



GREAT CHORD MOVES IN D

Each key has its own set of great sounding chord combinations.

It could be as simple as moving one note of a chord or using an inversion to get another common chord. Or even using a certain finger combination to create a characteristic sound.

These chord moves separate the amateur from the professional player and can immediately make your playing sound noticeably better.

In this series of lessons, you'll learn the great chord moves in each of the most important guitar keys of D, G, C, A, and E.

This lesson focuses on the chords that occur in the key of D on guitar.

Single Note Chord Moves

These are chord movements that only change one note usually involving just one finger moving.

D to Dsus (upper and lower voicings)

This is a great combination when you need to linger on a D chord for an extended period of time. The first is the more common higher sounding voicing and the second is a lower option.

D Dsus D Dsus

D5 Dsus D5 Dsus

D to D2

This is another great option when you need to linger on a D chord.

Diagram showing the transition from a standard D chord to a D2 chord. The D chord is shown with a standard fingering (x02321). The D2 chord is shown with a fingering (xx0232). The notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 4/4 time signature. The progression is: D (4 bars), D2 (4 bars), D (4 bars), and D2 (4 bars). Each bar contains a slash, indicating a sustained chord.

Em to Em9

In the key of D, the Em is the iim (two minor) chord. Here is a great chord move on the iim chord starting in the 1st position then sliding up to the 3rd position. Let all notes ring out.

Diagram showing the transition from Em to Em9. The Em chord is shown with a standard fingering (022200). The Em9 chord is shown with a fingering (022200). The notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 4/4 time signature. The progression is: Em (4 bars), Em9 (4 bars). The notation shows a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The bass line starts on the 0th fret and moves to the 3rd fret. The notation includes a 'T' (Tie) symbol above the bass line.

G to G2

In the key of D, the G chord is the IV (four) chord. Here are three variations to use while on the IV chord in D. Try hammering on the 3rd string note.

Diagram showing the transition from G to G2. The G chord is shown with a standard fingering (x02000). The G2 chord is shown with a fingering (x02000). The notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 4/4 time signature. The progression is: G (4 bars), G2 (4 bars), G5 (4 bars), G2 (4 bars), G5 (4 bars), and G2 (4 bars). Each bar contains a slash, indicating a sustained chord.

A7 to A7sus

In the key of D, the A7 is the V7 (five) chord. Alternating between the A7 and the A7sus creates a nice sounding movement. Try hammering on the sus note on the 2nd string.

Diagram showing the transition from A7 to A7sus. The A7 chord is shown with a standard fingering (020200). The A7sus chord is shown with a fingering (020200). The notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 4/4 time signature. The progression is: A7 (4 bars), A7sus (4 bars), A7 (4 bars), and A7sus (4 bars). Each bar contains a slash, indicating a sustained chord.

Multiple String Moves

These next moves use multiple strings that connect together in chord shapes.

D to G

Play these in the 7th position with a partial barre with the first finger on the 2-4th strings. Try hammering on to the second chord.

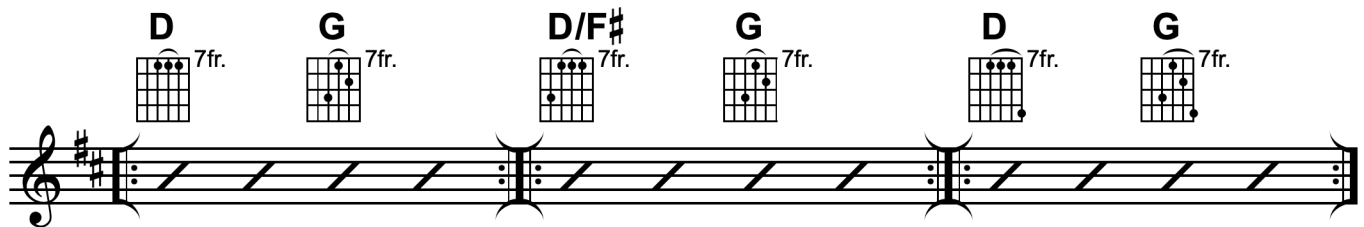


Diagram showing chord shapes for D, G, D/F#, G, D, and G at the 7th fret. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a series of slanted lines representing the chords. Above the staff, the chord shapes are labeled: D 7fr., G 7fr., D/F# 7fr., G 7fr., D 7fr., and G 7fr. Each shape shows the fingerings on the strings.

D/A to A

When playing the V chord, A, you can rock back and forth between the D/A and A pivoting off of the barre at the 2nd fret. Try hammering on the D chord.

