

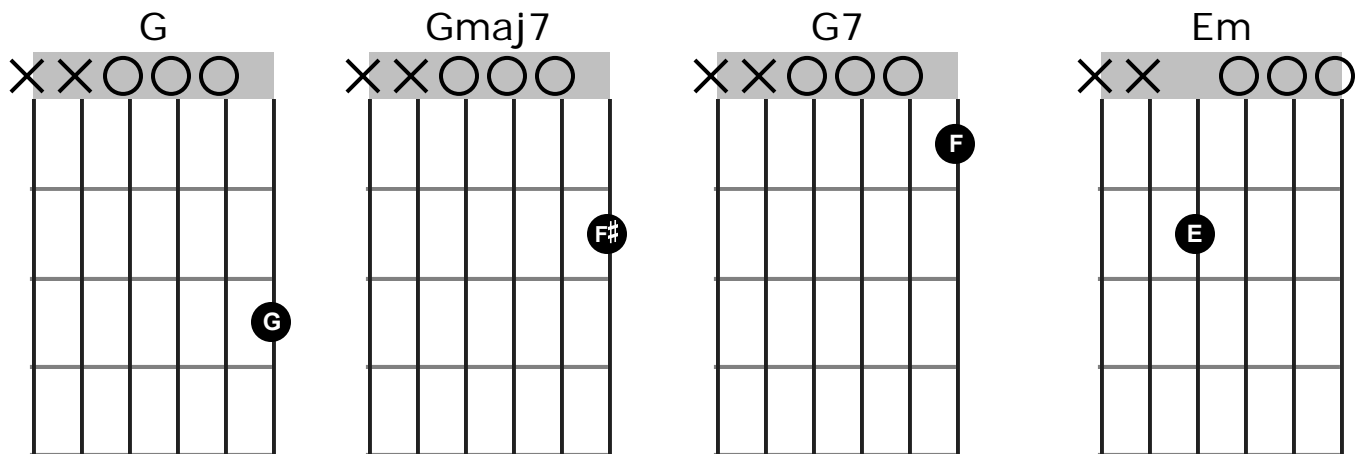
GUITAR CHORDS & STRUMMING FOR BEGINNERS

Booklet for Online Video
Course by John Chamley

1st Edition
Nov 2022

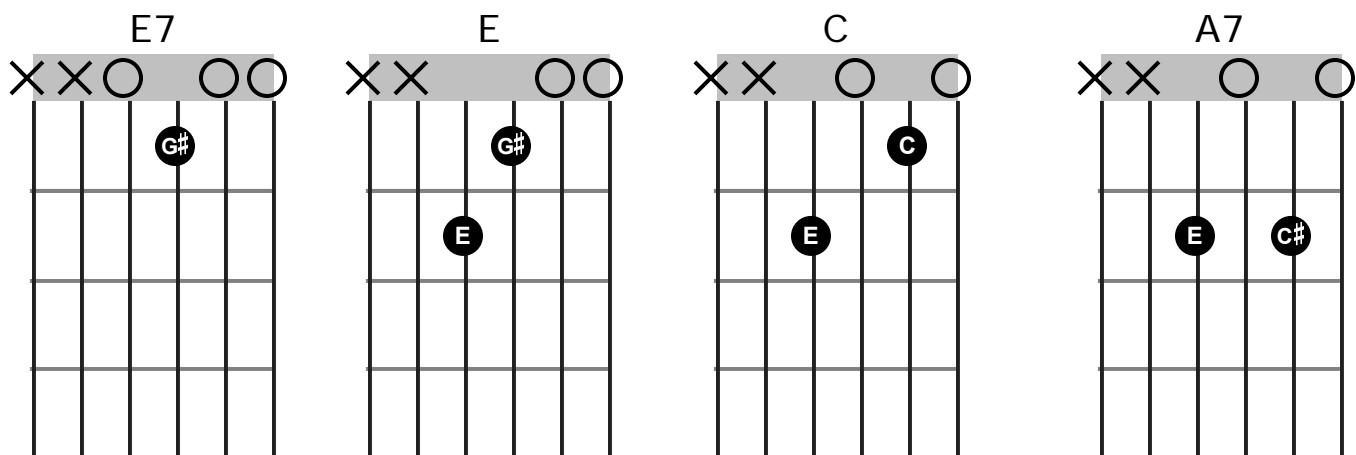
SIMPLE 4-STRING CHORDS

1-FINGER CHORDS

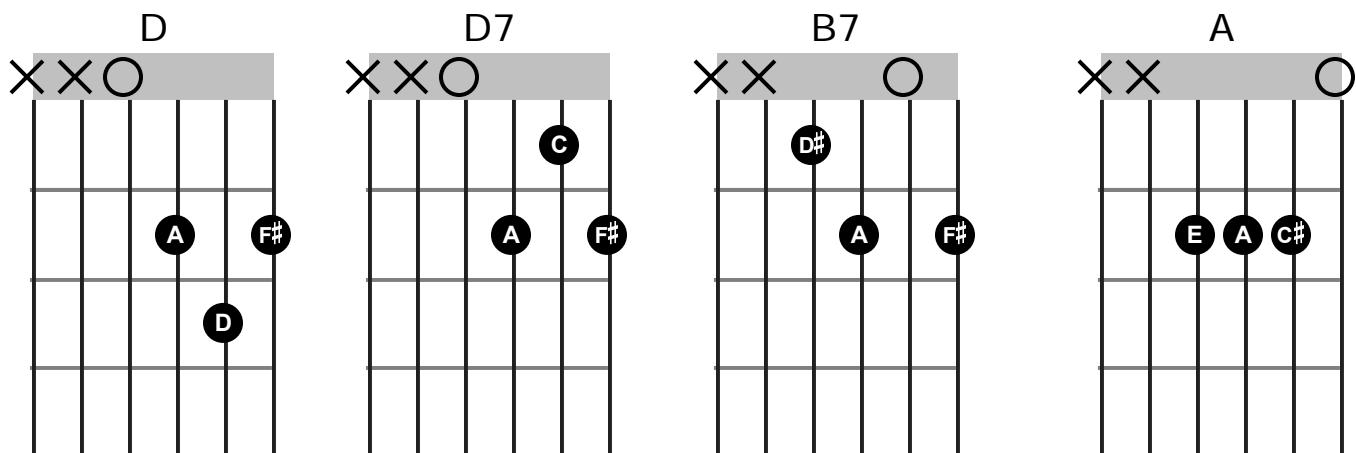


1-FINGER

2-FINGER CHORDS

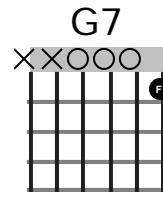
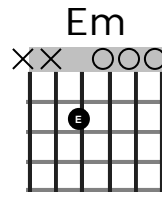
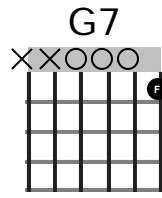
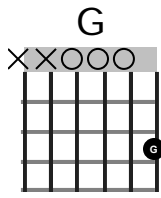


3-FINGER CHORDS



4-STRING CHORD EXERCISES

Exercise 1



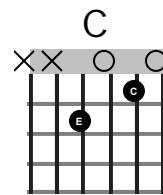
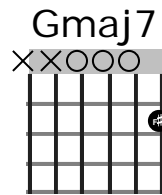
||:G

|G7

|Em

|G7 :||

Exercise 2



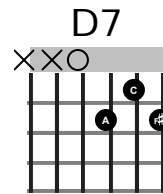
||:G

|Em

|Gmaj7

|C :||

Exercise 3



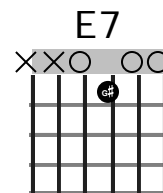
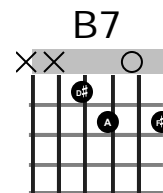
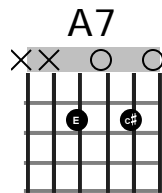
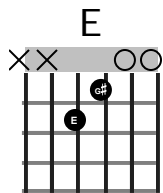
||:G

