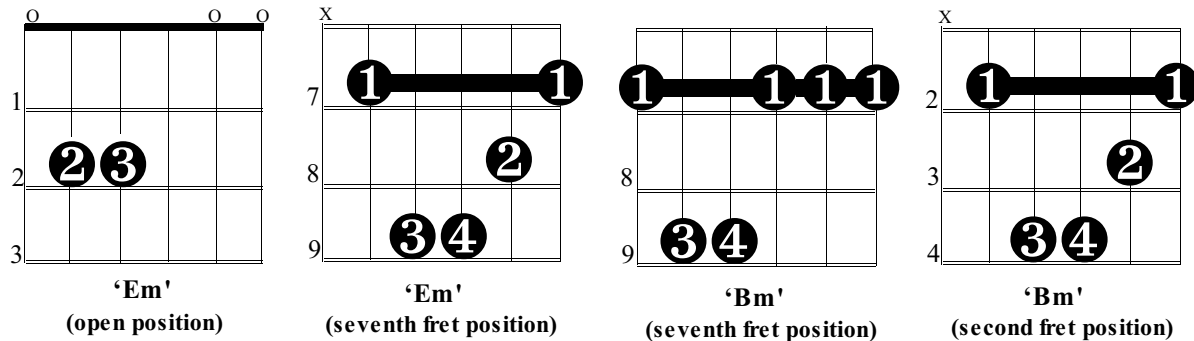


Chord Voicings

With two moveable ‘Am’ and ‘Em’ chord shapes, there are two potential **chord voicings** for any moveable minor chord. For example, an ‘Am’ chord can be played either with a **fifth string bass note** (using its *standard open chord shape*), or with a **sixth string bass note** at the fifth fret position (using the moveable ‘Em’ shape). Each chord voicing will consist of the same three fundamental notes (‘A’, ‘C’, ‘E’) that makeup an ‘Am’ chord. The following sections go into more detail on chord voicings.

Minor Chord Voicings

Below are examples of different **chord voicings** used for the ‘Em’ and ‘Bm’ chords.



'Flat' vs. 'Minor'

Is there such a thing as a 'B flat Minor' chord? The answer is yes. Many beginners tend to confuse the terms 'flat' with 'minor'. The terms *'flat'* (♭) and *'sharp'* (♯) are used to describe individual **notes**, while the terms *'major'* and *'minor'* describe **chords** and **scales**. Sometimes the two descriptions need to be combined in order to describe certain minor chords. For example, a 'B ♭ m' chord is a minor chord with a 'B ♭' root or bass note, and is located one fret below any 'Bm' chord.

24 Total Minor Chords

With twelve different notes on each string, there are **24 total minor chords** that can be played with just two moveable minor chord shapes ('Am' and 'Em').

Chord Synonyms

The same concept that applies to **enharmonic notes** (sharps and flats) will also apply to moveable minor chords. For example, a 'B ♭ m' minor chord ('B ♭ m') can also be referred to as an 'A ♯ m' minor chord ('A ♯ m'). A moveable 'Em' chord shape played along the second fret position can be referred to as either a 'G ♭ m' chord or an 'F ♯ m' chord.

Examples

'A ♯ m' = 'B ♭ m'
'F ♯ m' = 'G ♭ m'
'E ♭ m' = 'D ♯ m'

The 'Dm' Chord Shape

In theory, every chord shape is moveable. Certain chord shapes, however, will not 'fit' the hand as well as others. For example, playing a **moveable 'Dm' chord shape** requires the fretting hand to adjust in a way that simply isn't feasible when it comes to getting clarity from each string, let alone being able to switch between chords with efficiency. Nevertheless, beginning students are always curious to at least try the moveable 'Dm' chord shape, so an example is shown right.

Examples



Moveable 'Dm' chord shape