

# TRIADS

**Welcome to Triads!** For a guitarist, chord playing is an essential part of what we do. But too often we get trapped into seeing chords in only one area of the guitar.

This is a series on using triads for chord playing that I hope will change how you see chords on the neck of the guitar. Chords are not just two or three familiar forms – but they are combinations of certain tones that can be made all over the guitar in an incredible variety of shapes, inversions and voicings.

Triads are chords containing three different tones. This series focuses on three types of triads – Major, Minor and Dominant Seventh Triads.

**Major triads consist of the ROOT, THIRD, and FIFTH notes of the major scale.**

**Minor triads consist of the ROOT, FLATTED THIRD & FIFTH of the major scale.**

**Seventh triads contain various combinations of the ROOT, THIRD, FIFTH and FLATTED SEVENTH of the major scale.**

The notes within a triad can appear in any order.

**Different arrangements of notes within a chord is called the chord's "voicing".**

Here's what everything means...

- Numbers on TAB Staff: Show what fret you should be pressing down.
- Fingering Diagrams for Each Chord
  - "X" at end of Chord Diagram = Mute String
  - Open Circle at end of Chord Diagram = Open String
  - Open Diamond = Root of a Chord which can be Moved

Learn all you can and let's get started!





# TRIADS

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## MAJOR

## Triads

Triads can be a variety of different chords. Let's look at Major chord triads first.

**Major triads consist of the ROOT, THIRD, and FIFTH notes of the major scale.**

## Voicings

The notes in the triad can be in arranged in any order.

**OPEN VOICINGS** are voicings greater than an octave and involve skipping strings.

**CLOSED VOICINGS** are voicings where all the notes in the triad occur within one octave and usually appear on adjacent strings.

This series will be focusing on closed voicings.

## String Groupings

Triads in closed voicings use three adjacent strings and can be played on 4 different sets of strings.

String Set 1: Uses the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> strings.

String Set 2: Uses the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> strings.

String Set 3: Uses the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> strings.

String Set 4: Uses the 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> strings.

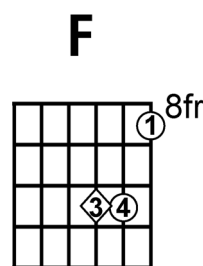
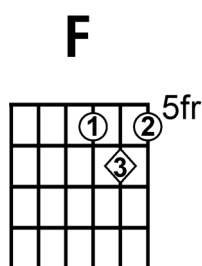
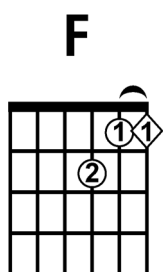
String sets 3 and 4 share the same fingerings because the tuning of the guitar is identical for those strings.

This series will be focusing on triads on strings sets 1 and 2 because they are the most commonly used.

## Major Triad Forms (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)







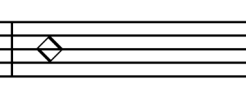
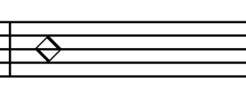

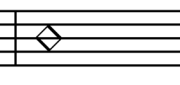
Here are the three closed voicing major triad shapes in the key of F using the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> strings.

The diamond indicates which note is the root in each form.







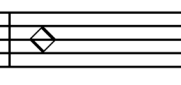

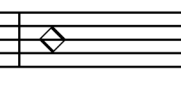
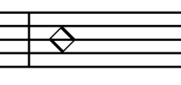


**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

Let's start by playing them up and down the neck in the key of F.

|          | <b>F</b>                                                                            | <b>F</b>                                                                            | <b>F</b>                                                                            | <b>F</b>                                                                              | <b>F</b>                                                                              |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |                                                                                     | 5fr.                                                                                | 8fr.                                                                                | 5fr.                                                                                  |                                                                                       |
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>T</b> | 1                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 5                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b> | 1                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 6                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b> | 2                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 5                                                                                     | 2                                                                                     |

Now, let's do them in the key of G – two frets up.

|          | <b>G</b>                                                                            | <b>G</b>                                                                            | <b>G</b>                                                                            | <b>G</b>                                                                             | <b>G</b>                                                                              |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | 3fr.                                                                                | 7fr.                                                                                | 10fr.                                                                               | 7fr.                                                                                 | 3fr.                                                                                  |
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>T</b> | 3                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 7                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b> | 3                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 12                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b> | 4                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 12                                                                                  | 7                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     |

And, two frets higher in the key of A...

Diagram showing the A major triad (A, C#, E) in five positions on the guitar neck, each two frets higher than the previous one:

- Position 1: 5fr. (Fingerings: 5, 4, 3)
- Position 2: 9fr. (Fingerings: 9, 10, 9)
- Position 3: 12fr. (Fingerings: 12, 14, 14)
- Position 4: 9fr. (Fingerings: 9, 10, 9)
- Position 5: 5fr. (Fingerings: 5, 4, 3)

The diagram includes a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Below the staff are three staves labeled T, A, and B, showing the fret numbers for each string in the A major triad for each position.

Notice, as you move up the neck and the forms reach above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret the highest form can flip down an octave to a lower position on the neck.

For example, if we go up a half step to the next key of B $\flat$ , the highest form, which would be now above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret, can also be played an octave down at the 1<sup>st</sup> fret. Notice how the starting form is now the previously higher form.

Diagram showing the B $\flat$  major triad (B $\flat$ , D $\flat$ , F) in five positions on the guitar neck, each two frets higher than the previous one:

- Position 1: 1fr. (Fingerings: 1, 3, 3)
- Position 2: 6fr. (Fingerings: 6, 6, 7)
- Position 3: 10fr. (Fingerings: 10, 11, 10)
- Position 4: 6fr. (Fingerings: 6, 6, 7)
- Position 5: 1fr. (Fingerings: 1, 3, 3)

An arrow points from the 10fr. position to the 1fr. position, indicating an octave shift. The diagram includes a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B $\flat$  and E $\flat$ ). Below the staff are three staves labeled T, A, and B, showing the fret numbers for each string in the B $\flat$  major triad for each position.

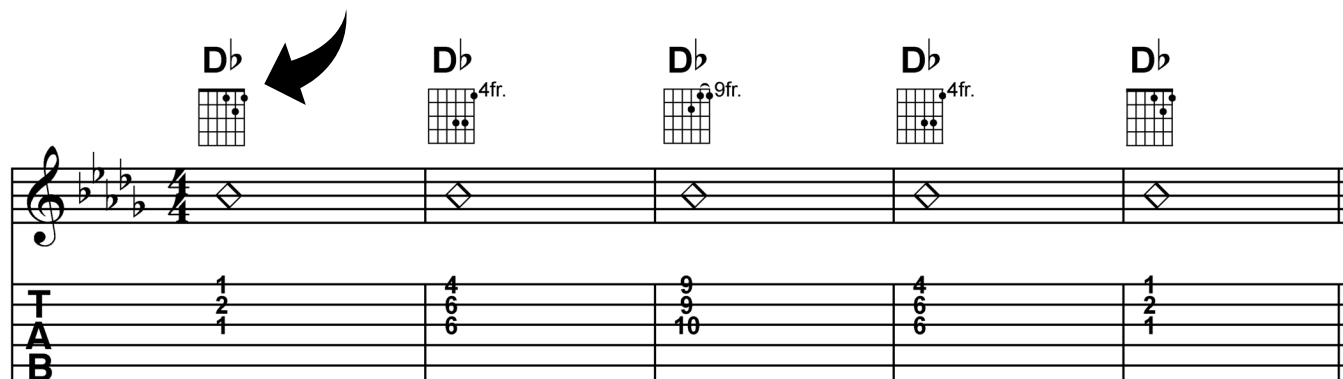
As we continue up through keys, let's play the major triads in the key of C.

Diagram showing the C major triad (C, E, G) in five positions on the guitar neck, each two frets higher than the previous one:

- Position 1: 3fr. (Fingerings: 3, 5, 5)
- Position 2: 8fr. (Fingerings: 8, 8, 9)
- Position 3: 12fr. (Fingerings: 12, 13, 12)
- Position 4: 8fr. (Fingerings: 8, 8, 9)
- Position 5: 3fr. (Fingerings: 3, 5, 5)

The diagram includes a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F). Below the staff are three staves labeled T, A, and B, showing the fret numbers for each string in the C major triad for each position.

When we move to the key of Db the highest voicing now gets above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret and can be flipped down an octave.



|   |   |   |    |   |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| T | 1 | 4 | 9  | 4 | 1 |
| A | 2 | 6 | 9  | 6 | 2 |
| B | 1 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 1 |

## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 1:** Play through the major triad forms up and down the neck in this order...

- F
- F#
- G
- G#
- A
- Bb (the highest form flips down an octave)
- B
- C
- Db (the highest form flips down an octave)
- D
- Eb
- E.

**Practice Challenge 2:** Play through the major triad forms in a cycle of 4ths in this order...

- F
- Bb
- Eb
- Ab
- Db
- F#
- B
- E
- A
- D
- G
- C

# Major Triad Patterns (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

## I-IV-I Patterns

The first common movement is between the I and the IV chord in a key.

Here is the I-IV-I pattern in the key of F for all three triad inversion combinations.

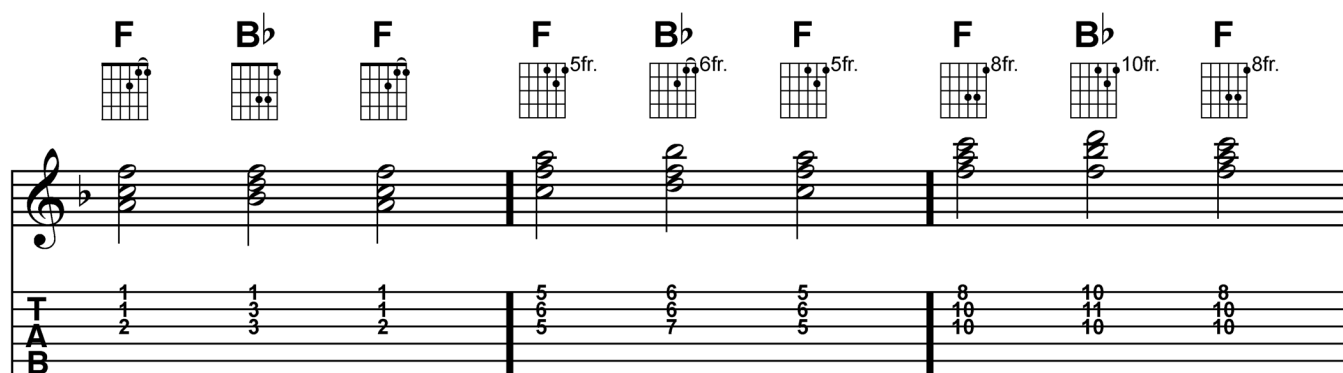


Diagram illustrating the I-IV-I pattern in the key of F (F major) for all three triad inversion combinations. The pattern consists of nine chords: F (I), B $\flat$  (IV), F (I), F (I), B $\flat$  (IV), F (I), F (I), B $\flat$  (IV), and F (I). The fret numbers for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings are provided below the guitar staff.

| Chord          | 1st String | 2nd String | 3rd String |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| F (I)          | 1          | 1          | 1          |
| B $\flat$ (IV) | 5          | 6          | 5          |
| F (I)          | 8          | 10         | 8          |
| F (I)          | 10         | 11         | 10         |
| B $\flat$ (IV) | 10         | 10         | 10         |
| F (I)          | 8          | 10         | 8          |
| F (I)          | 10         | 11         | 10         |
| B $\flat$ (IV) | 10         | 10         | 10         |
| F (I)          | 8          | 10         | 8          |

Here is the I-IV-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations.

