

**12 Strings
Music School**

Beginner Guitar Course

**Learn to strum along with your favourite
songs!**

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Lesson Seven

Chord changes

A chord change is a sequence of movements performed in quick succession to allow you to move from one chord position to another.

From a beginner's perspective, lifting all of the fingers off the fretboard at the same time will make it harder for you to find your way to the next chord. In this case, the most important thing about changing chords is not moving all the fingers at the same time but instead placing them one-by-one to form the new chord.

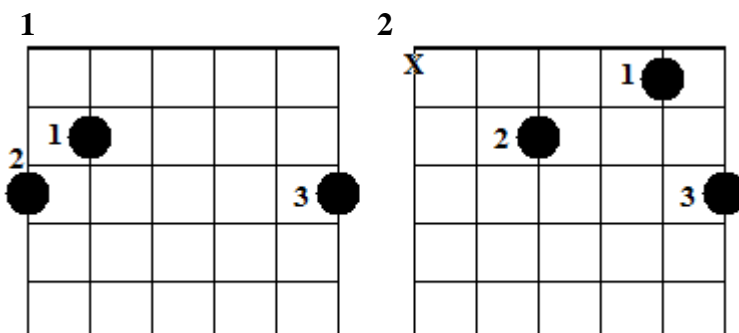
More experienced players, who can find their way around the fretboard without too much hassle, should concentrate on moving all of the fingers at the same time. You should also focus on keeping their fingers as close to the strings as possible - sometimes even touching them when you change chords. The smaller the movements, the faster the chord changes will be. If you work on only moving the fingers to their new position without any unnecessary movement this will add speed to your chord changes.

These next two exercises will give you two transitional shapes that will make it easier to move all of your fingers at the same time.

Exercise 1 (G - C)

Put your fingers in position to play a G chord (*fig 1*). Now move the 1st and 2nd fingers so they are in position to play chord shape number 2 (*fig 2*). Now return to the G chord. Keep performing this movement until:

1. The 3rd finger stays comfortably on the E string.
2. The 1st and 2nd fingers move directly to their new positions in the second chord shape
3. The 1st and 2nd fingers remain very close to the strings.
4. The 2nd finger never ends up below the 1st finger while you are performing the movement.
5. Both fingers move and arrive at the same time.



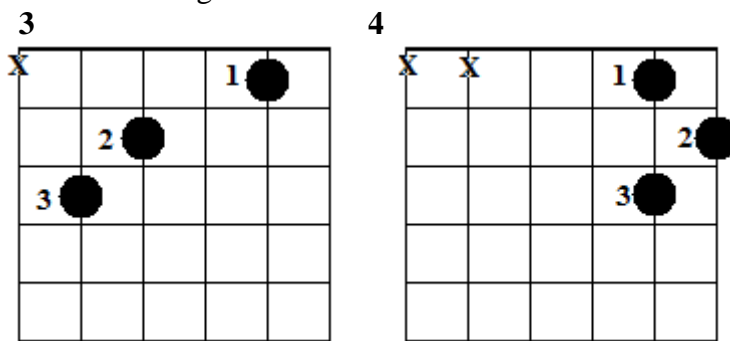


Once both fingers are moving quickly and naturally and without any extra movements the next step is to move the 3rd finger up to the A string staying on the same fret. Concentrate on the 3rd finger as it moves and let the other two fingers find their way down to the B and D strings. Now repeat until all fingers arrive at their new position at the same time.

Exercise 2 (C - D)

Put your fingers in position to play a C chord (*fig 3*). Now move the 3rd and 4th fingers so they are on position to play chord shape number 2 (*fig 4*). Now return to the C chord. Keep performing this movement until:

1. The 1st finger stays comfortably on the B string.
2. The 2nd and 3rd fingers move directly to their new positions in the second chord shape
3. The 2nd and 3rd fingers remain very close to the strings.
4. The 3rd finger never ends up below the 2nd finger while you are performing the movement.
5. Both fingers move and arrive at the same time.



Now that both fingers are moving quickly and naturally and without any extra movements the next step is to move the 1st finger up to the G string moving to the second fret. Concentrate on the 1st finger as it moves and let the other two fingers find their way down to the B and E strings. Now repeat until all fingers arrive at their new position at the same time.

These exercises can be applied to any and all chord changes all you need to do is follow the instructions below to create a transitional shape:

1. One (or two in the case of a four note chord) finger(s) stay comfortably on one string.
2. The other two fingers move directly to their new positions in the second chord shape
3. They remain very close to the strings.
4. There are no unnecessary movements.
5. Both fingers move and arrive at the same time.