

Reading Chord Charts

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G | C :|| Am | D ||

This is called a chord chart. It is the way songs are often written. The single vertical lines are called bar lines, and separate the chords into individual bars. The underlined double dot with two vertical lines is a repeat sign, and means you should return to the beginning. The double vertical line after the D chord is the end bar and only occurs at the end of the piece of music. The chord progression above should be played:-

G | C | G | C | Am | D ||

Repeat marks can occur anywhere in a chord chart:-

G | C ||: Am | D :|| C | G ||

When this occurs you repeat the chords inside the repeats.

G | C | Am | D | Am | D | C | G ||

As well as being a standard method of writing chord songs, this is also the way the rhythm playing charts are written in RGT electric guitar exams.