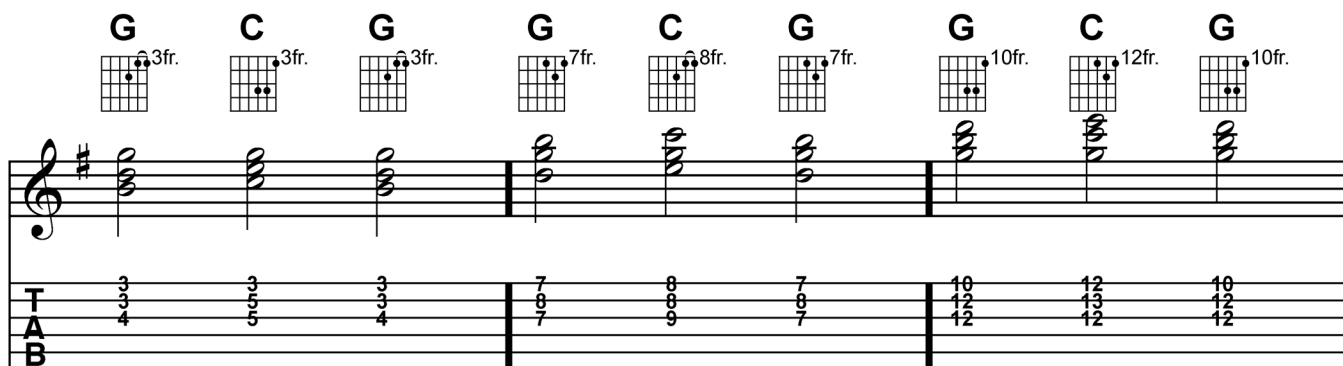


Diagram illustrating the I-IV-I pattern in the key of G (G major) for all three triad inversion combinations. The pattern consists of nine chords: G (I), C (IV), G (I), G (I), C (IV), G (I), G (I), C (IV), and G (I). The fret numbers for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd strings are provided below the guitar staff.

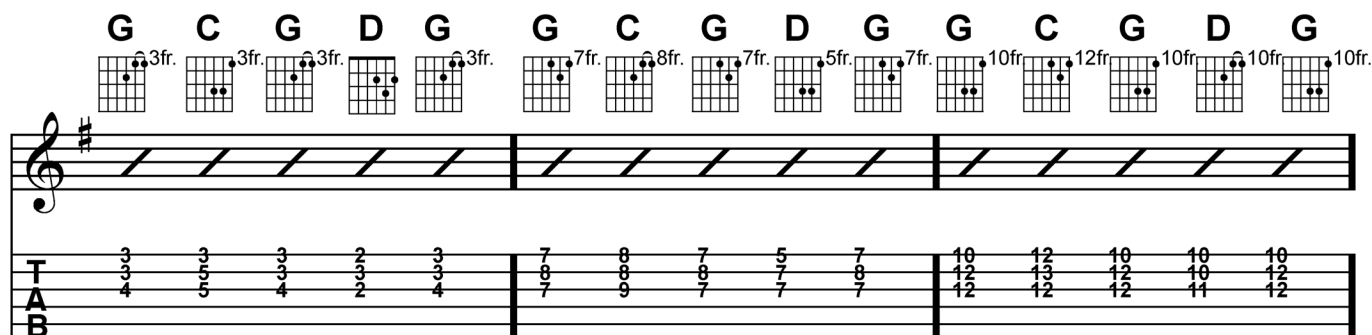
| Chord  | 1st String | 2nd String | 3rd String |
|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| G (I)  | 3          | 3          | 3          |
| C (IV) | 7          | 8          | 7          |
| G (I)  | 10         | 12         | 10         |
| G (I)  | 12         | 13         | 12         |
| C (IV) | 12         | 12         | 12         |
| G (I)  | 10         | 12         | 10         |
| G (I)  | 12         | 13         | 12         |
| C (IV) | 12         | 12         | 12         |
| G (I)  | 10         | 12         | 10         |

# I-IV-I-V-I Patterns

Now, let's add the V chord to the previous pattern to create a I-IV-I-V-I chord progression.

Here is the I-IV-I-V-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations.

**G C G D G G C G D G G C G D G**



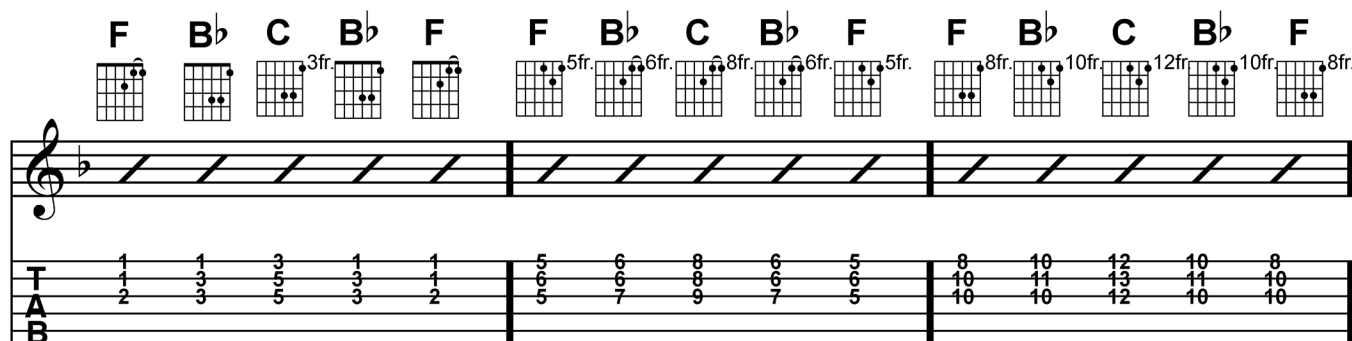
|   | Measure 1     | Measure 2     | Measure 3          |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| T | 3, 3, 3, 3, 3 | 7, 8, 7, 5, 7 | 10, 12, 10, 10, 10 |
| A | 4, 5, 4, 2, 4 | 7, 8, 7, 7, 7 | 12, 13, 12, 10, 12 |
| B |               |               |                    |

# I-IV-V-IV-I Patterns

Now, let's switch the chords to a different progression.

Here is the I-IV-V-IV-I pattern in the key of F for all three triad inversion combinations.

**F B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F F B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F F B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F**



|   | Measure 1     | Measure 2     | Measure 3          |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| T | 1, 1, 3, 1, 1 | 5, 6, 8, 6, 5 | 8, 10, 12, 10, 8   |
| A | 2, 3, 5, 3, 2 | 5, 6, 8, 7, 5 | 10, 11, 13, 11, 10 |
| B |               |               |                    |

# Let's Practice & Learn

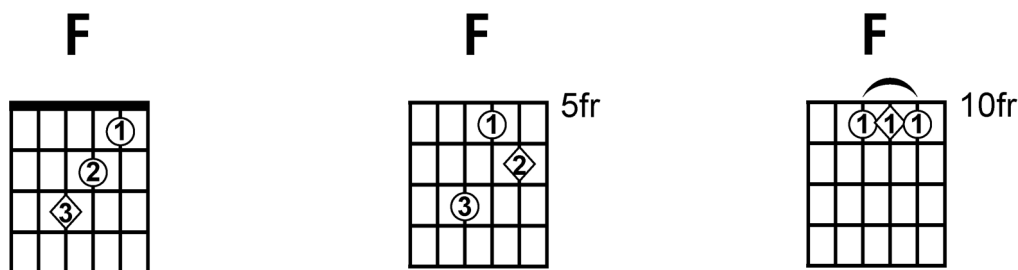
Practice Challenge 3: Play through all three of the the major triad patterns in all keys.

# TRIADS

## MAJOR

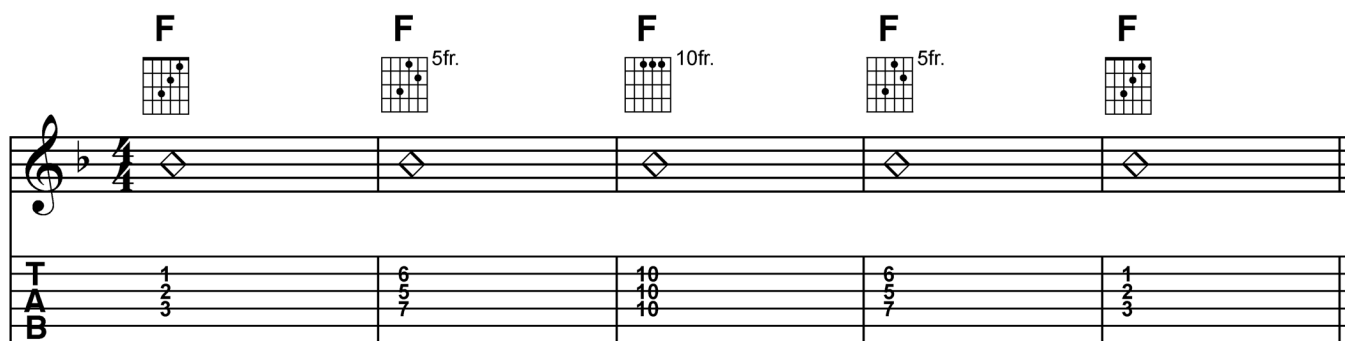
### Major Triad Forms (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Strings)

Here are the three closed voicing major triad shapes in the key of F using the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> strings.

