

Here are some tips for you to help you learn faster, and get playing songs.

I've been teaching since the mid 1970's. And my students learn FAST!  
So read this over. Print it out. Keep it handy.

I promise you, if you practice the chords **the way I show you below**,  
**in 3 months you'll be better than most 1 year beginners!**

I'm going to teach you some of the "**tricks**" that will absolutely GUARANTEE  
you'll learn how to play guitar (or ANY chorded instrument!) FASTER than  
you ever thought possible!!!!

I'll point out these "**tricks**" as we go along.

**DO . . . NOT . . . MISS THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH TRICK !!!!!**

WHEN I MARK A SECTION AS A "**TRICK**", **READ IT AGAIN!**

**Because it's going to trim 9 months off your 1st year!** You could say  
I make it easy. BUT . . . **it's going to be work!**

I introduce some more difficult chords right from the start! Don't get frustrated  
if you can't play them well right away!!!! I introduce them early because they take a little  
longer to get down. So by the time you get through the 1<sup>st</sup> set of exercises, when you get to  
where you really need to know the tougher chords, you'll already have them down!!!

**Commit to this for just 3 months, and you're gonna be loving it!**

Trust me, it gets easier as you go! **The 1st few weeks are the toughest!**

Don't even try to do more than a step at a time! Below is enough info to take you well into the  
player realm! Trust me. Take it slow. In a very short time, just a few short months, you're  
going to be playing a LOT of songs!

**Learn chords in "key sets", so you can play a whole song.**

To have the most fun "playing" guitar while you're learning, and practicing, you need to be able  
to play songs you recognize right away!

There are a kazillion chords! And with no direction, you could start learning a bunch of chords,  
and get board because you don't know what to do with the chords you're learning.

So we're going to focus on one key at a time. Learn 4 chords to start. Then, by adding a chord  
or two, you get another key! The chords in different keys "overlap".

EX: If you learn the chords in the order I show you below . . .

The 4 most used chords in the key of **G** are: **G Em C D**

The 4 most used chords in the key of **C** are: **C Am F G**  
(You already know C & G)

The 4 most used chords in the key of **D** are: **D Bm G A**  
(You already know D & G)

3 of the 4 most used chords in the key of **Em** are: **Em Am Bm**.  
(You already know Em, Am & Bm) **Your first freebie key! Em**

The 4 most used chords in the key of **A** are: **A F#m D E**  
(You already know A & D)

The 4 most used chords in the key of **E** are: **E C#m A B**  
(You already know E & A)

The 4 most used chords in the key of **Em**, including B: **Em Am Bm (or B)** . . .  
(You already know Em, Am, Bm & B)

For the most part, any song can be played in any key. So if you have enough chords in your chord library to be able to play in just ONE KEY, and learn how to transpose a song from one key to another, you'll be able to quickly play 100's of songs in a short while!

**The trick is . . . learn a dozen or so chords right away, and learn how to transpose! (Your first 4 chords get you on your way to playing many songs!)**

So you start by learning just four chords. **G Em C D for the key of G**.  
Next you add only 2 more chords to learn another full key! Add **Am**  
and **F**, you can now play in two keys! Just by learning two more chords! Because you already know how to play the C and G. **C Am F G** for the key of C.

Each time you move on to learn the next key, you'll only need to add a couple chords, sometimes only one! **IF . . . if you learn them in the correct order!**

I suggest learning chords in this order . . . .

**1). Key of G: G Em C D**

Now you can play a lot of tunes in the key of **G**. These are the 4 chords most commonly used in **G**.

There are literally 100s of songs you can play using only these four chords. And hundreds more using only three of them! **G C & D!!!**

Hundreds of Folk and Country tunes. Old Rock n Roll tunes. Some great Classic Rock tunes . . . and 100s of newer tunes that have been on the Hit Charts over the past, AND recent years!