|Em

|C

|D7 :||

Exercise 4



||:E

|A7

|E

|A7

|E

|B7

|

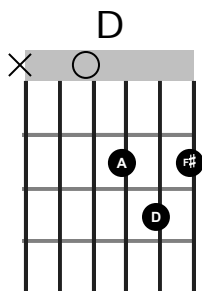
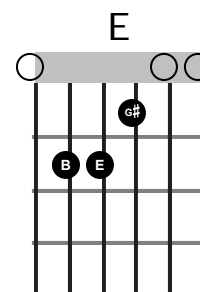
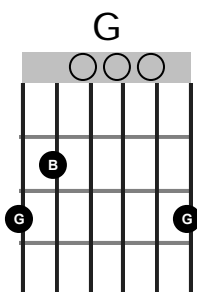
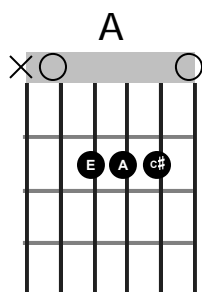
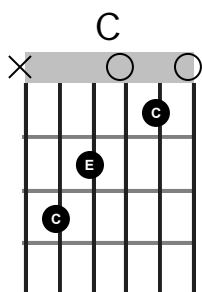
BASIC MAJOR CHORD SHAPES

The basic major chord shapes below use 4, 5, or 6 strings. Each requires 3 fingers on the fretting hand. You'll recognize some of the shapes from the previous 4-string chords, but using additional strings.

Major chords contain the 1st, 3rd and 5th notes (scale degrees) of a major scale. This is called a *major triad*. Chord symbols simply use the capital letter of the *root note* (1st scale degree) of each chord triad.

You can spell the word **CAGED** using the names of these 5 chords. **CAGED** chord shapes will become more meaningful as you progress and learn Bar (Barre) Chords. But that's for later.

Your first obstacle will be to learn how to change smoothly between the chords while picking and strumming with your right hand.



Exercise 1

||: A | D | A | E :||

Exercise 2

||: G | C | D | C :||

Exercise 3

||: G | D | A | C | D | E :||

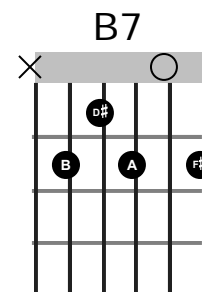
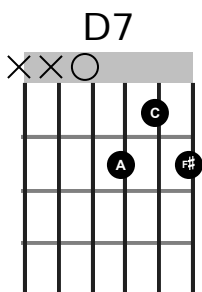
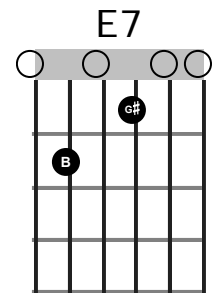
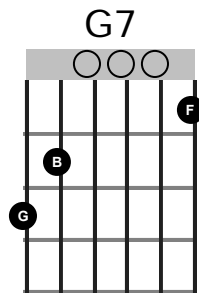
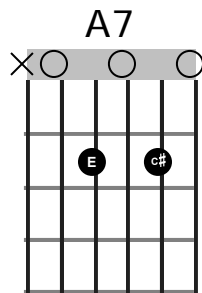
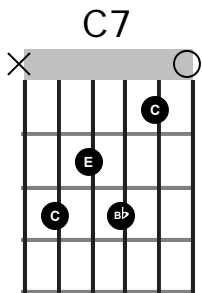
On the following pages, recognize how these basic shapes are modified to create other chord shapes such as minor and 7th chords.

7TH CHORDS

7th chords come in several kinds. There are *Major 7ths*, *Dominant 7ths* and *Minor 7ths*. The most common 7th chords that are spelled with a **letter** and the number **7**. These have the more formal name of "*dominant 7ths*."

Dominant 7th chords consist of a **major chord triad** and a **flattened 7th** note.

For now, **just learn the shapes** and **notice how they vary** from the basic chord shapes.



Exercise 1

||: A7 | D7 | A A7 | D D7 | A A7 | D D7 | A E7 | A7 :||

Exercise 2

||: G G7 | C C7 | G D7 | G :||

Exercise 3

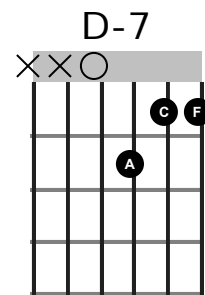
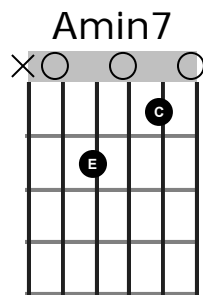
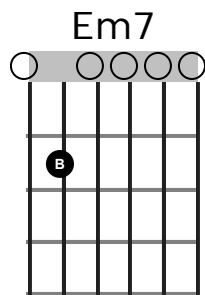
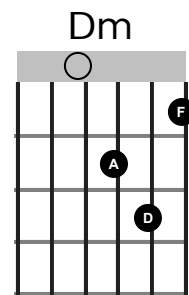
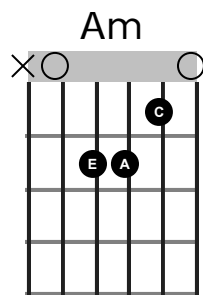
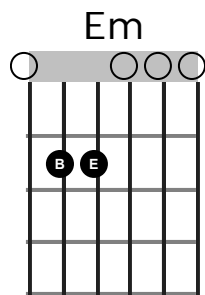
||: E7 | A7 | E7 | B7 | A7 | B7 | A B7 | E7 :||