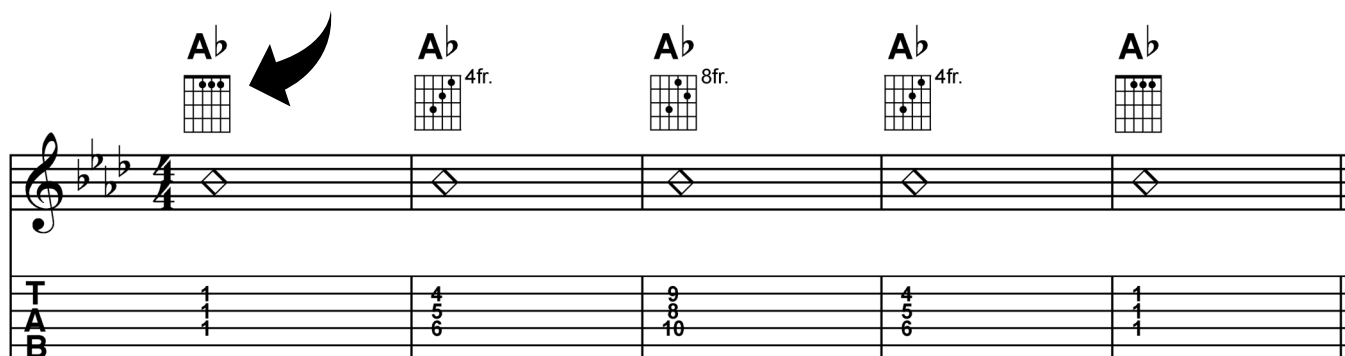


**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

Let's start by playing them up and down the neck in the key of F.

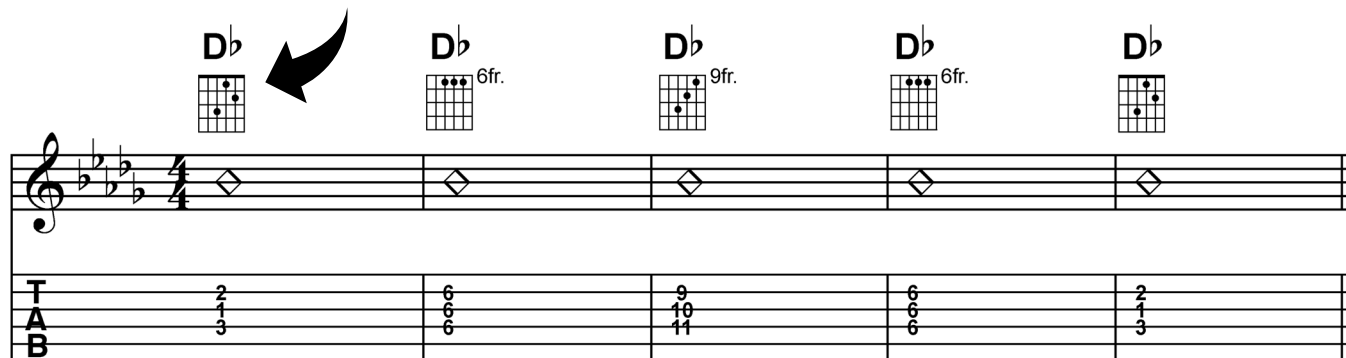


The first octave down shift from the high position occurs in the key of A<sup>b</sup>.





The next octave shift from the high position occurs in the key of Db.



|   |   |   |    |   |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| T | 2 | 6 | 9  | 6 | 2 |
| A | 1 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| B | 3 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 3 |

## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 1: Play through the major triad forms up and down the neck in this order...**

- F
- F#
- G
- Ab (the highest form flips down an octave)
- A
- Bb
- B
- C
- Db (the highest form flips down an octave)
- D
- Eb
- E.

**Practice Challenge 2: Play through the major triad forms in a cycle of 4ths in this order...**

- F
- Bb
- Eb
- Ab
- Db
- F#
- B
- E
- A
- D
- G
- C


# Major Triad Patterns (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Strings)

Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

## I-IV-I Patterns

Here is the I-IV-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations.

Diagram showing the I-IV-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations. The pattern consists of G (I), C (IV), and G (I) chords. The fret numbers for each chord are indicated above the diagrams: G (3fr, 5fr, 7fr, 12fr), C (5fr, 8fr, 12fr), and G (3fr, 7fr, 12fr).

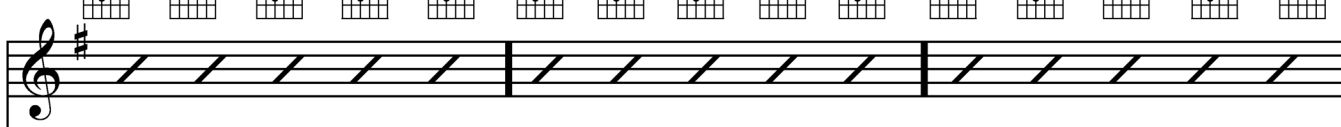


|   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|
| T | 3 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 8  | 8 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| A | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9  | 7 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| B | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 12 |

## I-IV-I-V-I Patterns

Now, let's add the V chord to the previous pattern to create a I-IV-I-V-I chord progression. Here is the I-IV-I-V-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations.

Diagram showing the I-IV-I-V-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations. The pattern consists of G (I), C (IV), G (I), D (V), and G (I) chords. The fret numbers for each chord are indicated above the diagrams: G (3fr, 5fr, 7fr, 12fr), C (5fr, 8fr, 12fr), and D (2fr, 7fr, 10fr, 12fr).

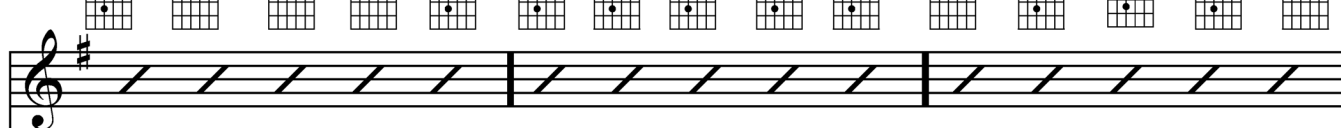


|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 8  | 8 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 12 |
| A | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| B | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 |

## I-IV-V-IV-I Patterns

Here is the I-IV-V-IV-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations.

Diagram showing the I-IV-V-IV-I pattern in the key of G for all three triad inversion combinations. The pattern consists of G (I), C (IV), D (V), C (IV), and G (I) chords. The fret numbers for each chord are indicated above the diagrams: G (3fr, 5fr, 7fr, 12fr), C (5fr, 8fr, 12fr), and D (7fr, 10fr, 14fr, 12fr).



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 8  | 10 | 8  | 8 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| A | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9  | 11 | 9  | 7 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| B | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 12 |



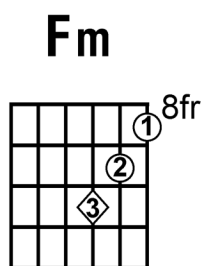
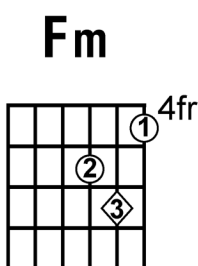
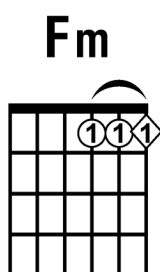
# TRIADS

## MINOR

## Minor Triad Forms (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

Minor triads consist of the **ROOT, FLATTED THIRD & FIFTH** of the major scale.

Here are the three closed voicing minor triad shapes in the key of F using the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> strings.



**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

Start by playing them up and down the neck.

**Fm** **Fm** **Fm** **Fm** **Fm**

T 1 4 8 4 1  
A 1 5 9 5 1  
B 1 5 10 5 1

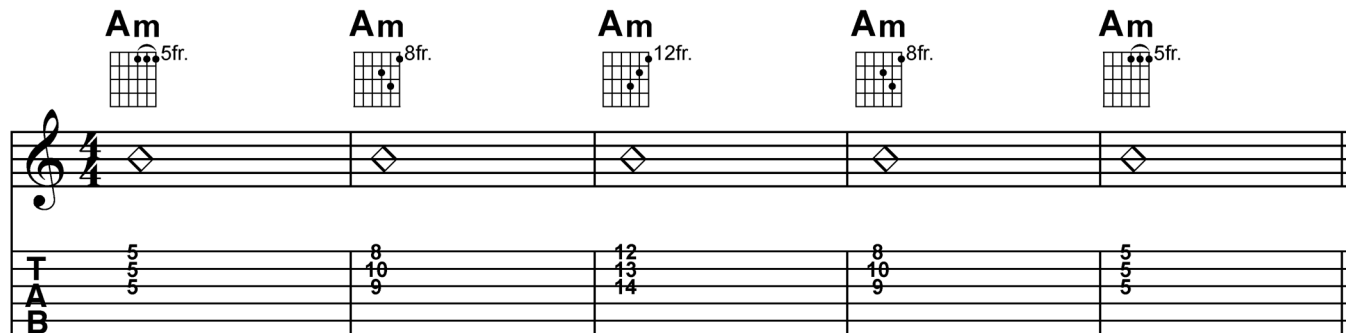
Now, let's do them in Gm – two frets up.

**Gm** **Gm** **Gm** **Gm** **Gm**

T 3 6 10 6 3  
A 3 7 11 7 3  
B 3 7 12 7 3

And, two frets higher in the key of Am...

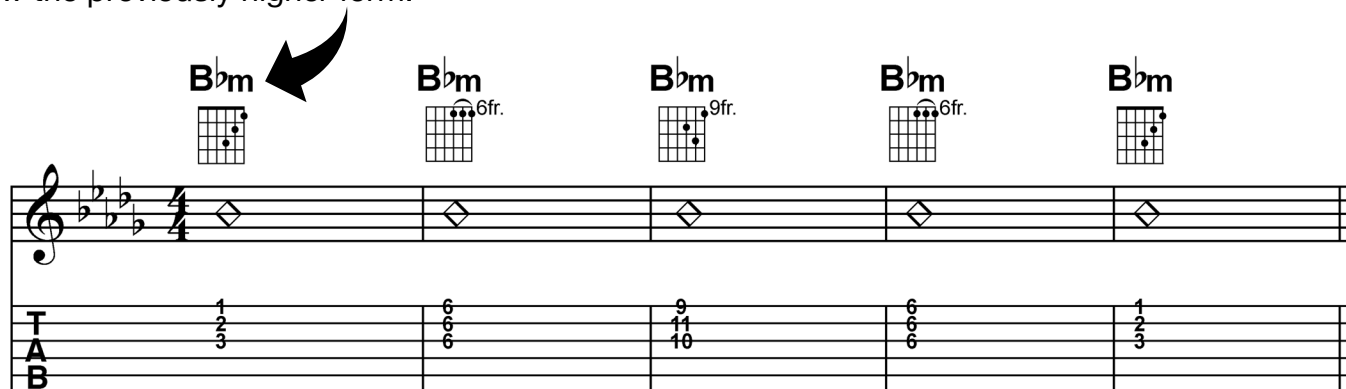
Am 5fr.      Am 8fr.      Am 12fr.      Am 8fr.      Am 5fr.



