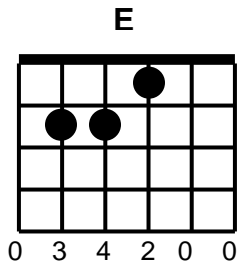


Moveable Bar Chords – 6th string roots

-written by David Taub

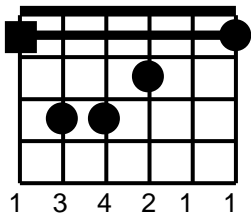
The following bar chords are moveable up and down the neck on the given string. Keep the same fingering and same shape as you slide these chords around. The name of the chord will depend on which root note you are playing. For example, play the root 6th string major chord on the 5th fret, (A note). The A is the root note, as depicted by the squares in the illustrations below. So this chord would be an A major bar chord. Now, move the whole shape to the 7th fret - slide the whole shape up a whole step or two frets. Now it becomes a B major bar chord. If you move it to the 8th fret it will be a C major bar chord. You can move all these chords on its given string in the same fashion. Practice them in all keys and be patient, it will take some time to get your fingers to voice these chords – but with practice, you can do it. To ease into the fingering of bar chords let's start by taking the shape of the E major open position chord we learned in a previous lesson:



Voice the same E major shape, but for purposes of this exercise only, utilize the new fingering in the illustration on the left. I want to free up that first finger as that will be the “bar” finger. While keeping your fingers in this E major chord fingering, slide the entire shape up one half step, (one fret). Notice that the 1st finger is totally free. Bar the 1st finger across the entire first fret pushing down on all six strings. If this is too much of a stretch for your fingers, then move the E major shape to the 7th fret, as the frets will be closer together thus easier to stretch across. You can then work your way back down the fret board as your fingers adjust to the new shape and the stretch. Once your 1st finger is firmly in the bar position across all six strings you have now voiced a Major bar chord off the low E string root.

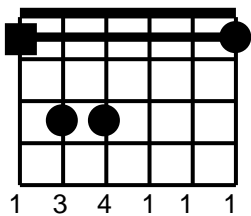
NOTE: Learn the following chords in the order presented by moving the fingerings as described below:

6th string root
major bar chord



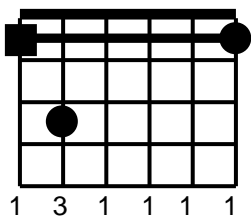
1. Major, 6th string root– Root, 3rd, 5th – The root is denoted in the illustration as the square box. Make sure to anchor your 1st finger across all six strings just behind the fret, pushing down hard, utilizing it as the “bar”. Pick the notes individually and check they all ring true. Then strum the chord and check the chord rings true and in tune and none of your other fingers are interfering with the other notes of the chord.

6th string root
minor bar chord



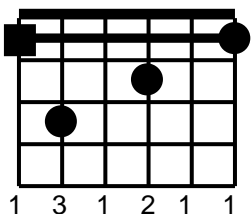
2. Minor, 6th string root– Root, b3rd, 5th – Finger the major chord as shown in the number one example directly above. Now just lift your 2nd finger off the fret board and you have a minor bar chord off the low E string root. Remember to keep that first finger bar anchored firmly behind the fret. By removing the 2nd finger you are flattening the 3rd making it a minor chord.

6th string root
minor7th bar



3. Minor 7th, (m7), sixth string root– Root, b3rd, 5th, b7th – Finger the minor chord as shown in the number 2 example directly above. Now just lift your 4th finger off the fret board and you have a minor 7th bar chord off the low E string root. In many instances this m7th chord can be used in place of the minor chord for a more “jazzy” sound. Play them both and listen to the subtle difference in chordal texture. By removing the 4th finger from the minor chord you are adding a flat 7th to a minor chord, making it a minor 7th.

6th string root
7th bar chord



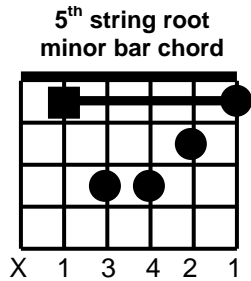
4. 7th, sixth string root– Root, 3rd, 5th, b7th – Finger the minor 7th chord as shown in the number three example directly above. Now just add your 2nd finger to the G-string one fret up from the bar and you have a 7th bar chord off the low E string root. The 7th chord is built off the major chord - as you can see the 7th chord has the root, 3rd, and 5th which is a major chord – plus the b7th which then makes a 7th chord.