MINOR & MINOR 7TH CHORDS

Compared with Major Chords, minor chords have a flattened 3rd. Compare the E, A and D minor chords with their major equivalents. There is only one note difference. Fingering for G and C-shaped chords is not so practical for chord strumming.

You'll find minor and minor 7th chords written various ways shown below. There is no difference in the actual chord.

D minor = Dm, Dmin, D-
 D minor 7 = Dm7, Dmin7, D-7



Exercise 1

||:C |G |Am |Em |Dm |Am7 |Em7 |Am G:||C

Exercise 2

||:Dm7 |G7 |C |Am7 |Dm7 |G |C |C :||

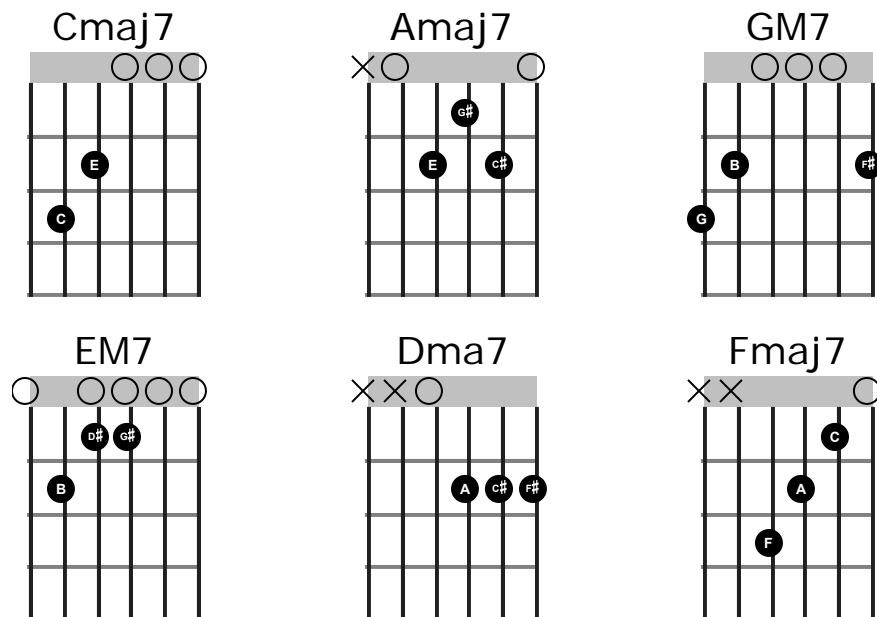
MAJOR 7TH CHORDS

Major 7th chords are made up of the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th notes of a major scale.

In addition to the five major 7th **CAGED** chords, the FMaj7 is included below.

You'll come across various ways to write the chord symbols for major 7th chords. Here are some ways that C major 7 can be written and they are all the same chord:

CM7, CMa7, CMaj7, or CΔ7



Exercise 1

||:Cmaj7 |B7 |Am7 |B7 |Cmaj7 |B7 |Am7 |Gmaj7 :||

Exercise 2

||:Emaj7 |Amaj7 |CM7 DM7|E |EM7|Amaj7 |Am7 DM7|EM7 :||

Exercise 3

||:Fmaj7 |Em7 |Am G |Am |Fmaj7 |Cmaj7 |Dm7 G|Am :||

SUSPENDED CHORDS

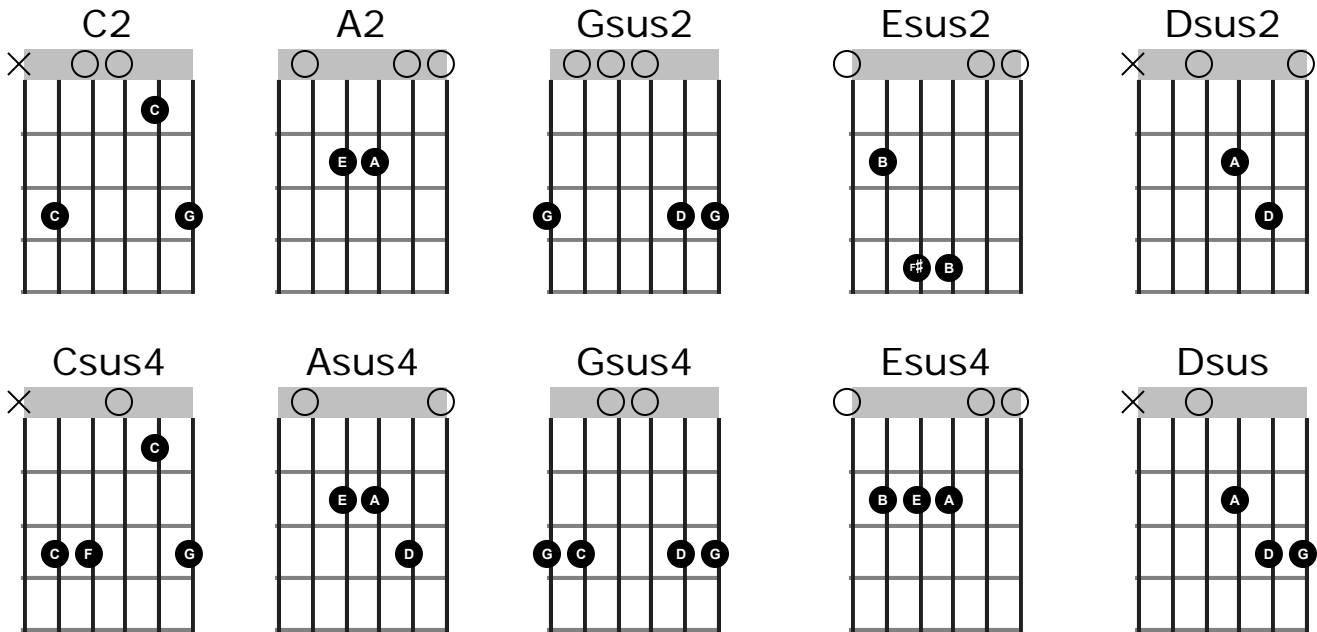
Suspended chords get their name from the way they were used traditionally in classical music. They are the result of a suspended note being held over from a previous chord after a chord change.

One of two notes, either the 2nd or 4th degree, are used in suspended chords in place of the 3rd (either major or minor). Since the 3rd is missing, a suspended chord is neither major or minor.

Suspended chords are most often written with the abbreviation "sus."

C Suspended 2nd = Csus2, C2

C Suspended 4th = Csus4, Csus (the 4 is assumed)