Notice, as you move up the neck and the forms reach above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret the highest form can flip down an octave to a lower position on the neck.

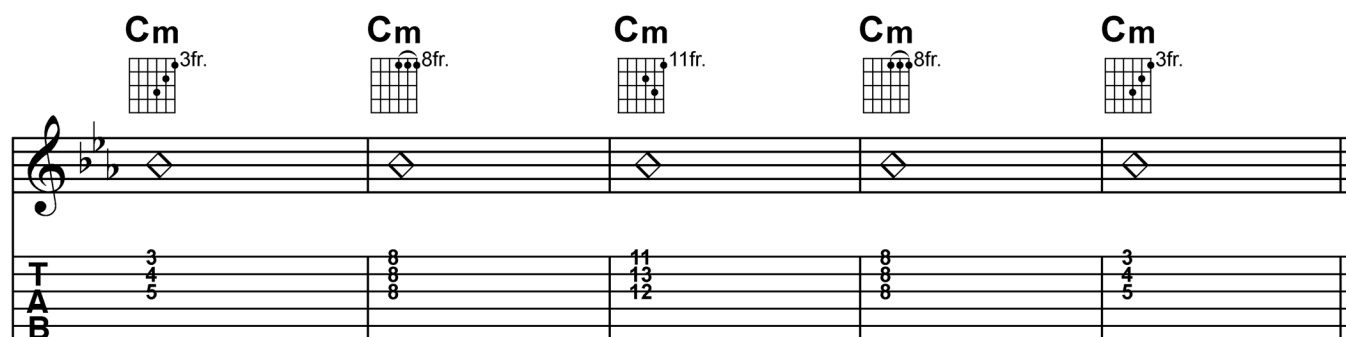
For example, if we go up a half step to the next key of Bb, the highest form, which would be now above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret, can also be played an octave down at the 1<sup>st</sup> fret. Notice how the starting form is now the previously higher form.

Bbm      Bbm 6fr.      Bbm 9fr.      Bbm 6fr.      Bbm

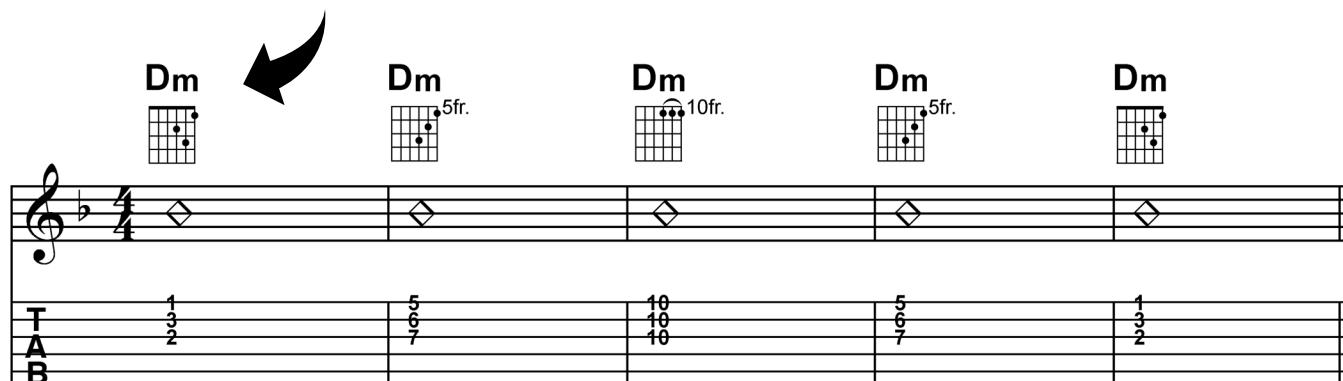


As we continue up through keys, let's play the minor triads in the key of C.

Cm 3fr.      Cm 8fr.      Cm 11fr.      Cm 8fr.      Cm 3fr.



When we move to the key of Dm the highest voicing now gets above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret and can be flipped down an octave.



## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 1:** Play through the minor triad forms up and down the neck in this order...

- Fm
- F#m
- Gm
- G#m
- Am
- Bbm (the highest form flips down an octave)
- Bm
- Cm
- Dbm
- Dm (the highest form flips down an octave)
- Ebm
- Em.

**Practice Challenge 2:** Play through the minor triad forms in a cycle of 4ths in this order...

- Fm
- Bbm
- Ebm
- Abm
- Dbm
- F#m
- Bm
- Em
- Am
- Dm
- Gm
- Cm

# Minor Triad Patterns (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

## I-vim-IV-V Patterns

The four most common chords in any key are the I-vim-IV-V. Let's add the minor form to the major forms we already learned to form this common chord progression.

Here is the I-vim-IV-V chord progression in the key of F for all three triad inversions.

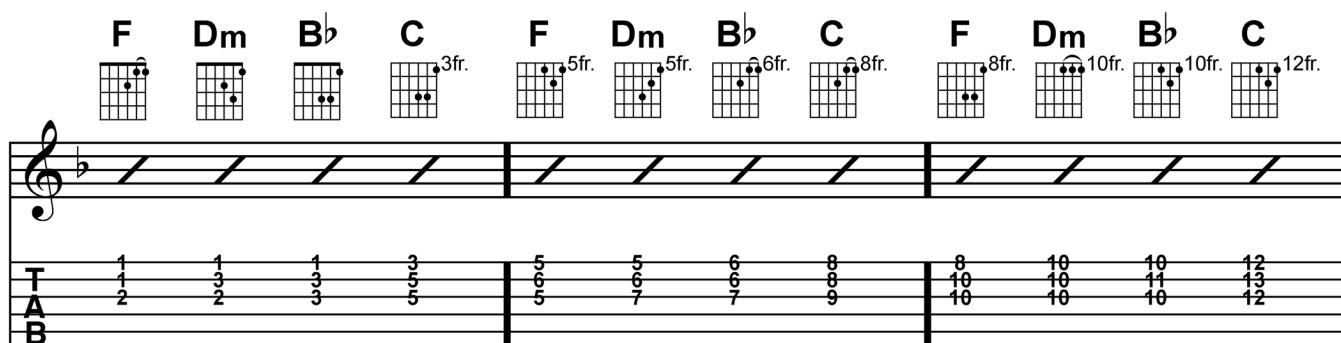


Diagram showing the I-vim-IV-V chord progression in the key of F for all three triad inversions. The progression is: F (I), Dm (vi), Bb (IV), C (V).

Chord diagrams are shown for each chord, with fret numbers indicated: F (1fr), Dm (3fr), Bb (5fr), C (6fr), F (8fr), Dm (10fr), Bb (10fr), C (12fr).

The notation includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (F major). Below the staff, the fret positions for the three strings (T, A, B) are listed for each chord:

| Chord   | T (Treble) | A (A) | B (Bass) |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|
| F (I)   | 1          | 1     | 2        |
| Dm (vi) | 1          | 3     | 2        |
| Bb (IV) | 1          | 3     | 3        |
| C (V)   | 3          | 5     | 5        |
| F (I)   | 5          | 6     | 5        |
| Dm (vi) | 5          | 6     | 7        |
| Bb (IV) | 6          | 6     | 7        |
| C (V)   | 8          | 8     | 9        |
| F (I)   | 8          | 10    | 10       |
| Dm (vi) | 10         | 10    | 10       |
| Bb (IV) | 10         | 11    | 10       |
| C (V)   | 12         | 13    | 12       |

Now try picking as an arpeggio. Here is the I-vim-IV-V in F first set of inversions.

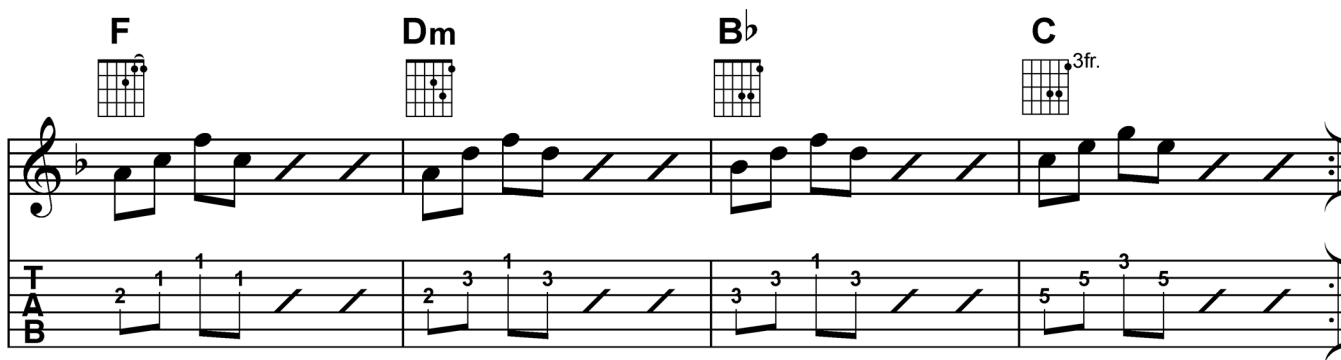


Diagram showing the I-vim-IV-V chord progression in the key of F for the first set of inversions, arpeggiated. The progression is: F (I), Dm (vi), Bb (IV), C (V).

Chord diagrams are shown for each chord, with fret numbers indicated: F (1fr), Dm (3fr), Bb (5fr), C (3fr).

The notation includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (F major). Below the staff, the fret positions for the three strings (T, A, B) are listed for each chord:

| Chord   | T (Treble) | A (A) | B (Bass) |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|
| F (I)   | 2          | 1     | 1        |
| Dm (vi) | 2          | 3     | 1        |
| Bb (IV) | 3          | 3     | 1        |
| C (V)   | 5          | 5     | 3        |

Try the same arpeggio pattern in the next set of inversions in F.