Blues . . . most Blues tunes use three chords. In the key of **G**, they are **G C & D!**

Folk tunes! Country tunes. Campfire tunes. For the most part, these songs all use 3 or 4 chords. Occasionally 5.

## **100s of tunes!**

Once you can at least make each of the 4 chords, and know their names, it's time to practice them. When you practice them, start with the **G**. Play the **G** with **each** of the other chords. Like this . . .

/ = a strum, or a count. % = "REPEAT" So **G/// %** means **G234 G234**

4/4 is common time. Most songs are in common time. 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3/4 is also fairly common. Waltz time. **G// %** means **G23 G23**

**For now . . .** Play **G** with your 2nd, 3rd and 4th finger. Pinky on 1st string, 3rd fret!! Your 2nd finger will help you move to each chord more quickly. Because it's the "common" finger for these 2 chords.

Now play **G**. Play it again. And again!

NOW . . . play it using your 1st three fingers!

***Huh? YEAH! You need to be able to play G, BOTH WAYS!***

**This is one of the "tricks" to learning how to play . . . FAST!**

**(Reminder . . . If I mention a "trick", read it again! And DON'T miss the significance of it!**

I hear ya. "Some teachers say play it one way. Then another teacher says play it the other way! I'm confused. Which one is correct?"

They BOTH are! You need to eventually be able to play the same chords, using different fingers. I'll show you exactly why in a little bit.

Trust me on this!

So your first step is to learn how to play a **G** chord, using both sets of fingers. 1 2 & 3, and 2 3 & 4! Let's call them **G1** (1 2 3) and **G2** (2 3 4) for now. *That isn't the correct name for either one.* They're both **G**. Just go with me on this for a little bit.

Your next step is to practice the two, over, and over, and . . .

/ = a strum, or a count. % = "REPEAT". So "**G/// %**" means **G234 G234**

So here we go. You are about to take your first step toward becoming a great guitar player . . . **FAST!**

**Exercise 1:** Play **G1** and **G2** like this . . . but longer!

**G1/// G2/// G1///G2/// % 4X** (minimum)

This is going to be a little awkward at first. But trust me, **NO ONE** teaches it like this. They just keep you coming back for another 30 minute lesson, week after week after week!

I'm gonna get you there . . . **FAST!** But you need to do it the way I'm showing you from the very beginning!

**Exercise 2:** Learn 3 more chords. **Em, C & D.**

Now practice going from **G** to **each** of the other three chords. Start with **G & Em**. This whole exercise will use **G2**.

**G/// Em/// G/// Em/// % 4 X** **Keep your 2nd finger planted** when going back and forth between **G & Em**. **Don't lift finger 2** off the fret board! And If your chart says to make the **G** with your 1st, 2nd and 3rd fingers, **IGNORE IT!**

**Let's add a couple more chord combinations, adding C & D.**

Remember above I said I'd tell you why you use both fingering for **G**? Using **G2** is the best choice for going from **G** to **Em**, or from **G** to **C**. Or from **G** to **G7**, etc.. More about this as we go!

**Developing muscle memory!**

NOTE: It's not enough to be able to go from **G** to **Em**, and **Em** to **C**, and **C** to **D** and **D** to **G**. You need to practice **all combinations** of each chord you learn!

Let's go to **C**. **G/// C/// G/// C/// % 4 X** Note that your 2nd and 3rd fingers keep the same "shape" when moving from **G** to **C**! Try to keep these two fingers together while moving back and forth between **G** & **C**.

Also . . . note how close a **C** and an **F** are. Again, fingers 2 and 3 keep the same shape. More on **F** later.

Now move to **D**. **G/// D/// G/// D/// % 4 X** Sorry, no tips for this one. It's your first tough chord change! But nail it. You're going to use this combination a **LOT** once you're playing songs!

*Now you've practiced going from G to each of the other three chords. But you need to develop muscle memory . . . and practice going from EACH chord to each of the OTHERS!*

**This is one of the "tricks" to learning how to play . . . FAST! (Yeah, read it again!)**

OK, just a few more combinations to go!