Exercise 1

||:Asus4 A|Asus2 A|Esus E|E2 E: ||

Exercise 2

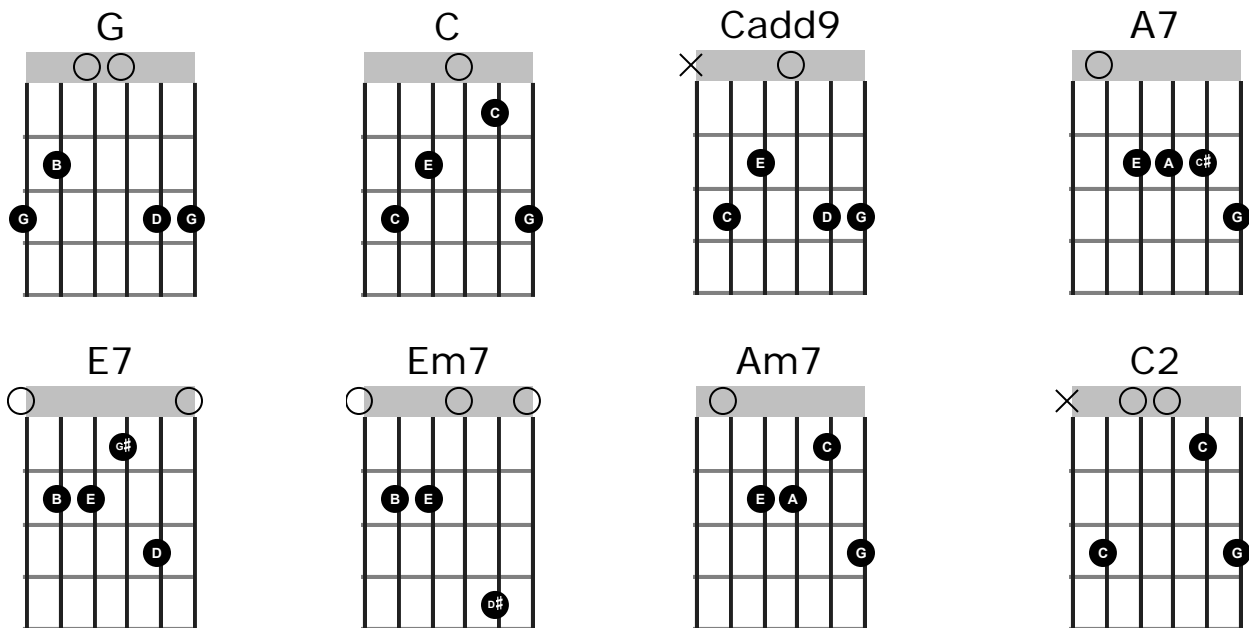
3/4 ||:G |Dsus D|C2 D|G |A2 Am|Dsus D|C2 C|G2 G: ||

CHORDS VARIATIONS

The previous chords were simple shapes. There are other ways to play the same chords that can make your playing more interesting. Some examples are below along with a few other chords.

The chords in this course will be enough to play the majority of popular songs, especially when combined with a *capo*, which allows the same chord shapes to be used in other keys. However, you can keep adding to your chord knowledge.

Below are some variations that you can try in the exercises that follow.