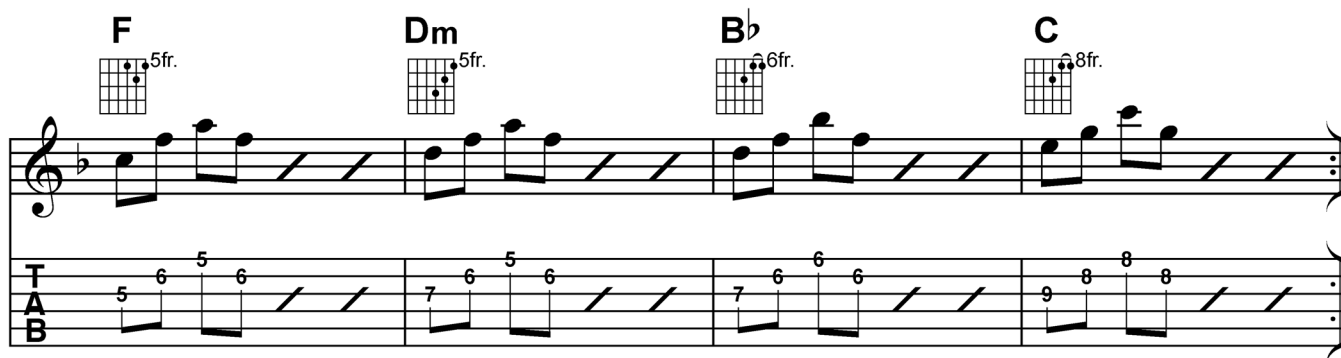


Diagram showing the I-vim-IV-V chord progression in the key of F for the next set of inversions, arpeggiated. The progression is: F (I), Dm (vi), Bb (IV), C (V).

Chord diagrams are shown for each chord, with fret numbers indicated: F (5fr), Dm (5fr), Bb (6fr), C (8fr).

The notation includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (F major). Below the staff, the fret positions for the three strings (T, A, B) are listed for each chord:

| Chord   | T (Treble) | A (A) | B (Bass) |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|
| F (I)   | 5          | 6     | 5        |
| Dm (vi) | 7          | 6     | 5        |
| Bb (IV) | 7          | 6     | 6        |
| C (V)   | 9          | 8     | 8        |

Try the same arpeggio pattern in the last set of inversions in F.

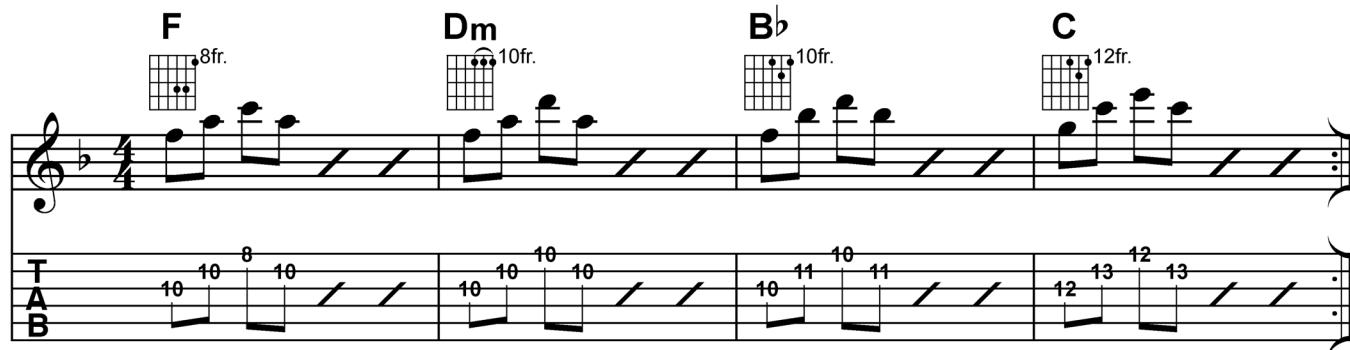


Diagram showing the F major arpeggio pattern (F, A, C) across four measures. The first measure is labeled F (8fr.), the second Dm (10fr.), the third B $\flat$  (10fr.), and the fourth C (12fr.). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The guitar tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th).

Now, let's switch to the key of D and play the I-vim-IV-V pattern in a different arpeggio pattern.

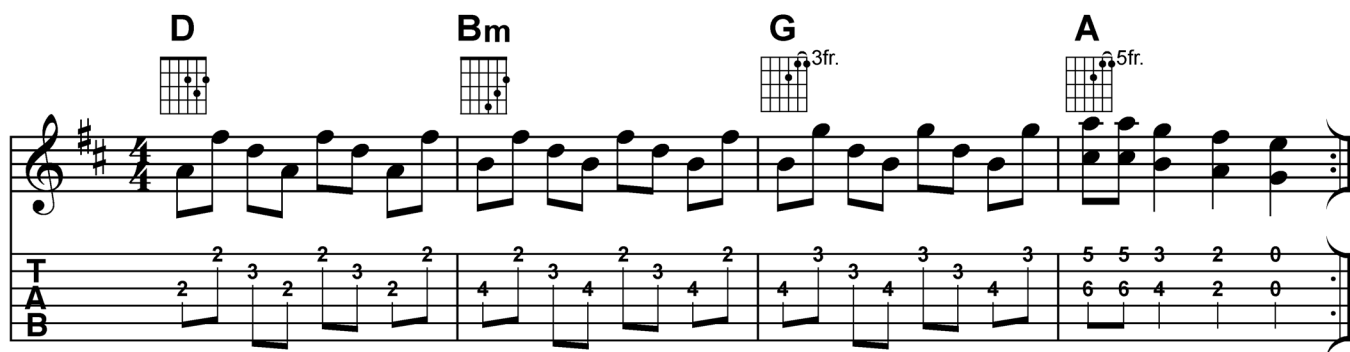


Diagram showing the D major arpeggio pattern (D, F#, A) across four measures. The first measure is labeled D, the second Bm, the third G (3fr.), and the fourth A (5fr.). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th).

Here is the same arpeggio pattern used in the next inversion set in D.

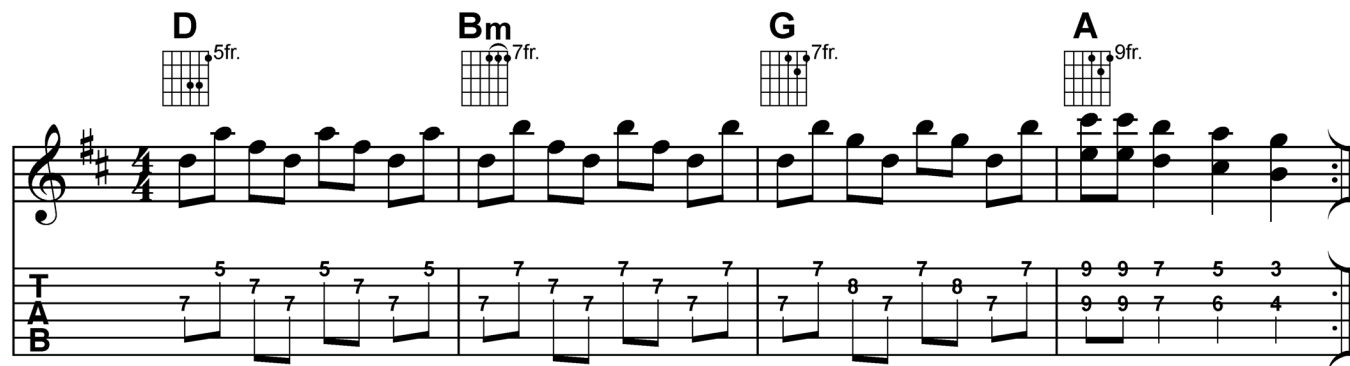


Diagram showing the D major arpeggio pattern (D, F#, A) across four measures. The first measure is labeled D (5fr.), the second Bm (7fr.), the third G (7fr.), and the fourth A (9fr.). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th).

And, the same arpeggio pattern in the last inversion set in D.

