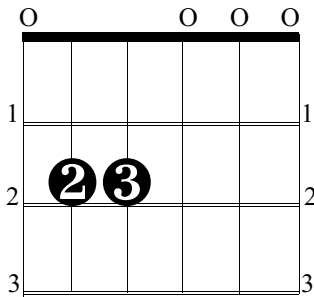


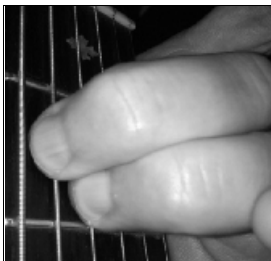
## Basic Minor Chords

*Minor chords* have a more ‘sad’ or ‘serious’ tone when compared to major chords. The chord symbol for a minor chord will be a letter followed by a lower case ‘m’. Major chords usually do not have a symbol and often are not even referred to as ‘major’. For example, when someone asks to play a ‘D’ chord, it is understood that the chord played is actually a ‘D’ Major chord. Despite the obvious difference in tone, the only difference in the makeup between a major and minor chord is just one note.

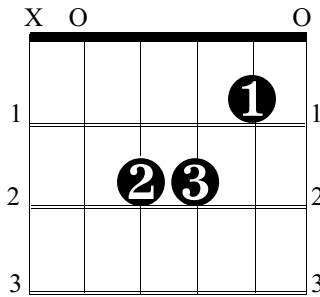
### Minor Chord Diagrams



‘Em’



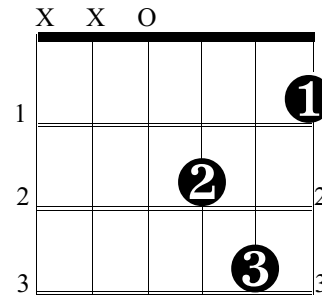
‘Em’



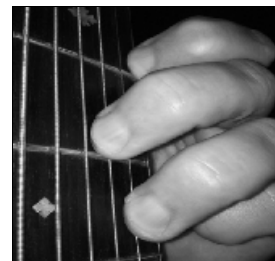
‘Am’



‘Am’



‘Dm’



‘Dm’

### Changing the Mood of a Chord

Fret an ‘E’ chord and play a slow arpeggio with the thumb going across the bottom four strings (*right*). Make sure all strings ring clearly. Next, lift the first finger off the third string and repeat the same four-note arpeggio (*right*). Comparing the two arpeggios, an obvious change to a more serious mood occurs when the first finger is lifted. This **change in mood** shows the fundamental difference between an ‘E’ Major (‘E’) and an ‘E’ Minor (‘Em’) chord.

#### ‘E’ Arpeggio

#### ‘Em’ Arpeggio

1		
2		
3	1	0
4	2	2
5	2	2
6	0	0

### ‘Minor’ vs. ‘Flat’ Terms

Many beginners tend to confuse the terms ‘minor’ with ‘flat’ and ‘sharp’ with ‘major’. The terms ‘sharp’ and flat are used to describe *specific notes*, while the terms ‘major’ and ‘minor’ are used to describe *specific chords or scales*.

### Learn A Scale

Along with playing chords, the beginner should also work on *developing flexibility by practicing a scale*. Playing a scale will loosen up and stretch the fingers, which in time will help with playing chords. To practice a scale, refer to either the [Blues/Rock Soloing -1](#) or [Natural Minor Scale -1](#) sections.

## Fingerstyle Progressions (2)

The '*G-C-D Progression*' uses major chords exclusively, producing an overall mood or tone that is 'happy' or 'folk-like'. The next step will be to play a *Minor Chord Progression* that features only minor chords. When compared to a progression with major chords, this arrangement will have more of a sad or serious tone or mood. The following sections provide a step-by-step approach to learning the complete progression.

### Minor Chord Progression

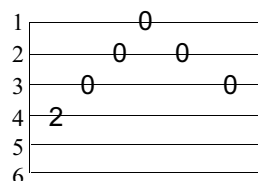
The '*Minor Chord Progression*' follows the same format or arrangement as the '*G-C-D Progression*.' Each section will use *basic fingerstyle technique*, so the entire progression can be written out using just chord symbols. How many times each chord is fingerpicked is shown in ( ) below each chord.

<u>Section 1</u>	<u>Section 2</u>	<u>Section 3</u>
<b>Am - Dm - Am</b>	<b>Em - Dm - Em - Dm</b>	<b>Am</b>
(fingerpick) (4x) (2x) (2x)	(2x) (2x) (2x) (2x)	(3x) (strum 'Am' to end)

### The 'Em' Bass Note

When applying *basic fingerstyle technique*, the usual bass note for an 'Em' chord will be the open sixth string ('E'). For this progression, the *fourth string/second fret* will be used instead as the bass note for 'Em'. (shown right). This bass note for 'Em' is also an 'E' note, only that the fourth string/second fret 'E' note is an octave higher and simply sounds better when played with this progression. For easier memorization, fret the complete 'Em' chord for this arrangement (even though the fourth and fifth strings are not played).

### **'Em'**



For the Minor Chord Progression use the fourth string/second fret as the bass note for 'Em'.

### Additional Notes

Once the complete *Minor Chord Progression* can be played by memory, an additional challenge will be to have another guitarist solo or improvise (using the '*A*' Minor scale) while the progression is being played. Rather than playing unaccompanied, attempting a guitar duet will be an introduction for the beginning guitarist to hear how harmonization works between a solo melody and a chord progression.

### Foundation For Learning Songs

The process of learning, memorizing, and playing both the '*G-C-D Progression*' and the '*Minor Chord Progression*' establishes a solid foundation for the beginning guitarist to start learning actual songs. Both progressions feature standard chord changes that will be found in most basic guitar songs. The list to the right summarizes what has been learned so far.

### Summary For Guitar Basics 1-8

- 1. Memorize Basic Chords**
- 2. Basic Fingerstyle Technique**
- 3. Associating Moods With Chords**
- 4. Progressions - Changing Chords**