Exercise 1

3/4 ||: G | C | Dsus | D :|| Am7 | D | G ||

Exercise 2

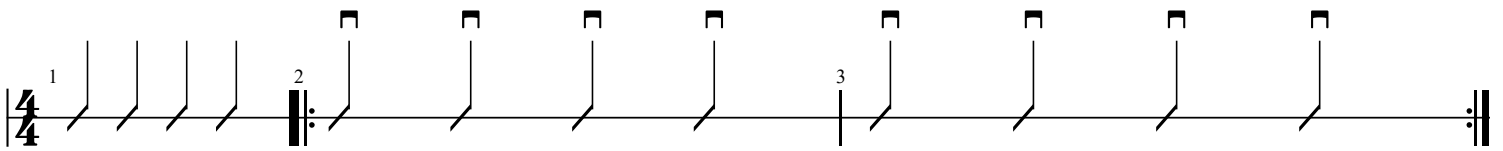
4/4 ||: Em7 | A7 | Dmaj7 | Gmaj7 :||

Am7 | D7sus | D7 | C2 | G ||

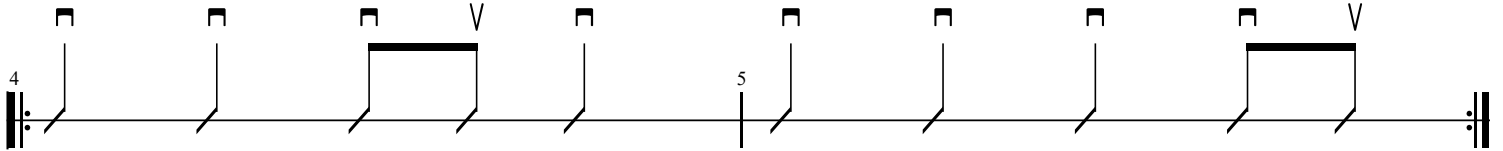
STRUMMING PATTERNS

COUNT IN

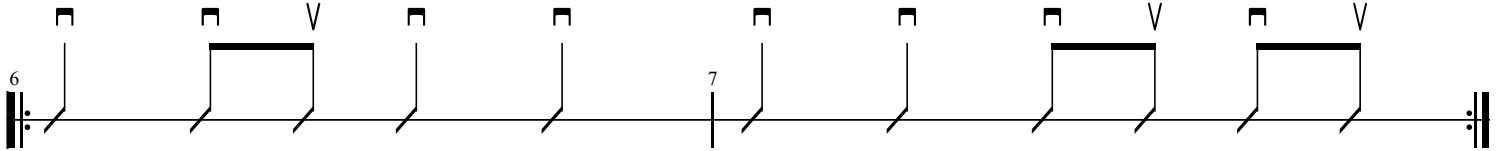
Ex. 1



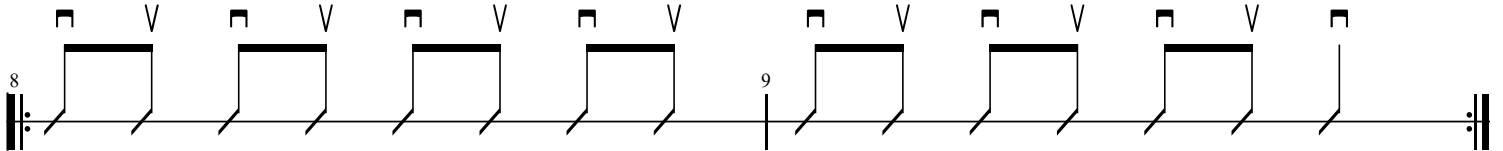
Ex. 2



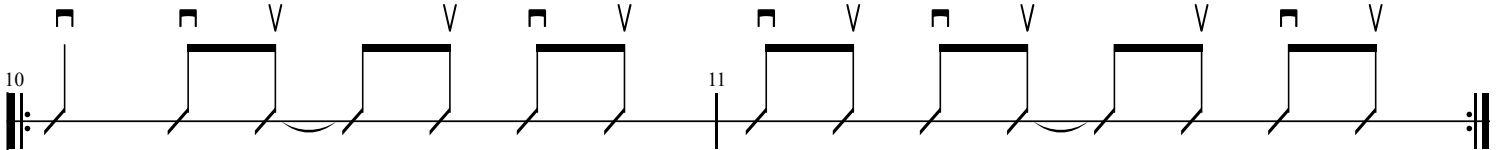
Ex. 3



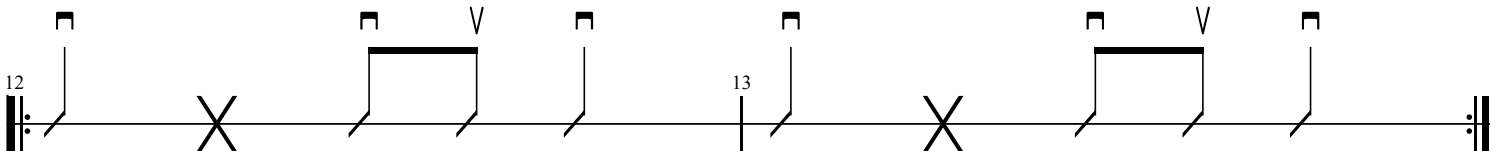
Ex. 4



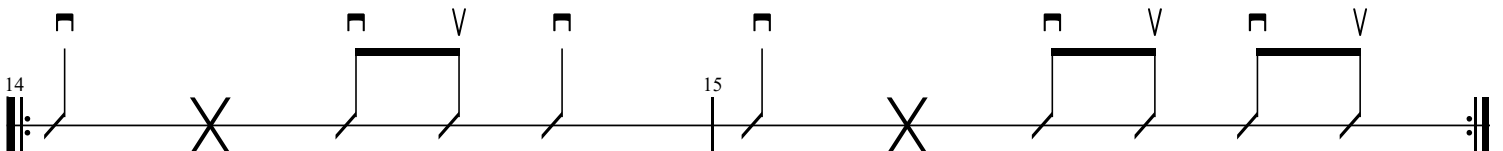
Ex. 5



Ex. 6



Ex. 7



JUST THE CHORDS - THEME

John Chamley

♩ = 40

Chords: G D C G C D

5 Chords: G C G C G Am Asus2 Am D Dsus4 D

8 Chords: Am Asus2 Am B7 E A

11 **B7** **Cmaj7** **Am7** **D** **G** **C G** **D.S. al Fine**
C G

Chord progression for measures 11-13: **B7**, **Cmaj7**, **Am7**, **D**, **G**, **C G**, **C G**.

14 **E** **A** **B7** **Cmaj7** **Am7** **D**

Chord progression for measures 14-16: **E**, **A**, **B7**, **Cmaj7**, **Am7**, **D**.

17 **G** **C G** **C G**

Chord progression for measures 17-18: **G**, **C G**, **C G**.