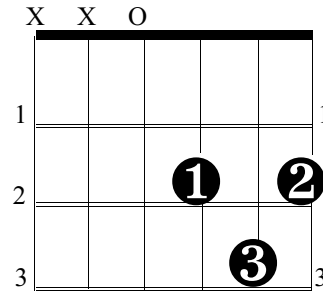
‘G’



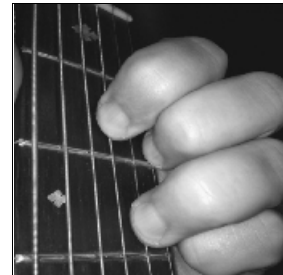
‘C’



‘C’



‘D’



‘D’

### Playing Arpeggios

The best way to learn chords is to initially play them as *arpeggios*. An *arpeggio* is when each string is plucked individually instead of strumming all of the strings at once. The Tab below shows how to play each ‘G’, ‘C’, and ‘D’ chord as an arpeggio. While fretting the entire chord with the left hand, use the right hand thumb to pluck each string and try to make each note ring or sustain clearly:

#### ‘G’ arpeggio

#### ‘C’ arpeggio

#### ‘D’ arpeggio

1		3		0		2
2		0		1		3
3		0		0		2
4		0		2		0
5		2		3		
6		3				