



# HOW TO PLAY DROP D TUNING ON GUITAR

## Drop D Tuning

Drop D tuning is one of the easiest and most useful altered tunings on the guitar.

Only one string changes from the standard guitar tuning.

The 6<sup>th</sup> string, normally tuned to a low E, is tuned down a whole step to a D.

So, the strings end up being...

6<sup>th</sup> – D  
5<sup>th</sup> – A  
4<sup>th</sup> – D  
3<sup>rd</sup> – G  
2<sup>nd</sup> – B  
1<sup>st</sup> – E

This tuning is great for creating a low, full sound particularly when in the key of D.

## Exploring Drop D Tuning

Let's first get familiar with the sound and layout of the new tuning.

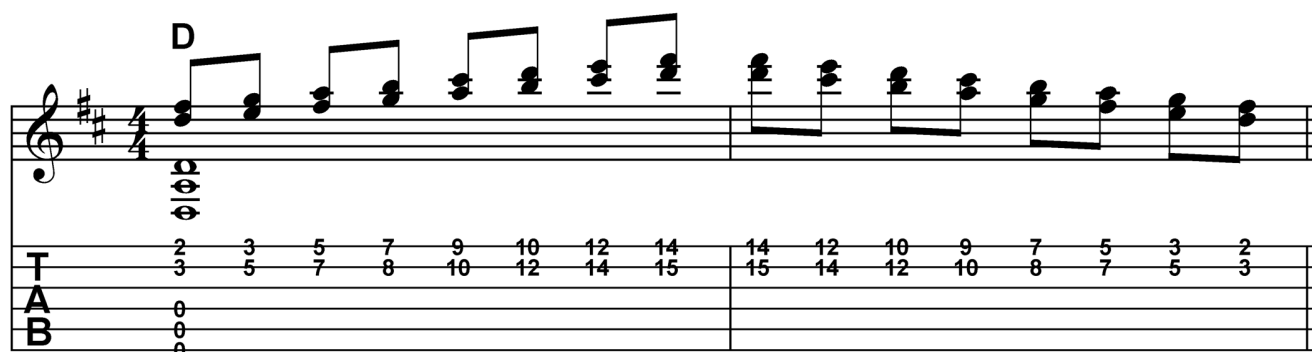
Here's a D major scale played on the 4<sup>th</sup> string up the neck with the added drop D notes.

**D**

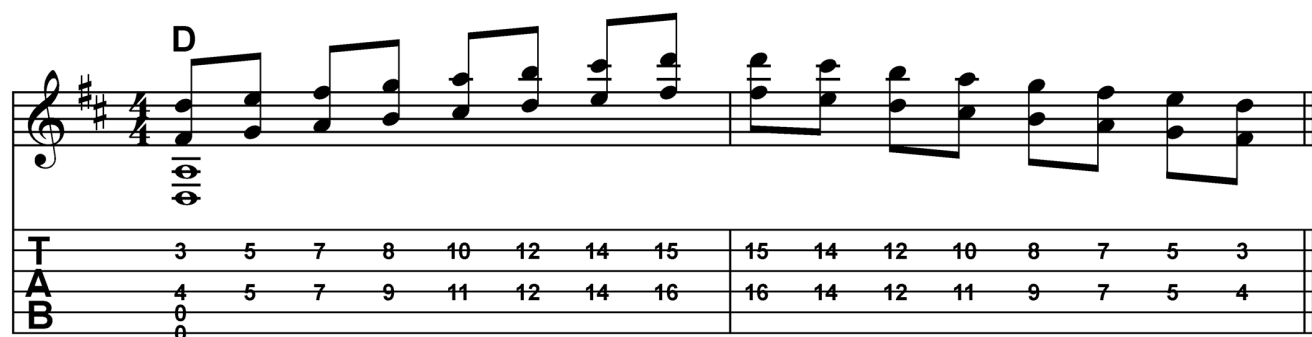
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A	0	2	4	5	7	9	11	12	12	11	9	7	5	4	2	0
B	0															

Try playing the scale up an octave on the second string as well.

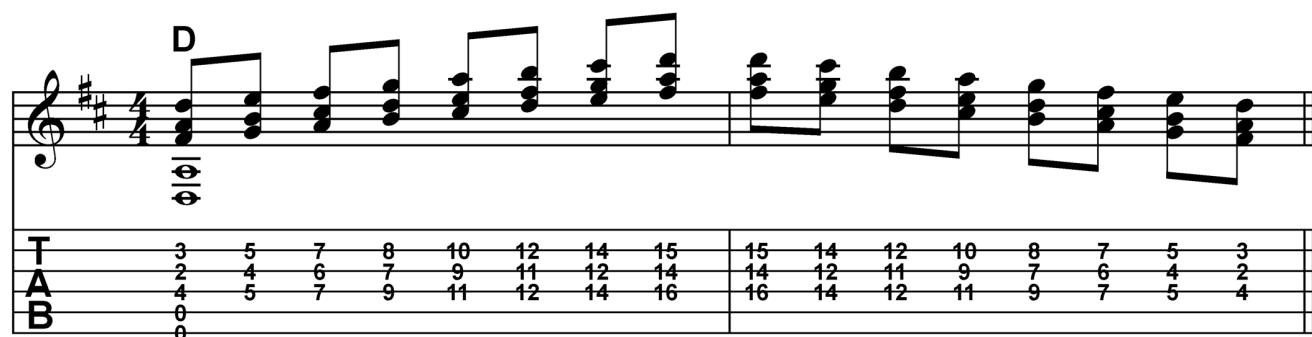
Next, let's play the D major scale up an octave in 3rds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> strings. Incorporate the middle D, A and low D along or in between the notes.



