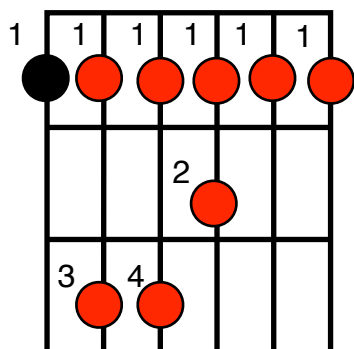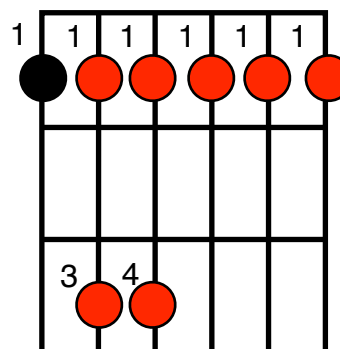# E Shape Barre Chords
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Major Chord

Minor Chord

Barre chords enable you to play ALL the major and minor chords. This means you can start to play songs in any key. They also enable you to use more interesting rhythm techniques such as sliding into chords from 1 fret below or above the chord you want to play. Another technique is the use of staccato, this is achieved by releasing the pressure of your fretting hand after playing the chord, this stops the chord ringing instantly and can create interesting rhythmic effects. This technique was used in Pink Floyds famous song Brick in the Wall for example.

The chord shapes above are 'E' shape barre chords, based around the E major and E minor chords. The 1st finger of the fretting hand needs to hold down all 6 strings. The black dot shows the root note [letter name of the chord] on the thick E string. The table below shows where the root notes can be found; eg the root note on the 3rd fret is G, the root note on the 4th, fret is G#[sharp] or Ab [flat].
So if you play the major chord shape at the 3rd fret the resulting chord will be G major, if you use the minor chord shape the resulting chord will be G minor.

Sounds easy doesn't it. However don't be surprised if you find it hard playing the chords at first. Make sure your fretting hand thumb is about half way down the back of the guitar neck, opposite finger 2. Keep your 1st finger straight in line with the fret, and try to place your other fingers as close to the frets as possible. Some people find it easier to achieve clarity in the chord by rolling the 1st finger slightly so the bony part of the finger holds the strings down. It will be difficult at first but do keep at it, it will be worth it in the end. However, little and often practice is the key, don't keep practicing if it hurts. Stop and give the barre's a rest and come back to it later.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
F	F# Gb	G	G# Ab	A	A# Bb	B	C	C# Db	D	D# Eb	E