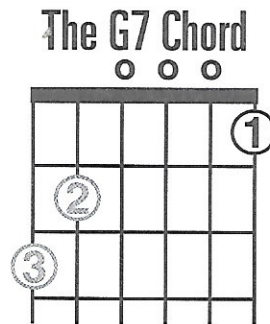
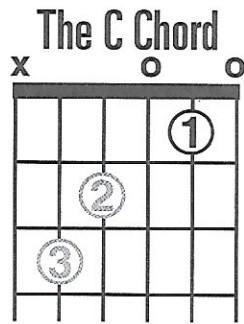
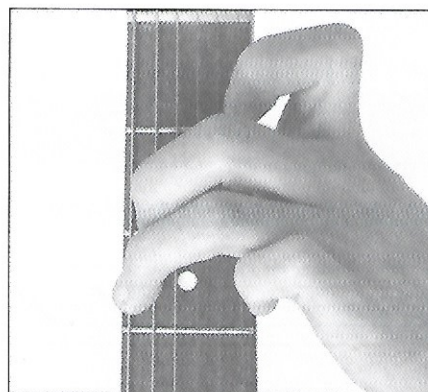
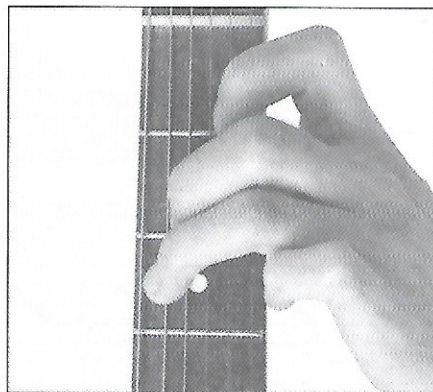


PLAYING CHORDS

A **chord** is sounded when more than two notes or strings are played at the same time. To begin you will be playing chords on three strings with only one finger depressed. Disregard the light gray finger numbers on strings 4, 5, and 6 until you can easily play the one-finger versions of the chords below.



Study the illustrations for the chords above. An “o” above a string indicates that the string should be played “open” (not depressed by a finger). An “x” above a string indicates that the string should not be strummed. Refer to the hand positions in the photos below for additional visual guidance.



Depress the strings indicated with the tips of your fingers. Arch your fingers to avoid touching strings that are to be played open. Strum over the strings with a downward motion. All strings should sound as one, not separately.

Practice the following exercise strumming once for each slash mark. Keep a steady beat, and change chord fingerings quickly.

33

Now apply this strum to the song below.

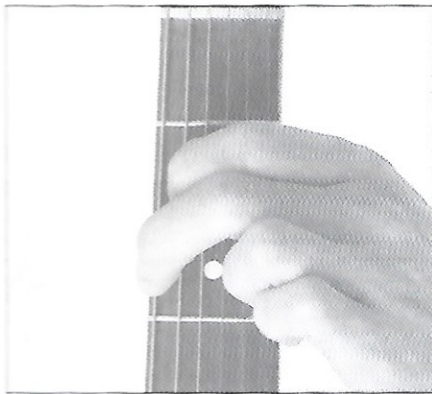
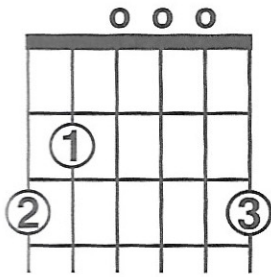
TOM DOOLEY

Traditional

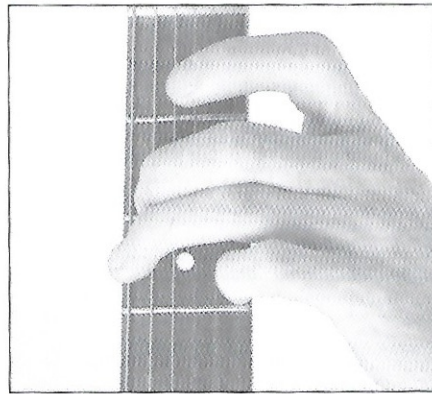
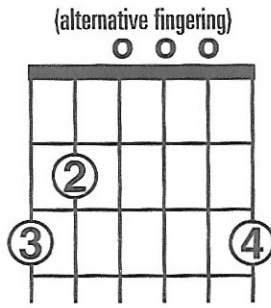
34

Next, let's try two more chords: G and D7. Notice that the G chord can be played two different ways.