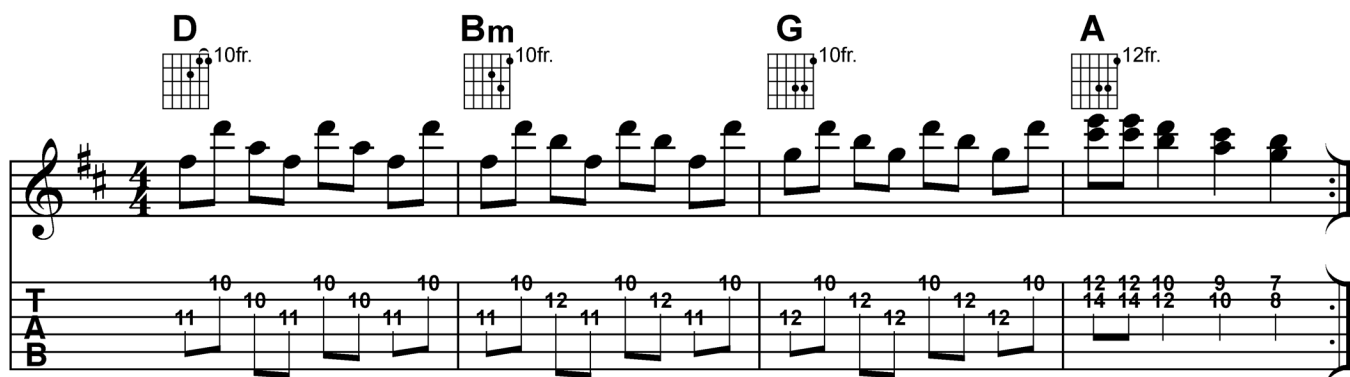


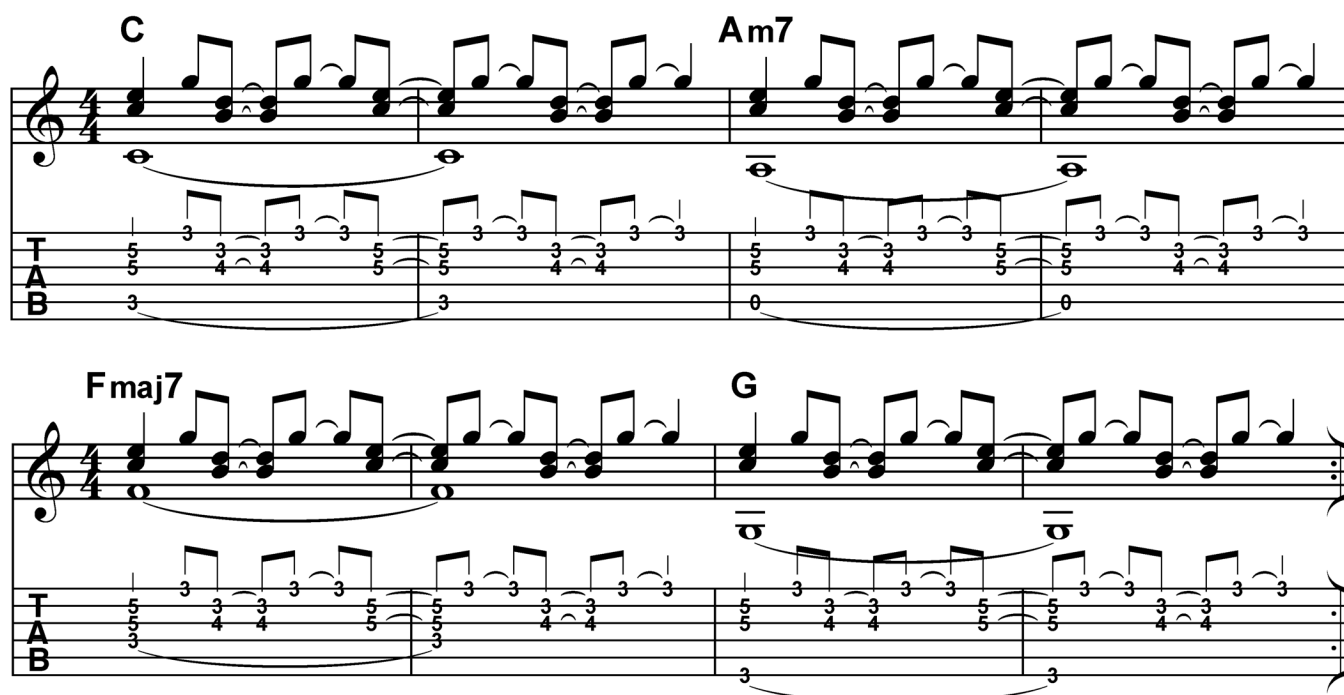
Diagram showing the D major arpeggio pattern (D, F#, A) across four measures. The first measure is labeled D (10fr.), the second Bm (10fr.), the third G (10fr.), and the fourth A (12fr.). The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for the strings: T (Treble), A (4th), and B (5th).

# Using the Patterns Over Multiple Chords

The triad patterns can be used over a variety of different chords to create extended, more complex harmonies.

Here is the I-V triad pattern in the key of C used over the C (I), Am7 (vim), Fmaj7 (IV) and G (V) to create a Pat Metheny-esque sound.

The included bass line is there for you to “hear” the chord changes but, if playing with other musicians, the guitar could simply play the top triad pattern for the same effect.



## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 3:** Play various chord progressions using the I, vim, IV and V chords in any order in all keys.

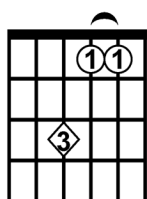
**Practice Challenge 4:** Experiment playing various triad patterns over a variety of chords within a key to hear how the pattern adds harmony and interest to your guitar part.



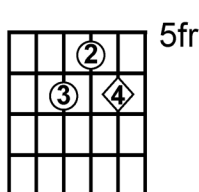
## Minor Triad Forms (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Strings)

Here are the three closed voicing minor triad shapes in the key of F using the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> strings.

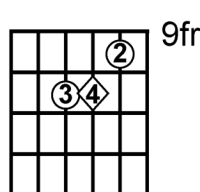
**Fm**



**Fm**






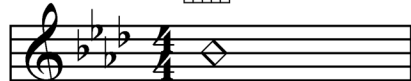
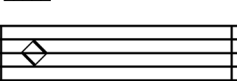
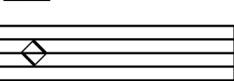
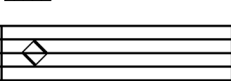
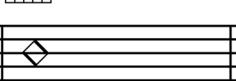


**Fm**






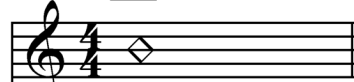
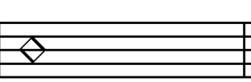
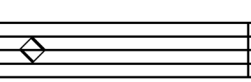
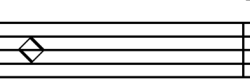
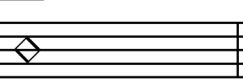


**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

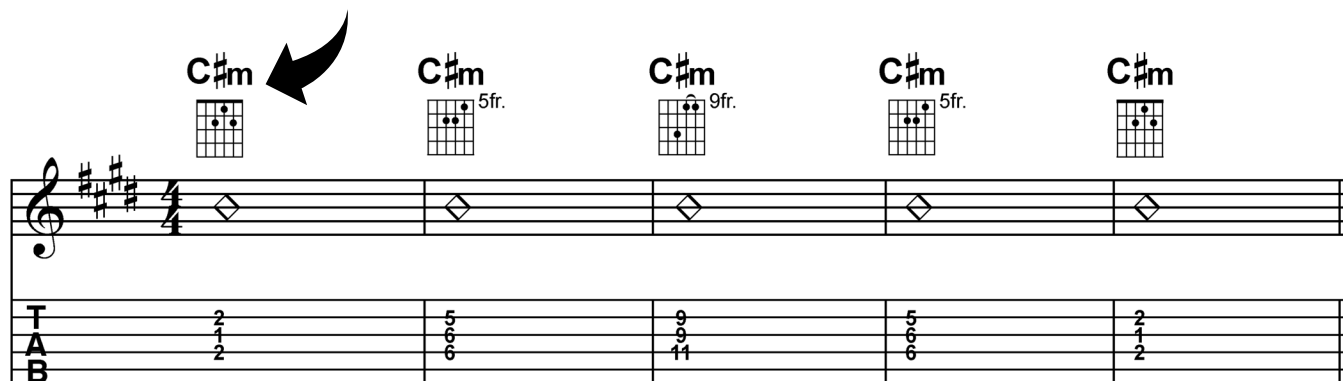
Let's start by playing them up and down the neck in the key of Fm.

|          | <b>Fm</b>                                                                           | <b>Fm</b>                                                                           | <b>Fm</b>                                                                            | <b>Fm</b>                                                                             | <b>Fm</b>                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |  |  |   |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>T</b> | 1                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 9                                                                                    | 6                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b> | 1                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 10                                                                                   | 5                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b> | 3                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 10                                                                                   | 6                                                                                     | 3                                                                                     |

The first octave down shift from the high position occurs in the key of Am.

|          | <b>Am</b>                                                                           | <b>Am</b>                                                                           | <b>Am</b>                                                                           | <b>Am</b>                                                                            | <b>Am</b>                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>T</b> | 1                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 5                                                                                    | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b> | 2                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 9                                                                                   | 7                                                                                    | 2                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b> | 2                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 7                                                                                    | 2                                                                                     |

The next octave down shift from the high position occurs in the key of C#m.



|   |   |   |    |   |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| T | 2 | 5 | 9  | 5 | 2 |
| A | 1 | 6 | 9  | 6 | 1 |
| B | 2 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 2 |

## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 1:** Play through the minor triad forms up and down the neck in this order...

- Fm
- F#m
- Gm
- Abm
- Am (the highest form flips down an octave)
- Bbm
- Bm
- Cm
- C#m (the highest form flips down an octave)
- Dm
- Ebm
- Em.

**Practice Challenge 2:** Play through the minor triad forms in a cycle of 4ths in this order...

- Fm
- Bbm
- Ebm
- Abm
- C#m
- F#m
- Bm
- Em
- Am
- Dm
- Gm
- Cm

# Triad Chord Progressions

Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

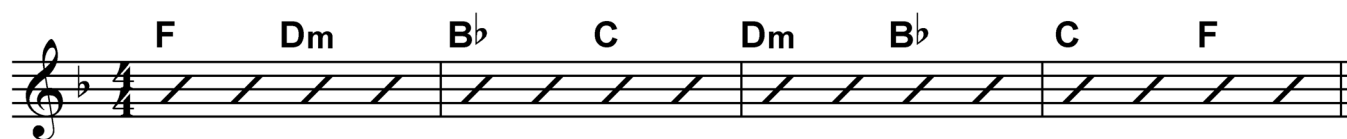
Here is the I-IV-V-I pattern in the key of C.

**Practice Challenge 1: Try to play in all 6 inversion positions** – 3 inversions using the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> strings and 3 for strings 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

**Practice Challenge 2: Strum as chords then play as arpeggios.**

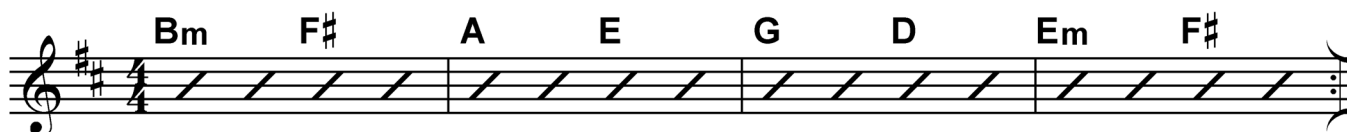


Here is a different progression in F. Try to play in a variety of positions and string sets using strums and arpeggios.



Finally, here is one last familiar chord progression in Bm to the song "Hotel California" by the Eagles.

Try to play in a variety of positions and string sets using strums and arpeggios. Try to move to the next chord using the closest possible form – it could be either above or beneath the current chord.

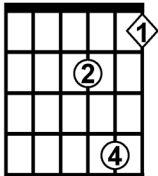


## Seventh Chord Triad Forms (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

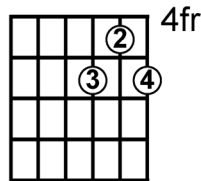
Seventh chords triads consist of the **ROOT, THIRD, FIFTH & FLATTED SEVENTH** of the major scale.

Here are the four closed voicing seventh chord triad shapes in the key of F using the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> strings. One of the tones (Root, Third or Fifth) is dropped when creating a three-note triad.