Move on to the 2nd chord now, **Em**. **G Em C D**

You've already practiced **G** to **Em**. So now work on the remaining **Em** combinations . . . Do them the same way as above.

**Em/// C/// Em/// C/// % 4 X & Em/// D/// Em/// D/// % 4 X**

That leaves only one more combination . . . **C/// D/// C/// D/// % 4 X**

Now you've practiced going from each chord to all the rest. Any song using these 4 chords will have the chords in "some" kind of order, or progression. If you practice your chords this way, you'll soon be able to go from **any chord** to any **other chord**.

**Note:** If you played **G Em C D a 1000 times**, you could easily go from **G** to **Em** any time. Or from **Em** to **C**. Or from **C** to **D**. BUT . . . you never practiced going from **G** to **D**! Or from **G** to **C**! Or **Em** to **D**! And you won't develop any muscle memory for those changes unless you practice **all** the chords in **ALL combinations**!

Again . . . **This is one of the "tricks" to learning how to play . . . FAST!**

Practice progressions . . .

**G/// Em/// C/// D/// %%%%**

**G/// C/// G/// G/// C/// C/// G/// G/// D/// C/// G/// D/// %%%%**

Give this **several practice sessions** before moving on! **Also, at first it's far better to have a bunch of short sessions per day** than one long one. At first, try to get in 2 or 3, 10 to 15 minute sessions per day.

**NOTE:** It's going from "cold" to "warmed up" **that really makes you improve!** Much more so than practicing for an hour after you are warmed up!

**This is ANOTHER one of the "tricks" to learning how to play . . . FAST!**

(That means READ IT AGAIN!)

Another great practice time is TV commercials! You get 4 to 6 minutes every time there's a commercial break!!!

And you don't have to strum the chords every practice. While watching TV, practice making the chord changes, but don't strum, unless you want to!

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***DON'T BE IN A HURRY TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT KEY!***

*Make sure you can get through ALL of the exercises in G before moving on to C! Each key will come easier to learn than the previous, even though you're learning more difficult chords!*

*If you move on to the next key before you're ready, you won't get "better". You'll just be able to play more chords "poorly"!*

This is . . . you guessed it . . . .

**ANOTHER one of the "tricks" to learning how to play . . . FAST!**

Once you can play the four chords in G, you can start playing any of 100's of songs! I'll give you some song ideas, and tips on how to find them soon!

OK. Next step is learning the key of C! Do this exactly the same way you learned, AND practiced G Em C & D. Except . . . you now have additional combinations to practice. You'll have the combinations for the new chords in the key of C, plus we'll combine the 2 keys so you learn all the combinations!

**Note:** When you start a new key, you go thru **ALL the key exercises** you learned before, **first!** So the day you start working on C, first do your G practice exercises!!!!

**2): Key of C: C Am F G**

Now learn an **F** and **Am** (A minor). Just 2 more chords and you now have the key of **C**. **C Am F G** (The **F** chord will give you the most problem at first.)

## 2 tips about learning an **F** chord:

a). Books & charts will tell you to put your 1st finger across the top "2" strings at the 1st fret. Right from the beginning, bar across "3" strings, not 2! Within a couple/few weeks, you'll learn how to make minor chords by barring 3 strings and lifting off your 2nd finger. That **F** chord is one of many chords called "*moving chords*". Once you can make the **F** (and **Fm**) chord sound clearly, you can move the chords to other frets and you have additional chords! (An **F** chord played on the 3rd fret is another **G** chord! Lift the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger and it's a **Gm**.)

b). When you bar your finger across 2 or more strings, roll your hand slightly toward the head stock. The bone in your finger is closer to the outside surface of your finger (thumb side) than it is to the palm side of your finger.

If you use the soft, fleshy palm side of your finger, you need to press harder to make the notes play clearly. Rolling your hand a little lets you press the strings down with the "bonier" part of your finger. It makes it easier to "barre".

