



OPEN CHORD VOICINGS

OPEN YOUR SOUND ON GUITAR

Open Chord Voicings

There's more than one way to play a chord! The different notes within a chord can be arranged in a variety of ways. For example, the root of the chord could be the lowest tone, but it could also be the highest tone or some other tone in the middle. How these chord tones are arranged is called the chords VOICING.

CLOSED VOICED CHORDS are chords that have all of the tones arranged within one octave.
OPEN VOICED CHORDS are chords that use tones that range greater than an octave.

Closed Chord Voicings (all notes within an octave)

Open Chord Voicings (notes exceeding an octave)

	G xx x 3fr.	G xx x 3fr.	G xx x 10fr.	G xx x 2fr.
T	3	3	12	3
A	4	4	12	5
B	5		10	2

Playing chords with an open voicing leads to a unique and wonderfully open sound.









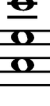
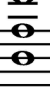
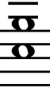
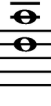
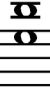
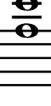
This lesson covers some of the most helpful open chord voicings.

Open Voicings in G: (using 5th, 4th, and 2nd strings)

	G xx x 10fr.	Am xx x 12fr.	Bm xx x	C xx x 3fr.	D xx x 5fr.	Em xx x 7fr.	F# xx x 9fr.
T	12	13	3	5	7	8	10
A	12	14	4	5	7	9	10
B	10	12	2	3	5	7	9












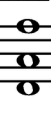
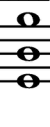
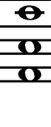
Open Voicings in G: (using 4th, 3rd, and 1st strings)

These the same voicings as the previous example but they are on a different set of strings. Notice that these voicings have the same fingering shapes as the previous versions.

	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F# \emptyset
							
							
T	7	8	10	12	14	15	17
A	7	9	11	12	14	16	17
B	5	7	9	10	12	14	16

Open Voicings in G: (using 6th, 5th, and 3rd strings)

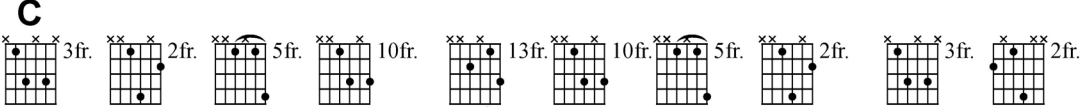

These the same voicings as the first example but they are an octave lower.

	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F# \emptyset
							
							
T							
A	4	5	7	9	11	12	14
B	5	7	9	10	12	14	15
	3	5	7	8	10	12	14

Same Chord Different Voicings

All of the chords below are a C major triad. Notice how each one gets a different sound. Each voicing has a different tonal sound.

C

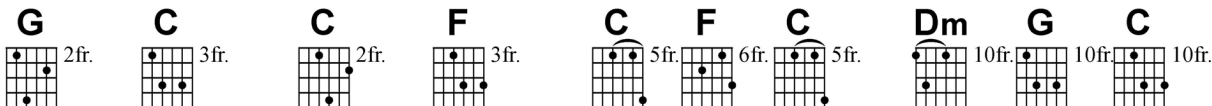




T	5	3	8	12	15	12	8	3	5	
A	5	5	5	12	13	12	5	5	5	5
B	3	2	5	10	14	10	5	2	3	3

Common Chord Combinations

Here are some common chord progressions using open chord voicings. Notice how many of them use a common tone between the chords.

G C C F C F C Dm G C

V to I in C V to I in F I to IV to I in C ii-V-I in C

T	3	5	3	5	8	8	8	10	12	12
A	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	10	12	12
B	2	3	2	3	5	7	5	12	10	10

Major 7th Combinations

C Major 7th

All of these forms can work over a Cmaj7. The second measure just breaks the chord apart to create a triplet-based rhythm.

Chord diagrams for C (3fr.), Em (7fr.), G (10fr.), and C (10fr.) are shown above the staff. The staff shows a 4/4 measure with a Cmaj7 chord in the first measure and a triplet-based rhythm in the second measure. The fretboard diagram below the staff shows the fret positions for the strings (T, A, B) across the first two measures.

Fret	T	A	B
5	5	3	
8		9	7
12	12	12	10
12		12	10

Minor 7th Combinations

A Minor 7th

All of these forms can work over an Am7.

Chord diagrams for Am (5fr.), C (3fr.), Em (7fr.), G (10fr.), Am (7fr.), C (10fr.), Em (14fr.), and G (17fr.) are shown above the staff. The staff shows a 4/4 measure with a sequence of chords. The fretboard diagram below the staff shows the fret positions for the strings (T, A, B) across the first two measures.

Fret	T	A	B
5	5	7	5
5		5	3
8	8	9	7
12	12	10	
8	9	7	
12	12	10	
15	16	14	
19	19	17	