

How to play an E Major chord on the guitar

Whether you're an amateur or novice, knowing your chords is the foundation of every guitarist's playing. A chord is typically defined as three or more tones sounded together in harmony. However, you can't just play any random group of notes. Instead, notes on the guitar must be arranged in a meaningful and musical way.

Parts of the guitar

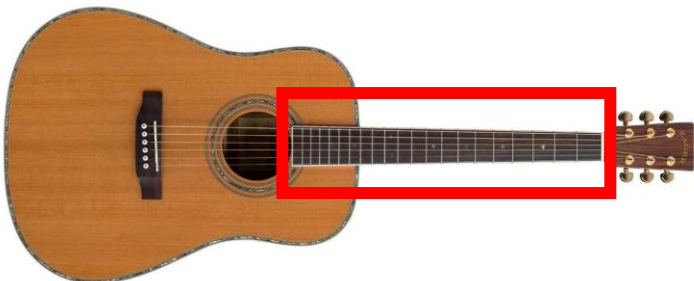
Before learning how to play an E Major chord, you'll need to know three main parts of the guitar.

Sound hole



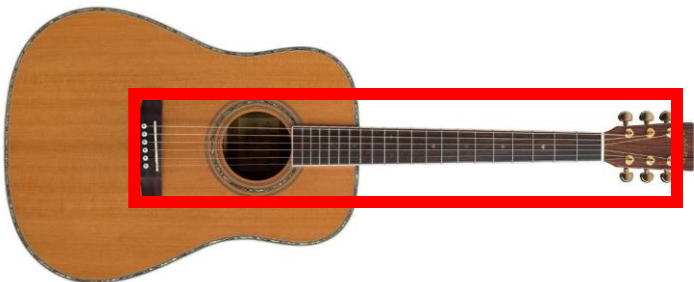
This is the part of the guitar in which you strum (stroking or brushing the guitar strings). You can use a [guitar pick](#) or your fingers to strum. To get the loudest sound, be sure to strum directly over the sound hole.

Fretboard



A fret board is made up of metal strips that are embedded all along the guitar's neck. The space between each strip is called a fret. This is where you will press your fingers down to make chords. The first fret starts closest to the guitar head and the last fret ends closest to the sound hole.

Strings



On a typical guitar, there are 6 strings in the following order:

- E – 1st string (bottom)

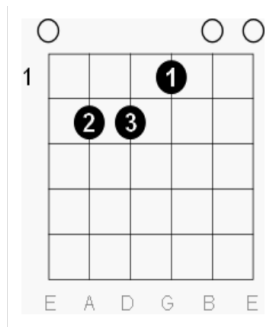
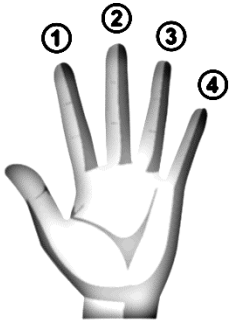
- B – 2nd string
- G – 3rd string
- D – 4th string
- A – 5th string
- E – 6th string (top)

Learn [how to tune your guitar strings](#).

The E Major chord

To play the E Major chord, follow these steps:

1. Place your first finger on the third string, first fret.
2. Place your second finger on the fifth string, second fret.
3. Place your third finger on the fourth string, second fret.
4. Press down firmly on all three fretted strings.
5. [Strum](#) all six strings at once in a smooth motion.



Hear [how the E Major chord sounds](#).

Practice makes perfect!

Don't "fret" if it takes a little while to get your chord sounding just right. Mastering chords take time, practice, and dedication.