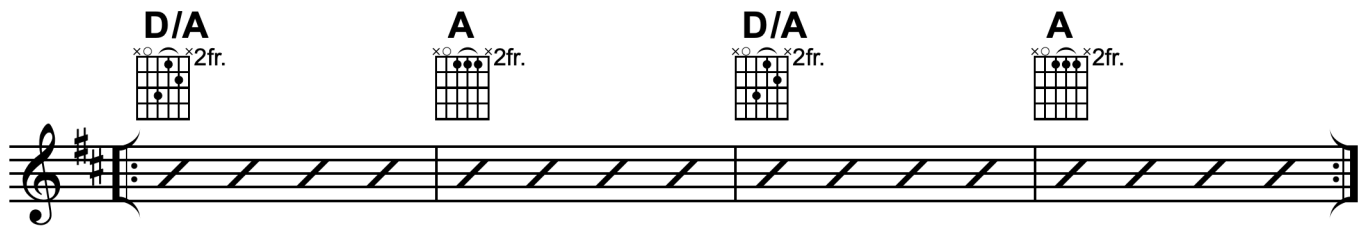


Diagram showing chord shapes for D/A and A at the 2nd fret. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a series of slanted lines representing the chords. Above the staff, the chord shapes are labeled: D/A x2fr., A x2fr., D/A x2fr., and A x2fr. Each shape shows the fingerings on the strings, with 'x' indicating muted strings.

Bm7 to A/B and Em7 to D/E

These next pair of examples pivot off a 1st finger barre and work over two of the minor chords in a key – the vim and the iim. As you play the examples back and forth, try hammering on the m7 chords.

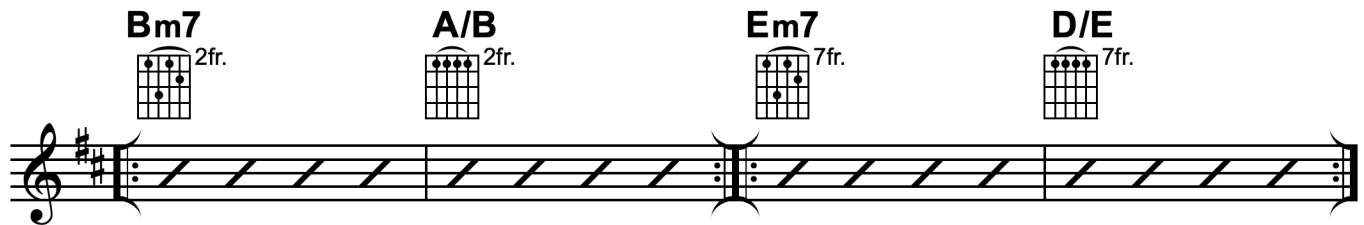


Diagram showing chord shapes for Bm7, A/B, Em7, and D/E at the 7th fret. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a series of slanted lines representing the chords. Above the staff, the chord shapes are labeled: Bm7 7fr., A/B 7fr., Em7 7fr., and D/E 7fr. Each shape shows the fingerings on the strings.

Inversions

Adding an inversion with the 3rd in the bass on a chord gives a great sounding lift when moving to a target chord.

D to D/F# to G

Moving from the I to IV chord is something you'll be doing a lot. In the key of D, a great sounding chord move for this type of progression is below. Notice how the F# helps lead to the G in the bass.

Diagram showing guitar chord diagrams for D, D/F#, and G2, followed by a musical staff in the key of D (two sharps) with a treble clef. The staff contains three measures of music, each with a slash indicating a whole note chord. Above the staff, the chord diagrams are labeled: D (open strings, 2nd fret), D/F# (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret), and G2 (open strings, 3rd fret).

A7 to A2/C# to D

This movement also works when moving from the V chord back to the I chord.

Diagram showing guitar chord diagrams for A7, A2/C#, and D, followed by a musical staff in the key of D (two sharps) with a treble clef. The staff contains three measures of music, each with a slash indicating a whole note chord. Above the staff, the chord diagrams are labeled: A7 (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret), A2/C# (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret, 5th fret), and D (open strings, 2nd fret).

Inversions on I, IV and V

It's good to know the inversions on the I, IV and V chords in any key. Here they are in the key of D.

Diagram showing guitar chord diagrams for D, D/F#, G, G/B, A7, A2/C#, and D, followed by a musical staff in the key of D (two sharps) with a treble clef. The staff contains seven measures of music, each with a slash indicating a whole note chord. Above the staff, the chord diagrams are labeled: D (open strings, 2nd fret), D/F# (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret), G (open strings, 3rd fret), G/B (open strings, 3rd fret, 4th fret), A7 (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret), A2/C# (open strings, 2nd fret, 4th fret, 5th fret), and D (open strings, 2nd fret).

The ii-V Progression

One of the most common progressions is a ii-V-I progression. In D it would be Em-A7-D. Here is a creative chord move over a ii-V-I in D.

Em Em9 A7sus A7 D

Walkups and Walkdowns

Finally, moving between the I, IV, and V chords can be played using a walkup or walkdown between the two chords. The first example walks up from the I to the IV and back down. The second example walks up from V to the I.

D5 Em7 D/F# G2 D/F# Em7 D

A7 G/B A7/C# 4fr. D