Noodlecafé

The entire guitar chord system

Every chord in a key comes from one pattern.

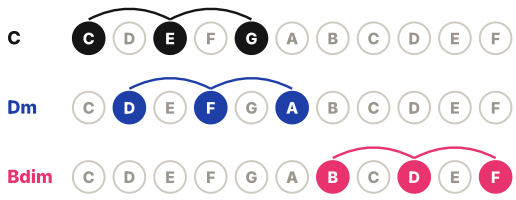
M m m M M m dim

The pattern · every major key

note	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
roman	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
type	maj	min	min	maj	maj	min	dim
in C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°

The pattern never changes. Only the starting note does.

How a chord is built · take one, skip one, take one

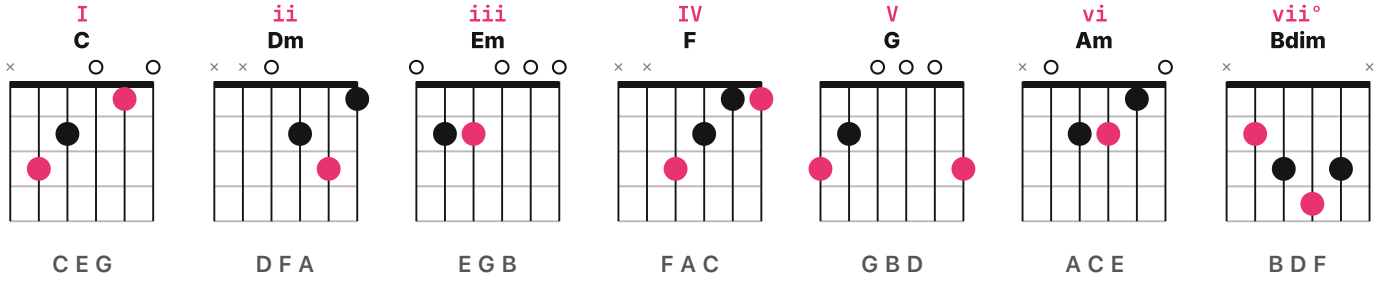


chord	frets between the notes	sounds
major	4 + 3	bright
minor	3 + 4	darker
diminished	3 + 3	tense

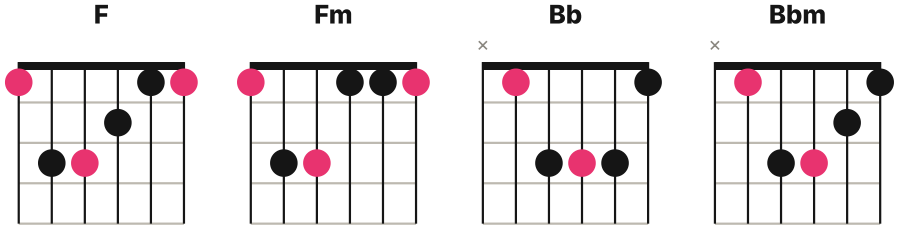
Every key at a glance · the 7 chords

key	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#°
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#°
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#°
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D#°
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	E°

The 7 chords of C on guitar · pink = the root



2 shapes that play any chord · slide them up the neck



E shape · major | E shape · minor | A shape · major | A shape · minor

Root on the low E string → E shape. Root on the A string → A shape.

Try it now · 2 minutes

Play C, Dm, Em, F, G, Am. Then the same pattern in G: G, Am, Bm, C, D, Em. Same sound, new key.

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