Practice them as you did with the key of **G** chords.

**C/// Am/// C/// Am///**  
**C/// F/// C/// F///**  
**C/// G/// C/// G/// <-- Look familiar?**  
**Am/// F/// Am/// F///**  
**Am/// G/// Am/// G///**  
**F///G/// F/// G///**

Also, practice **F** & **G** by playing the **F** chord, then sliding it up to the 3rd fret. **G**. Only strum the 1st 4 strings!

**F///G/// F/// G/// % 4 X** (Frets 1 and 3) Then practice playing **Fm** & **Gm**.

**Fm/// Gm/// Fm/// Gm/// % 4 X** . . . (Lift the 2nd finger and you're playing the minor chords on frets 1 and 3)

Now add the remaining combinations by **combining both keys G & C** . . .

**Em/// Am/// Em/// Am/// % 4 X**  
**Em/// F/// Em/// F/// % 4 X**  
**D/// Am/// D/// Am/// % 4 X**  
**D/// F/// D/// F/// % AT LEAST 4 X! This is a tough one at first!**

## PRACTICE PROGRESSIONS . . .

**C/// Am/// F/// G/// %%%%**

**C/// F/// C/// C/// F/// F/// C/// C/// G/// F/// C/// G/// %%%%**

**[: G/// Em/// Am/// D/// G/// Em/// Am/// D/// G/// Em/// Am/// D///  
G/// C/// G/// C/// G/// C/// D/// G/// :] %**

**G/// G/// G/// G/// C/// C/// G/// G/// D/// C/// G/// G/// C/// D/// C// D/// G/// G/// %**

**G/ D/ C/// G/ D/ Am/// %**

**Em/ D/ Em/ D/ C/ G/ F/ Em/ %**

**C/ G/ Am/// %%%%**

OK, now you have 2 keys down! And you know a LOT of chords! Actually, enough to play a LOT of songs!

Review . . . You can now play . . .

**G Am C D Em & F** plus, **G** on 3rd fret. And **Fm & Gm!**

A couple more steps and you'll be in pretty good shape to be able to play 100's of tunes. Basic Country tunes, Folk Rock tunes by the dozen! Plus some kuell rock ballads. Guns N Roses, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Eagles, Stones! Even some Skynyrd! Sweet Home Alabama! (**D C & G!**) Can't You See by Marshall Tucker, **D C & G**. Knocking On Heaven's Door, 4 chords! And tons of others!

NOTE: *Knocking On Heaven's Door* is actually one of the progression exercises above! See if you can figure out which one it is!

One more chord and you can play tunes like House Of The Rising Sun. You just need an E! So let's get that puppy down now!

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Note, you start your session doing the exercises for the keys of **G**, then **C**.

**THEN start working on the next key! Every day you start at the beginning!**

**3) Key of A: A F#m D E**

Now learn 2 new chords: **A** and **E**. **F#m** is an **F** chord, played on the 2nd fret instead of the 1st, with your 2nd finger raised up. **A F#m D E** By now you can play an **F#m** easily because you've been practicing an **Fm** and a **Gm** on the 1st and 3rd fret, right? Now add the 2nd fret, **F#m**! (# = "sharp". It means "up one". **F#** is one fret up from **F**.)

Practice these combinations like you did above.

**A/// F#m/// A/// F#m/// %**  
**A/// D/// A/// D/// %**  
**A/// E/// A/// E/// %**  
**F#m/// D/// F#m/// D/// %**  
**F#m/// E/// F#m/// E/// %**  
**D/// E/// D/// E/// %**

COMBINE THE KEYS . . . Add these combos:

**G///A/// % G/// E/// % G /// F#m/// % F/// F#m % Fm/// F#m/// %**  
**C///A/// % C/// E/// % C /// F#m/// %**

Then practice: **G/// F#m///** (3rd and 2nd fret chords!)

PRACTICE PROGRESSIONS . . .