Now, let's play the D major scale in 6ths up the neck as shown. Add the open D, A, and low D drone strings to improvise a rhythm.

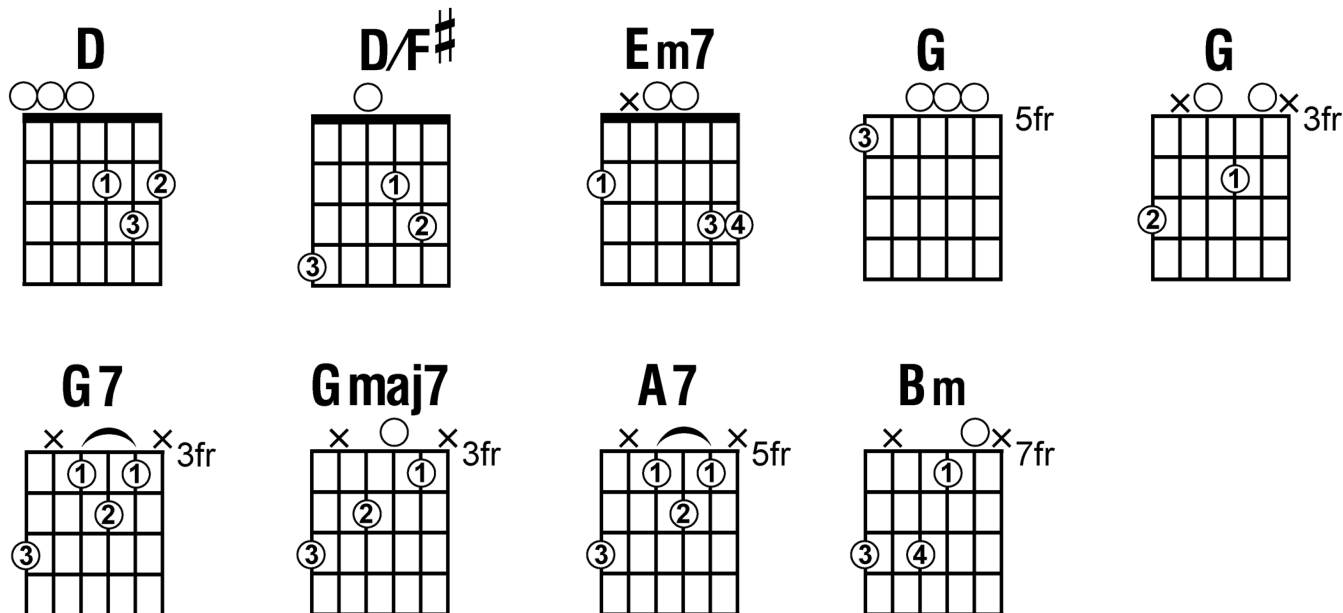


Next, let's make each chord a triad.



# Drop D Chords

Here are a few helpful chords shapes in Drop D.



## “Everlong” by Foo Fighters Intro

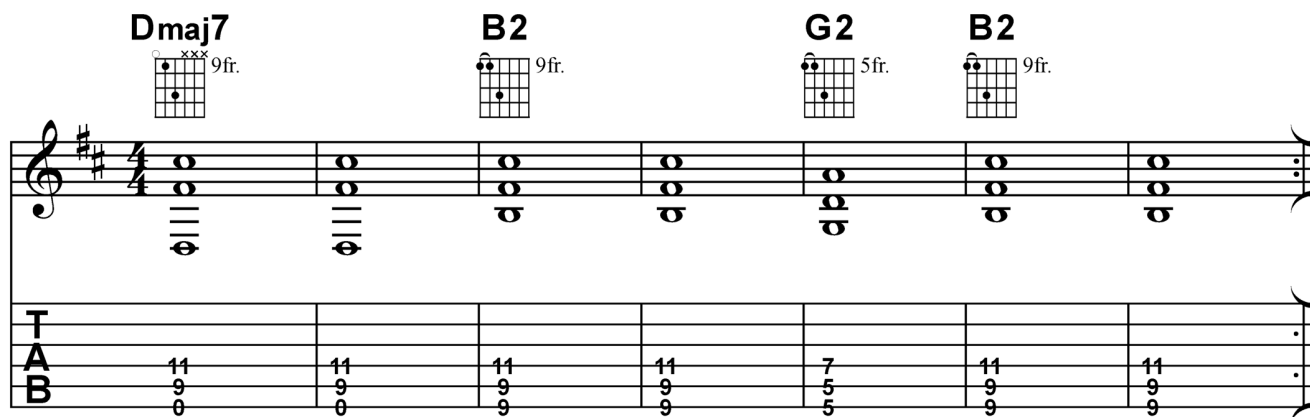


Diagram showing the musical notation and fretboard diagrams for the “Everlong” by Foo Fighters Intro:

The notation shows a sequence of chords in Drop D tuning (D4):

- Dmaj7**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.
- B2**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.
- G2**: Fret 5 on D, fret 7 on G, fret 7 on B.
- B2**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.

The fretboard diagrams show the fingerings for each chord:

- Dmaj7**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.
- B2**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.
- G2**: Fret 5 on D, fret 7 on G, fret 7 on B.
- B2**: Fret 9 on D, fret 11 on G, fret 11 on B.