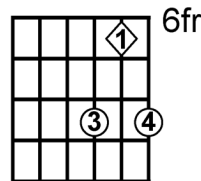
**F7**



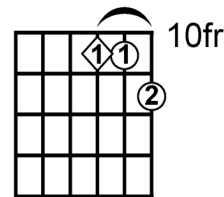
**F7**



**F7**

































**F7**



**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

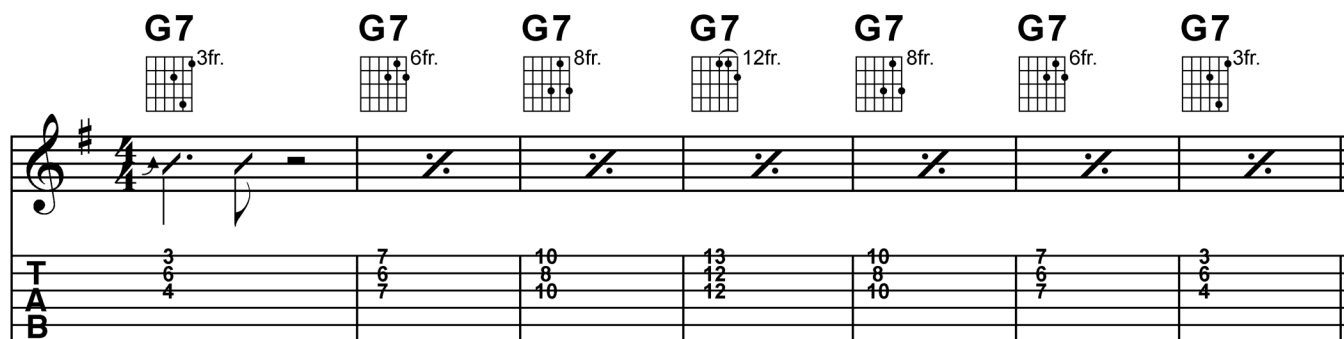
Play them up and down the neck in whole notes then add a dotted quarter to eighth rhythm.

|                                                                                     | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                            | <b>F7</b>                                                                             | <b>F7</b>                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>T</b>                                                                            | 1                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 11                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b>                                                                            | 4                                                                                   | 4                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 6                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     | 4                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b>                                                                            | 2                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 2                                                                                     |

|                                                                                     | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                            | <b>F7</b>                                                                             | <b>F7</b>                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                     | (repeat same rhythm)                                                                |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <b>T</b>                                                                            | 1                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 11                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b>                                                                            | 4                                                                                   | 4                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 6                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     | 4                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b>                                                                            | 2                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 2                                                                                     |

Now, play in G and practice sliding to each chord.

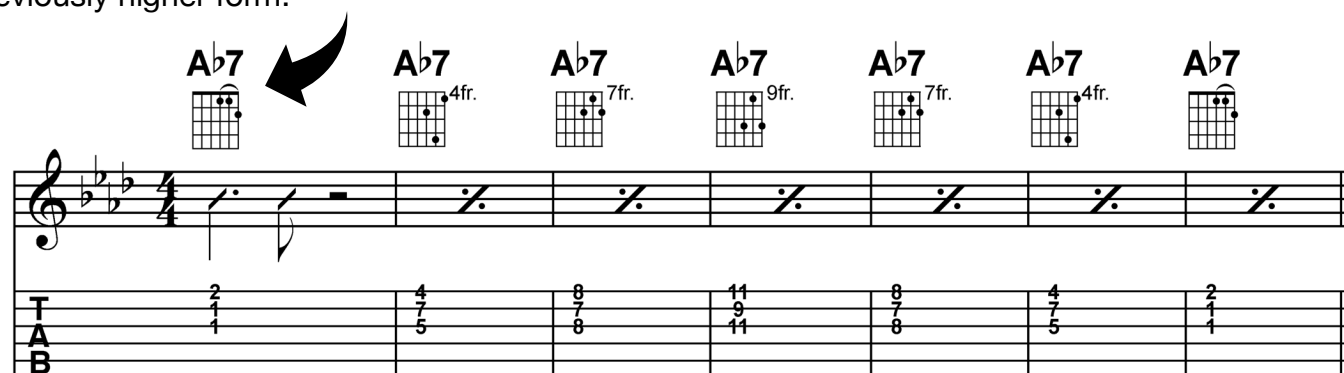
**G7** 3fr. **G7** 6fr. **G7** 8fr. **G7** 12fr. **G7** 8fr. **G7** 6fr. **G7** 3fr.



|   | 3fr. | 6fr. | 8fr. | 12fr. | 8fr. | 6fr. | 3fr. |
|---|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| T | 3    | 7    | 10   | 13    | 10   | 7    | 3    |
| A | 6    | 6    | 8    | 12    | 8    | 6    | 6    |
| B | 4    | 7    | 10   | 12    | 10   | 7    | 4    |

If we go up a half step to the next key of A $\flat$ , the highest form, which would be now above the 13<sup>th</sup> fret, can also be played an octave down at the 1<sup>st</sup> fret. Notice how the starting form is now the previously higher form.

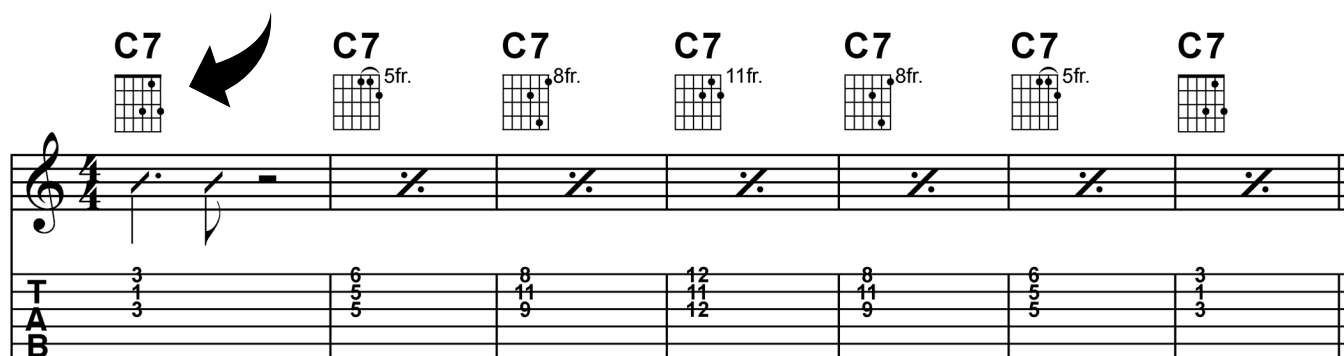
**A $\flat$ 7** **A $\flat$ 7** 4fr. **A $\flat$ 7** 7fr. **A $\flat$ 7** 9fr. **A $\flat$ 7** 7fr. **A $\flat$ 7** 4fr. **A $\flat$ 7**



|   | 1st | 4fr. | 7fr. | 9fr. | 7fr. | 4fr. | 1st |
|---|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| T | 2   | 4    | 8    | 11   | 8    | 4    | 2   |
| A | 1   | 5    | 7    | 9    | 7    | 5    | 1   |
| B | 1   | 5    | 8    | 11   | 8    | 5    | 1   |

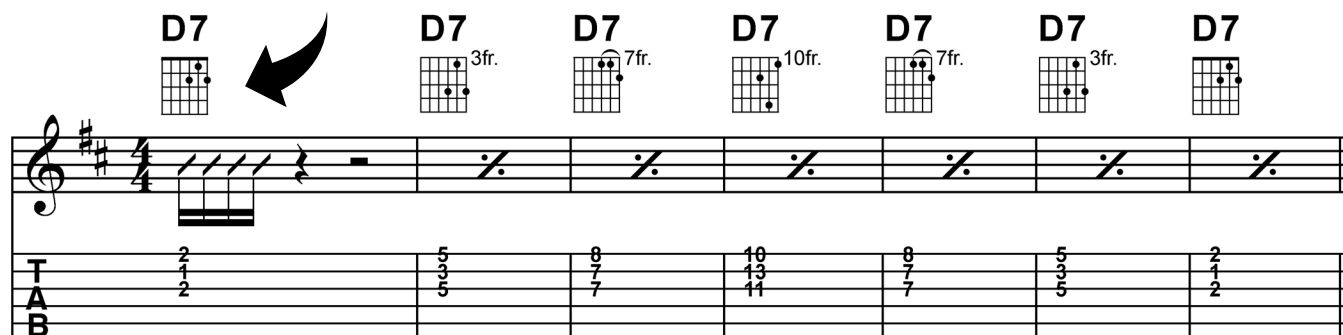
As we continue up through keys, the next octave flip occurs in the key of C.

**C7** **C7** 5fr. **C7** 8fr. **C7** 11fr. **C7** 8fr. **C7** 5fr. **C7**



|   | 5fr. | 8fr. | 11fr. | 8fr. | 5fr. | 0fr. |
|---|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| T | 3    | 6    | 8     | 12   | 8    | 3    |
| A | 1    | 5    | 11    | 11   | 11   | 1    |
| B | 3    | 5    | 9     | 12   | 9    | 3    |

When we move to the key of D the highest voicing flips down again.



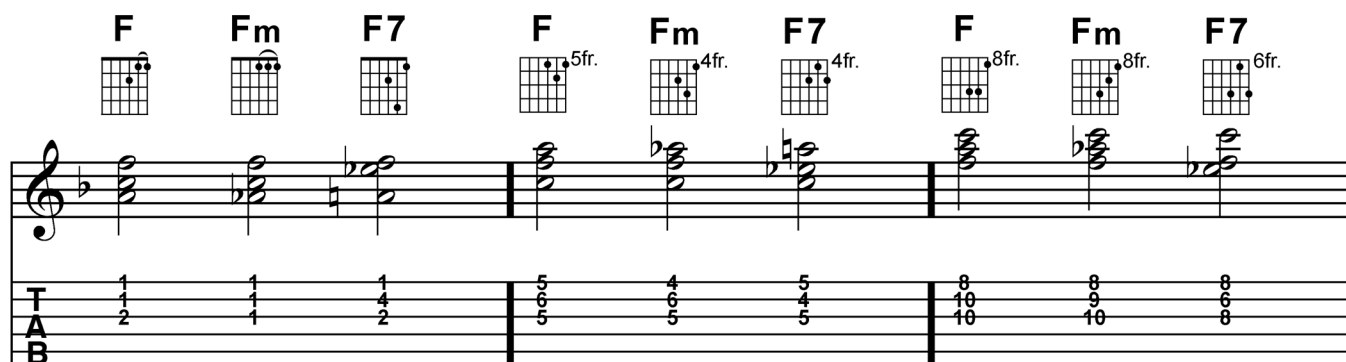
## Let's Practice & Learn

**Practice Challenge 1:** Play through the seventh triad forms up and down the neck chromatically i.e. F-F#-G-G# etc. Remember, the octave switches occur at F, Ab, C & D.

**Practice Challenge 2:** Play through the seventh chord triad forms in a cycle of 4ths.

# Triad Families (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

Before we get to some fun patterns, let's look at one more way of remembering all of these triad forms. Here they are grouped together as families within a key.