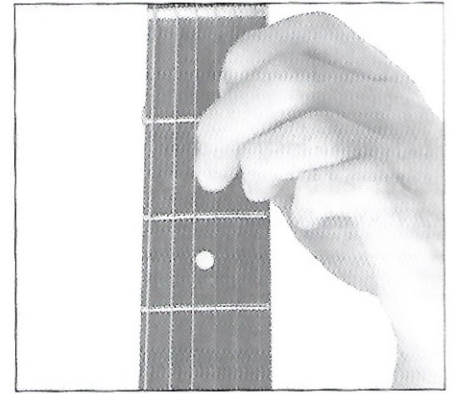
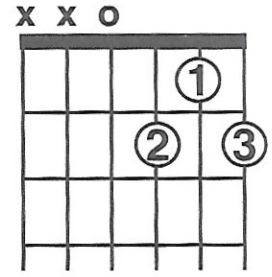
The G Chord



The G Chord (alternative fingering)



The D7 Chord



Strum once for each slash mark below.

G

D7



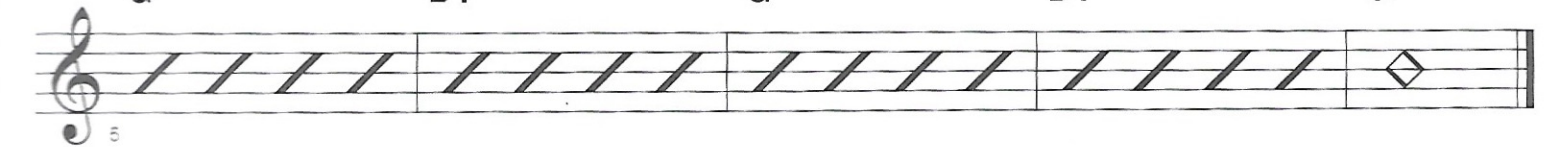
G

D7

G

D7

G



Review the fingering for the C chord and then practice Exercise 36 until you can play it well. Whenever you are moving between the C chord and the D7 chord, keep the first finger down.

G

C

D7

G



PAY ME MY MONEY DOWN

Georgia Sea Islands

G

D7



G



The following exercises use the four chords you have learned so far. The chords are arranged in sequences called **chord progressions**.

8

G D7 C D7

9

C G7 C G7 C

10

G C D7 C G C D7 C

MOVING FROM CHORD TO CHORD

As you are playing one chord, look ahead to the next and get your fingers in position. Then, switch chords using a minimum of hand motion.

Trade off strumming the chords and playing the melody with your teacher or a friend.

12-BAR ROCK

1

G

C G

D7 C G

PICKUP NOTES

Music doesn't always begin on beat one. When you begin after beat one, the notes before the first full measure are called **pickup notes**. Following are two examples of pickup notes. Count the missing beats out loud before you begin playing.

30

(1 2 3) 4 1 2 3 4

(1 2) 3 4 1 - 2 3 - 4

When a song begins with pickup notes, the last measure will be short the exact number of beats used as pickups.

WORRIED MAN BLUES

31

PICKUP ↓ G

It takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song.

COUNT: 4 1

C

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. It

9

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. I'm wor-ried

D7

now, yes now, but I won't be wor-ried long.

G

32

C G7

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. I'm wor-ried

COUNT: 3 4 1

C

takes a wor-ried man to sing a wor-ried song. I'm wor-ried

The following exercises use the four chords you have learned so far. The chords are arranged in sequences called **chord progressions**.

38

G D7 C D7

39

C G7 C G7 C

40

G C D7 C G C D7 C

MOVING FROM CHORD TO CHORD

As you are playing one chord, look ahead to the next and get your fingers in position. Then, switch chords using a minimum of hand motion.

Trade off strumming the chords and playing the melody with your teacher or a friend.

12-BAR ROCK

41

TIES

A curved line which connects two notes of the same pitch is called a **tie**. The first note is struck and held for the value of both notes. The second note should not be played again. Look at the following example of tied notes.

42

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 1 2 3 - 4 - 1 - 2 3 4 - 1 2 - 3 - 4

5 BEATS 4 BEATS 2 BEATS

Practice trading off on melody and chords in these pieces.

AMAZING GRACE

43

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound that
 saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but
 now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Chords: G, C, D7, G, C, G, D7, G

Beat counts: 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2, 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2

RIFFIN'

44

Chords: D7, G7, D7, A7, G7, D7