Moveable Bar Chords – 5th string root

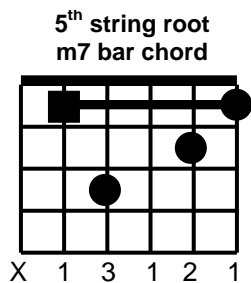
-written by David Taub

The following chords are moveable up and down the neck on its given root string just like the sixth string root moveable bar chords in the lesson above. Keep the same fingering and same shape as you slide these chords around. As with most moveable bar chords the name of the chord will depend on which root note you are playing. For example, play the root 5th string minor chord on the 5th fret, (D note). The D is the root note, as depicted by the squares in the illustrations below. So this chord would be a D minor bar chord off the 5th string root. The bar chords below have their roots on the 5th string, (A string). Now, move the whole shape to 7th fret, (slide the whole shape up a whole step, (two frets). Now it becomes an E minor bar chord. If you move it up a half step to the 8th fret it will be an F minor bar chord. You can move all these chords on its given string in the same fashion. For the most part do not play the low E string when playing the below chords. Mute the low E string by letting the tip of your first bar finger to spill over the 5th string and just touch the low E string to deaden the string. Practice the below chords in all keys and be patient, it will take some time to get your fingers to voice these chords. You can do it!

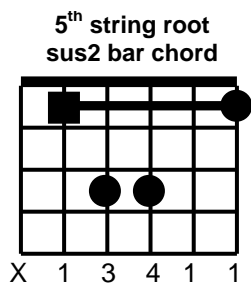
NOTE: Learn these chords in the order presented by moving the fingers as described below:



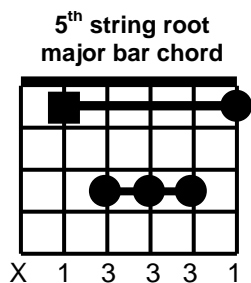
1. Minor, 5th string root– Root, b3rd, 5th - To ease into the fingering of bar chords on the 5th string root let's start by taking the shape of the major bar chord that we learned in the previous lesson and finger its root on the B note - 7th fret, (B major bar chord). Now just move that entire shape down one string by slightly sliding all four fingers, at the same time, in one "cluster", down one string each. Keep your fingers in the same shape and continue to bar with the 1st finger. Voiced at the 7th fret this chord is an E minor bar chord. Instead of playing all six strings leave out the low E string and only strum five strings as indicated in the illustration on the left, (X). Mute the low E string but letting just the tip of your first finger slightly touch the low E string so not to sound any errant rings or overtones from that string.



2. Minor 7th (m7), 5th string root - Root, b3rd, 5th, b7th – To play this m7 chord finger the minor chord as shown in the number one example directly above. Now just lift your 4th finger off the fret board and you now have a minor 7th bar chord off the A string root. In many instances this m7th chord can be used in place of a straight minor chord for a more "jazzy" sound. Play them both and listen to the subtle difference in chordal texture.



3. Suspended 2nd, (sus2), 5th string root - Root, 2nd, 5th, - Finger the minor chord as shown in the number one example above. Now lift your 2nd finger off the fret board and you have a suspended 2nd, or sus2 bar chord. Anchor your 1st finger firmly across all five strings to allow all the notes to ring out clean. Suspended chords are known for being very "full" and "jangly" sounding. For an even fuller sounding variation on this suspended chord utilize your 1st finger to also fret the note on the sixth string. This basically adds a low bass note, which really fills the sonic frequency spectrum – add some distortion and you have one HUGE sounding chord!



4. Major, 5th string root– Root, 3rd, 5th – This chord will require that you utilize both your 1st and 3rd fingers as bars. Finger the sus2 chord as shown in the number three example directly above. Lift your 4th finger off the fret board. Place your 3rd finger directly flat on top of the fret board utilizing it as a bar to finger the three notes on the D, G, and B strings. Press down firmly. Your bar fingers should be parallel to the frets and not angled. If your 3rd finger knuckle bends back a little then you should be able to sound the high E string. If your knuckle does not bend back and cant get the high E string to ring clean then don't play that string. Pick the notes individually and check they all ring true. Then strum the chord and check the chord rings true and in tune.