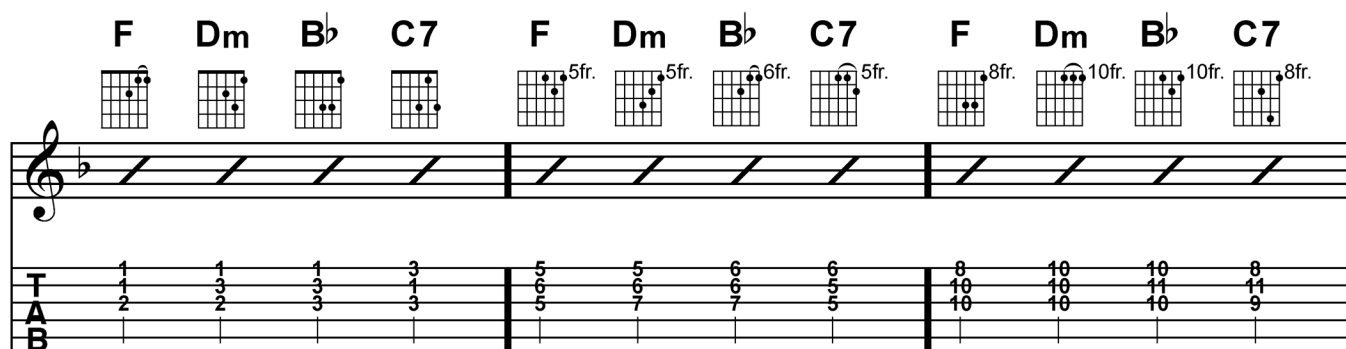
# Seventh Chord Triad Patterns (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Strings)

Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

## I-vim-IV-V7 Patterns

The four most common chords in any key are the I-vim-IV-V. Let's add the 7<sup>th</sup> form to the V chord creating a V7.

Here is the I-vim-IV-V7 chord progression in the key of F for all three triad inversions.



Now, let's switch inversions for each chord creating a more interesting progression.

Chord progression: F, F, Dm, Dm, Bb, Bb, C7, C7

Chord diagrams and fret numbers are shown above the staff. The staff shows the musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string.

Chord progression: F, F, Dm, Dm, Bb, Bb, C7, C7

Chord diagrams and fret numbers are shown above the staff. The staff shows the musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string.

Here is a fun dominant 7<sup>th</sup> pattern over an F7 and a Bbsus chord.

Chord progression: F7, Bbsus, F7, Bbsus, F7

Chord diagrams and fret numbers are shown above the staff. The staff shows the musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string.

And, one final funky combination over an F7 and Bb9.

Chord progression: F7, Bb9, F7, Bb9

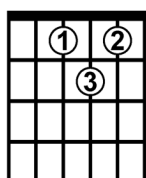
Chord diagrams and fret numbers are shown above the staff. The staff shows the musical notation with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The TAB below the staff shows the fret numbers for each string.



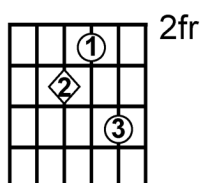
### Seventh Chord Triad Forms (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Strings)

Here are the four closed voicing seventh chord triad shapes in F using the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> strings.

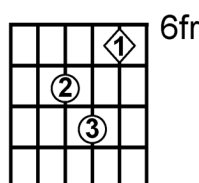
**F7**



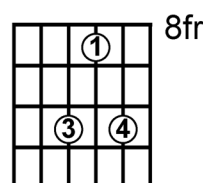
**F7**



**F7**












**F7**









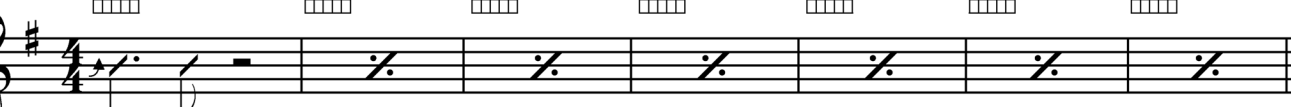


**Let's Learn: Memorize these forms and where the root is located in each form.**

Let's start by playing them up and down the neck in the key of F.

|                                                                                     | <b>F7</b>                                                                            | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                           | <b>F7</b>                                                                            | <b>F7</b>                                                                             | <b>F7</b>                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <b>T</b>                                                                            | 1                                                                                    | 4                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 6                                                                                    | 4                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b>                                                                            | 2                                                                                    | 2                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 8                                                                                    | 2                                                                                     | 2                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b>                                                                            | 1                                                                                    | 3                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 7                                                                                    | 3                                                                                     | 1                                                                                     |

Now, let's play them as G7th chords sliding into a dotted quarter to eighth rhythm.

|                                                                                     | <b>G7</b>                                                                            | <b>G7</b>                                                                           | <b>G7</b>                                                                           | <b>G7</b>                                                                           | <b>G7</b>                                                                            | <b>G7</b>                                                                             | <b>G7</b>                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| <b>T</b>                                                                            | 3                                                                                    | 6                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 12                                                                                  | 8                                                                                    | 6                                                                                     | 3                                                                                     |
| <b>A</b>                                                                            | 4                                                                                    | 4                                                                                   | 10                                                                                  | 10                                                                                  | 10                                                                                   | 4                                                                                     | 4                                                                                     |
| <b>B</b>                                                                            | 3                                                                                    | 5                                                                                   | 9                                                                                   | 12                                                                                  | 9                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     | 3                                                                                     |

The first octave down shift from the high position occurs in the key of Bb.

Diagram illustrating the first octave down shift from the high position in the key of Bb. The diagram shows seven Bb7 chord shapes at various frets: 3fr., 6fr., 7fr., 11fr., 7fr., 6fr., and 3fr. A large arrow points from the 11fr. shape to the 6fr. shape, indicating the shift. Below the shapes is a musical staff in Bb major (two flats) and 4/4 time, showing a sequence of notes corresponding to the fret positions. Below the staff is a table of fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings.

|   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| T | 3 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| A | 4 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| B | 3 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 3 |

The next octave down shift from the high position occurs on the C7 chord.

Diagram illustrating the next octave down shift from the high position on the C7 chord. The diagram shows seven C7 chord shapes at various frets: 3fr., 8fr., 9fr., 8fr., 3fr., and 8fr. A large arrow points from the 9fr. shape to the 8fr. shape, indicating the shift. Below the shapes is a musical staff in C major (no sharps or flats) and 4/4 time, showing a sequence of notes corresponding to the fret positions. Below the staff is a table of fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings.

|   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| T | 4 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| A | 3 | 5 | 9 | 9  | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| B | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 2 |

The last octave down shift from the high position occurs on the E7 chord.

Diagram illustrating the last octave down shift from the high position on the E7 chord. The diagram shows seven E7 chord shapes at various frets: 5fr., 7fr., 12fr., 7fr., 5fr., and 5fr. A large arrow points from the 12fr. shape to the 7fr. shape, indicating the shift. Below the shapes is a musical staff in E major (three sharps) and 4/4 time, showing a sequence of notes corresponding to the fret positions. Below the staff is a table of fret numbers for the T, A, and B strings.

|   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| T | 3 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| A | 4 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| B | 2 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 2 |

## Let's Practice & Learn

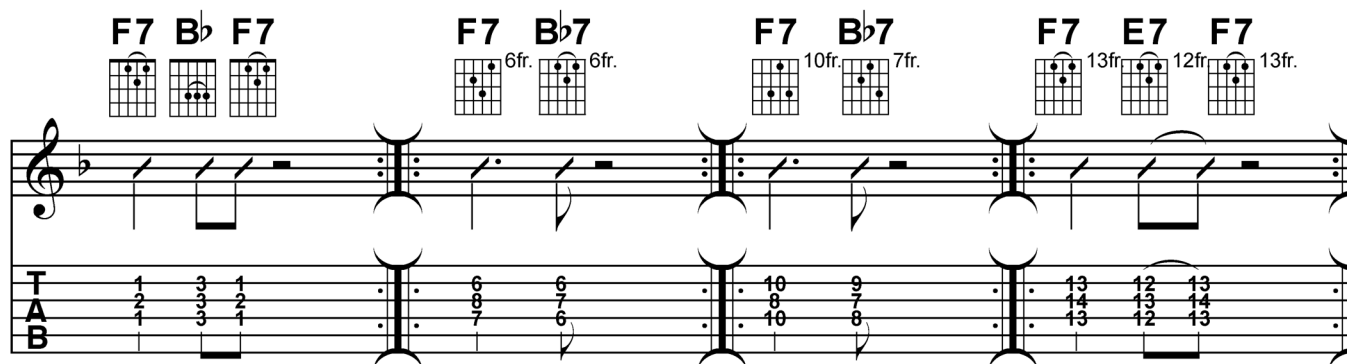
**Practice Challenge 1:** Play up and down through the seventh chord triads chromatically then in fourths.

**Practice Challenge 2:** Using a metronome or drum loop, play the seventh forms with various rhythms incorporating slides and other techniques.

# Seventh Chord Triad Progressions

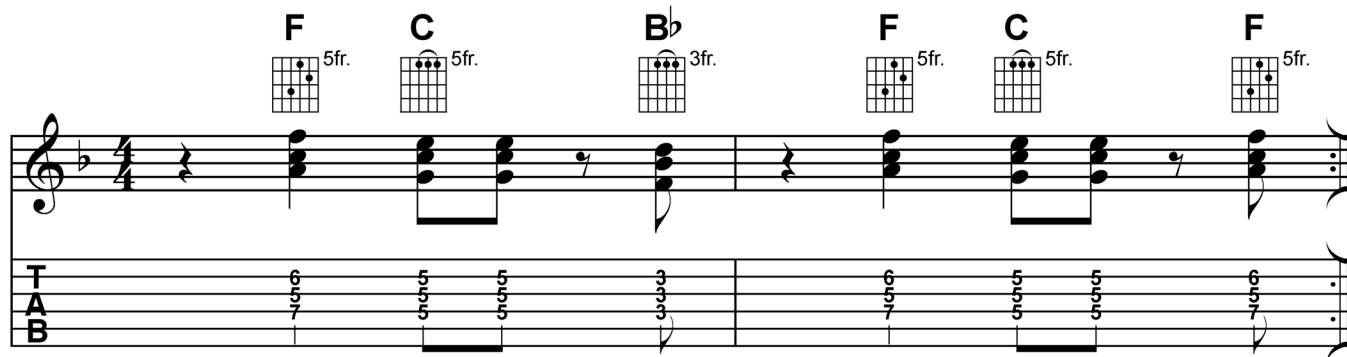
Now, that you've learned the forms on the neck let's start combining them to form common chord movements that you will see in songs.

Here are some great blues patterns using the I and IV chords in the key of F. Notice how some forms use a barre. Try adding a grace note hammering on to the third string from the barred forms.



Finally, here is one last familiar chord progression in F from the song "You Can Call Me Al" by Paul Simon.

Play with all down strums with a tight punchy attack.



## Let's Practice & Learn

**Final Practice Challenge:** Play the I-vim-IV-V7 progression in all inversions on both strings sets. When moving to the next chord, use the closest possible inversion.

Learn the I-vim-IV-V7 progression first in the keys of C, A, G, E, D, then move to all the keys.

**Goal:** To play this progression in any key, in any inversion without hesitation.

