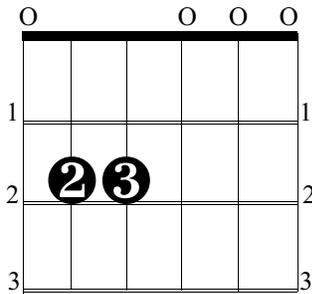


## Basic Minor Chords

*Minor chords* have a more ‘sad’ or ‘serious’ tone when compared to major chords. The chord symbol for a minor chord will be a letter followed by a lower case ‘m’. Major chords usually do not have a symbol and often are not even referred to as ‘major’. For example, when someone asks to play a ‘D’ chord, it is understood that the chord played is actually a ‘D’ Major chord. Despite the obvious difference in tone, the only difference in the makeup between a major and minor chord is just one note.

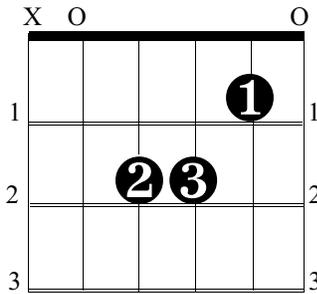
### Minor Chord Diagrams



‘Em’



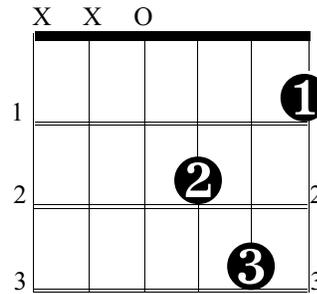
‘Em’



‘Am’



‘Am’



‘Dm’



‘Dm’

### Changing the Mood of a Chord

Fret an ‘E’ chord and play a slow arpeggio with the thumb going across the bottom four strings (*right*). Make sure all strings ring clearly. Next, lift the first finger off the third string and repeat the same four-note arpeggio (*right*). Comparing the two arpeggios, an obvious change to a more serious mood occurs when the first finger is lifted. This **change in mood** shows the fundamental difference between an ‘E’ Major (‘E’) and an ‘E’ Minor (‘Em’) chord.

#### ‘E’ Arpeggio

#### ‘Em’ Arpeggio

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

### ‘Minor’ vs. ‘Flat’ Terms

Many beginners tend to confuse the terms ‘minor’ with ‘flat’ and ‘sharp’ with ‘major’. The terms ‘sharp’ and flat are used to describe *specific notes*, while the terms ‘major’ and ‘minor’ are used to describe *specific chords or scales*.

### Learn A Scale

Along with playing chords, the beginner should also work on *developing flexibility by practicing a scale*. Playing a scale will loosen up and stretch the fingers, which in time will help with playing chords. To practice a scale, refer to either the [Blues/Rock Soloing -1](#) or [Natural Minor Scale -1](#) sections.