**A/ F#m/ D/ E/ %%%%**

**A/// D/// A/// A/// D/// D/// A/// A/// E/// D/// A/// E/// %%%%**

You just added a TON more possible tunes to your song list! But if we add just one more key, learn just **one more chord**, you'll **dramatically** increase your playing library. Because . . . the one chord you need to learn is ALSO a moving chord! And you'll have another way to make minor chords!!!

**There is a method to my madness!** ALL of the practice progressions are actually real SONGS! In each key, you've learned probably a 100 songs and don't even know it yet! But you WILL . . . and SOON!

Don't forget, before moving to the key of **D** each session, go over the other key exercises first! Yeah, it seems like each key adds a lot of time to your practice sessions. BUT, by the time you start the key of **A**, you'll be FLYING thru the key of **G**, and **C**. That won't take long at all!!!

By the time you start the key of **D**, **G & C** will fly by in a few minutes. And **A** will take less and less time as you practice it as well! So your time doesn't increase all that much when you add a key.

And you aren't supposed to move on until you can play each exercise pretty well anyway!  
**Right!?!?!?**

## Besides ... **It's worth it!**

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### 4). Key of D: **D Bm G A**

Now you only need to learn 1 chord and you can also play in the key of **D**. And you can also now play in the key of **Em**! **So one chord, you pick up 2 keys!**

You need a **Bm**. **D Bm G A** A **Bm** is like an **Am**, played on the 3rd fret. You're going to use that 3 finger barre again, across the 2nd fret.

Then play an **Am** with your 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers. And you strum only the 1st 4 strings. In a little bit you'll start barring 5 strings instead of 3. But for now, 3 will git'r done!

YOUR COMBOS ARE ... (Practice like you did the other keys!)

**D/// Bm/// % D/// G/// % D/// A/// % Bm/// G/// % Bm/// A/// %**

**Bm/// Em/// % Bm/// C/// % Bm/// Am/// % Bm/// F/// % Bm/// E/// %**

**Bm/// Fm/// % Bm/// F# /// % Bm/// G/// ← G on 3rd fret Bm/// F#m/// %**

And one new combo ... **Bbm/// Cm/// ←** The **Bm** chord on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd fret. Note: **b** = flat. It means "one down". **Bbm** is one fret down from **Bm**.

**Bbm/// Bm/// % Bbm/// Cm/// % Bm/// Cm/// %**

PRACTICE PROGRESSIONS ...

**D/ Bm/ G/ A/ %%%%** Dozens and dozens of hit songs use this progression.

**D/ Bm/ Em/ A/ %%%%** And dozens and dozens more use this progression!

**D/// G/// D/// D/// G/// G/// D/// D/// A/// G/// D/// A/// %%%** 100s of Blues, Gospel, Folk, Rock and Country use this progression.

Phewwwwwwwww!

OK, now play the following LONG exercise. You might even recognize it as a song while you practice it!

Instead of the usual 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4 (Like **G**/// **Em**///) you're going to count it like this . . . 1 2 3 1 2 3 etc.

**[ : Am// Am// C// C// D// D// F// F//  
Am// Am// C// C// E// E//  
Am// Am// C// C// D// D// F// F//  
Am// Am// E// E// Am// Am// E// E// : ] %**

Note. The " **[ :** " notes the beginning of a **progression**, or beginning of a music movement. The " **: ]** " indicates the end. So in this case, the " % " means, repeat from the beginning. So you'd go back to the " **[ :** " and repeat to " **: ]** ".

**OK, when you know what this song is . . . EMAIL ME!**

Note: The **Bm** is another highly usable chord! And . . . it's moveable!!!!

Once you can play it clearly, you can start moving it. Move it to the 3rd fret, it's now a **Cm**! Move it to the 4th fret, and you can now play in yet another key! (Once you learn 1 more chord, the B, or B7, either one.)

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**OK, the next step takes you to the end of the first part of your journey!**

Once you have this key down, you'll be able to play a TON of songs, in multiple keys. Plus lots of songs that have a lot of chords. You'll be playing a lot more than just simple songs!

