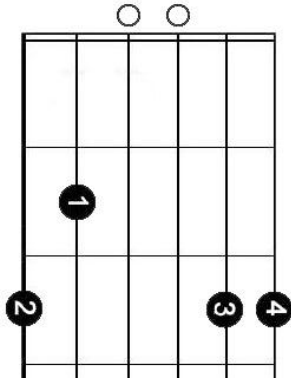


# The Four Chord Secret to Playing Lots of Songs

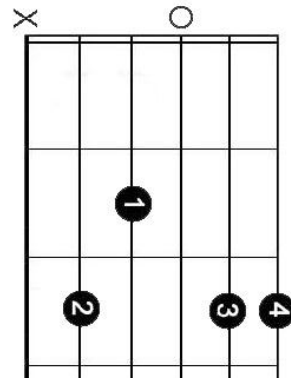
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## Chord Fingerings: Part One

**G**

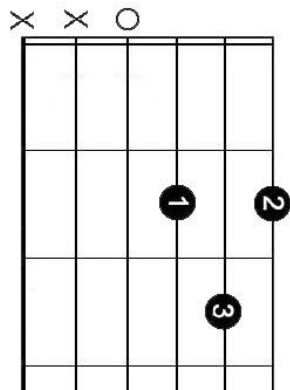


**Cadd9**

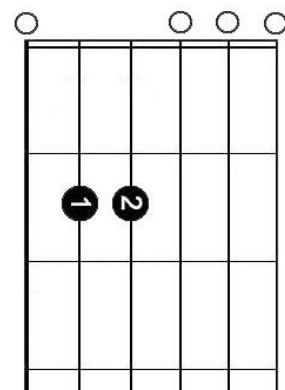


## Chord Fingerings: Part Two

**D**



**Em (E minor)**



# Playing Chord Progressions

A chord progression is a series of chords played one after the other. Most songs consist of several different chord progressions. Learning to play the chord progressions in this lesson will help you learn to play many different songs.

Mastering the chord fingerings and chord progressions in this lesson will help you quickly learn to play many different songs in different styles of music. These fundamental chords are crucial to your development and improvement as a guitar player—learn them well and learn to change between them. You will use them for the rest of your guitar playing career!

## Chord Progression One

Chords Used:          D          Cadd9          G

Play four strums on each chord and change to the next:

|D / / / |Cadd9 / / / |G / / / | (repeat)

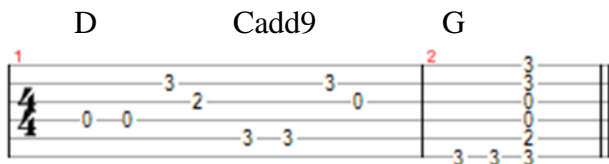
This chord progression is similar to the one used in the song “Can’t You See?” by the Marshall Tucker Band.

## Chord Progression Two

Chords Used:          D          Cadd9          G

This progression uses the same chords as the first one. The difference is that we will pick some of the notes in the first two chords and end with a strum on the final G chord.

Key point to remember: Even though the pick hand is playing some single notes, your fret hand only needs to play the chord shapes, just like in Progression One.



This chord progression and picking pattern is similar to the one used in the song “Sweet Home Alabama” by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

### **Chord Progression Three**

Chords Used:           G       Cadd9           D       Em

Play four strums on each chord and change to the next:

|G / / / |Cadd9 / / / |D / / / |Em / / / | (repeat)

### **Chord Progression Four**

Chords Used:           Em       Cadd9           G       D

Play four strums on each chord and change to the next:

|Em / / / |Cadd9 / / / |G / / / |D / / / | (repeat)

This chord progression is similar to the one used in the song “Disarm” by the Smashing Pumpkins.

### **Chord Progression Five**

Chords Used:           G       Cadd9           D

Play four strums on each chord and change to the next:

|G / / / |Cadd9 / / / |G / / / |Cadd9 / / / |G / / / |Cadd9 / / / |G / / / |Cadd9 / / / |

|D / / / |Cadd9 / / / | (repeat)

This chord progression is similar to the one used in the song “Every Rose Has It’s Thorn” by Poison.

### **Practice Tips for Fast Improvement with the Chords**

1. Memorize the chord fingerings. You will have difficulty developing speed and confidence if you have to keep looking at the chord diagrams each time you play. Commit these chords to memory as soon as you are able.
2. Practice them in chord pairs: Pick any two of these chords and just practice changing back and forth between them. Start with the G and Cadd9 chords since their fingerings are very similar. Then move on to other chord pairs.

3. Remember to not move fingers that do not have to be moved when changing chords. This just creates extra work and will slow you down. Always look for common notes between chords when you play.
4. Explore the sounds of these chords. They all sound good together in any order you play them. Create your own chord progressions and strum patterns with them.

**Video Bonus Section: How to Use a Capo to Play More Songs**

A capo is a very useful tool for guitar players. Watch the video to learn how to get more songs and sounds with a capo using the chords you already know.

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