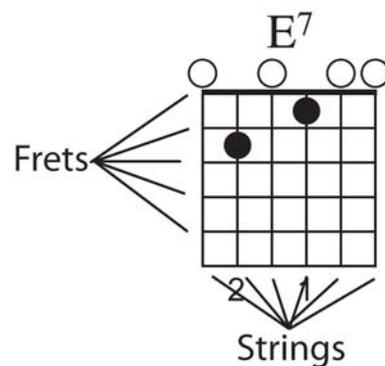


## How to Read Chord Diagrams

Chord diagrams are different from TAB in that they are an actual picture of your guitar neck, with dots indicating where to put your fingers.

Chord diagrams have been around for a long time, and many books that are “Piano/Vocal/Guitar Arrangements” will have guitar chord diagrams above the standard piano notation and lyrics.

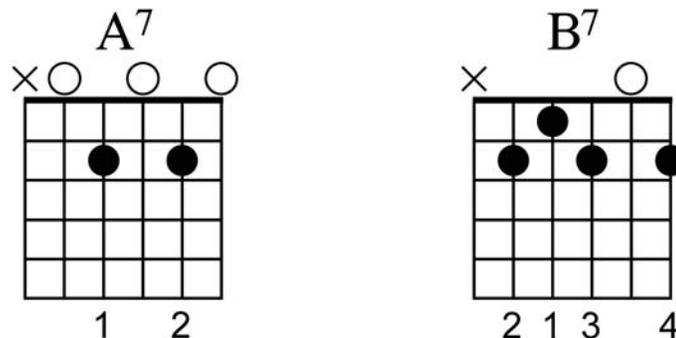
Notice that in the diagram it is as if you were holding the guitar straight up, with the headstock pointing to the ceiling, and the strings facing you. The vertical lines are the strings, and the horizontal lines are the frets.



The numbers under the strings indicate which finger is to play that note. The open circles indicate that those strings are played open.

So in the example above, the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger, your middle finger, plays the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret on the 5<sup>th</sup> string. The 1<sup>st</sup> finger plays the 1<sup>st</sup> fret on the 3<sup>rd</sup> string. All other strings are open.

The other 2 chords in the video are A7 and B7. Here are the chord diagrams for those chords:



For the A7 chord, you'll have your 1<sup>st</sup> finger, your index, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the 4<sup>th</sup> string. You put your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string. Notice the 'X' over the 6<sup>th</sup> string. That tells you not to pluck that string when you strum the chord. The other strings are all open.

For the B7 chord, again we don't strike the 6<sup>th</sup> string (as indicated by the 'X'.) Put your 2<sup>nd</sup> (middle) finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, 5<sup>th</sup> string, your 1<sup>st</sup> finger on the 1<sup>st</sup> fret, 4<sup>th</sup> string, your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, 3<sup>rd</sup> string, and your 4<sup>th</sup> finger, your pinky, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the 1<sup>st</sup> string.

**BEFORE YOU MOVE ON:** Just make sure you can strum each of these chords and get most of the notes to come out. Sometimes you won't hear every single note, but that will improve with time. There's no reason to work too hard at that here, the next lesson will give you more practice with it.