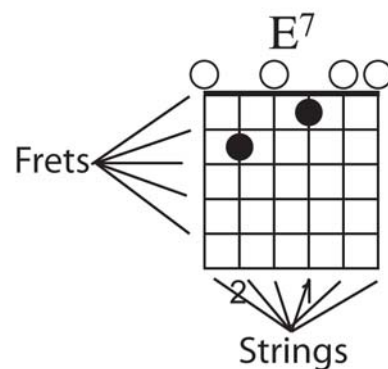


How to Read Chord Diagrams

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.

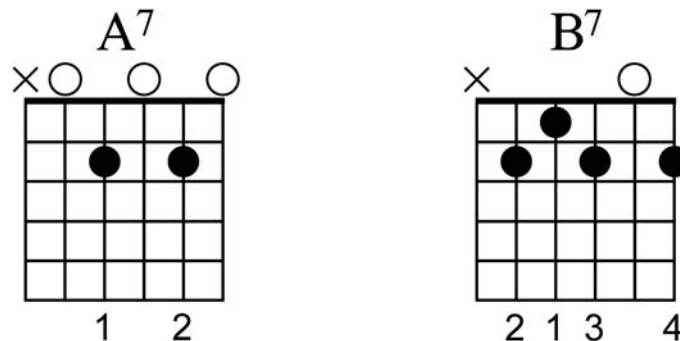
Notice that in the diagram it is as if you were holding the guitar straight up, with the headstock pointing to the ceiling, and the strings facing you. The vertical lines are the strings, and the horizontal lines are the frets.



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 2nd finger, your middle finger, plays the 2nd fret on the 5th string. The 1st finger plays the 1st fret on the 3rd 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 1st finger, your index, on the 2nd fret of the 4th string. You put your 2nd finger on the 2nd fret of the 2nd string. Notice the 'X' over the 6th 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 6th string (as indicated by the 'X'.) Put your 2nd (middle) finger on the 2nd fret, 5th string, your 1st finger on the 1st fret, 4th string, your 3rd finger on the 2nd fret, 3rd string, and your 4th finger, your pinky, on the 2nd fret of the 1st 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.