**5). Key of E: E C#m A B**

**C#m** is like the **Bm**, except played on the 4th fret!!!

**B** is another bar chord. (Actually, we call them "barre" chords.) That **A** chord is about to ALSO become a moveable chord. BUT . . . now you need to make your barre across the top 5 strings! 1st finger barres across 5 strings on the 2nd fret. Now play an **A** chord with your 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers on the 4th fret. Now it's a **B**. (And this is another movable chord!)

Move that chord to the 3rd fret, it's a **C** chord! Practice: Do the same thing as with the other keys.

**E/// C#m/// % E/// A/// % E/// B/// %**

**C#m/// A/// % C#m/// B/// % A/// B///**

Then combine these chords with the chords from the other keys so you **play all the combinations!**

PRACTICE PROGRESSIONS . . .

**Am/// Am/// G/// G/// F/// F/// E/// E/// %%%%**

**Am/// G/// F/// E/// %%%%**

**E/ C#m/ A/ B/ %%%%**

**E/ C#m/ F#m/ B/ %%%%**

**E/// A/// E/// E/// A/// A/// E/// E/// B/// A/// E/// B/// %%%%**

**All of the above practice progressions are songs. Dozens of them!**

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## **Full Barre Chords**

Next step, learn to play a "Full Barre" chord. You're going to barre your 1st finger across all 6 strings, then make an **E** chord. Barre the 1st fret. Play an **E** chord on the 2nd/3rd fret with your 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers. You now have a "full" barre **F** chord! **And can strum all 6 strings! And this is a moving chord!**

**This will become one of half a dozen chords you're going to use more than any others!!!!**

Move it up to the 2nd fret, it's a full **F#**! 3rd fret, it's a full **G**! Etc.  
(F F# G G# A A# B C C# D D# E)

NOW . . . go back to the 1st fret. Lift off your 2nd finger. Now it's a full **Fm**!!!  
2nd fret, it's a full **F#m**. 3rd fret, full **Gm**!!  
(Fm F#m Gm G#m Am A#m Bm Cm C#m Dm D#m Em)

So if you take this barre **E** and barre **Em** form, and add the barred **Am**, barring 5 strings, and the **B** chord (referred to as a double barre), you can now make full major and minor chords **all over the neck!!!!!! And play almost any song in ANY KEY!**

You can now play **ALL** major and minor chords! **Every one of them!**

Let this sink in for a minute . . . You can play 100s of songs in EVERY KEY!

I'll show you how to put this together shortly!

~

## **Seventh Chords**

The next set of chords you need to learn will come pretty easy. You need to learn all of your 7th chords to go with the chords you know now. And it's going to be pretty easy! The 7<sup>th</sup> chords are just slight variations to the chords you already know how to play. Most of the time it just means lifting a finger off a chord. Or adding a finger to a chord you already play.

So learn these . . . .

**G7 C7 F7 A7 D7 E7 B7**

And . . .

**Gm7 Cm7 Fm7 Am7 Dm7 Em7 Bm7**

**Also, your barre chords can be 7ths. What ever you do to a chord to make it a 7<sup>TH</sup>, DO THAT TO THE BARRE FORM AS WELL. As in, make an E7. Now make a barre E on the 5<sup>th</sup> fret, an A chord. Lift off your 4<sup>th</sup> finger, A7!**

Later, we'll cover some really nice acoustic chords. They're EASY to learn once you know the above chords!

We'll go over Major7ths, sus chords, (sus2 and sus4 chords) add9 and add6 chords, etc. These are fun, and easy!!!!

And we'll cover barre chord exercises later.

**For now, enjoy the 1st part of your new journey!**

Wayne

**PS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MUSIC THEORY . . .**

**I have a "Beginning Music Theory" lesson I give my students. If you'd like a copy, let me know. It explains where chords "come from", etc.**

It isn't about reading music. Just about how you actually **make music**.