

Lesson 29

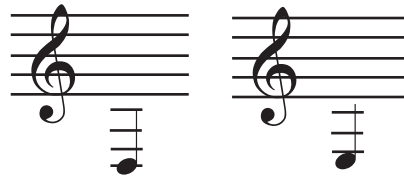
Guitar Technique

The **tuning** you have been using is the most common guitar tuning. Other tunings will obviously change where the notes are on the strings and how chords are fingered.

D tuning, for example, is sometimes used to give the key of D a more "open strings" sound.

A **variety of open tunings** are very popular in several styles of guitar playing, for example Hawaiian, steel guitar, and country blues.

Notes on the Sixth String in D tuning



Open String

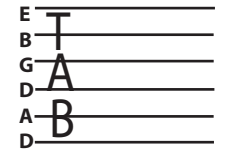
Second Fret



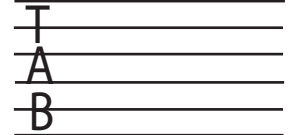
Third Fret

Fifth Fret

Tablature indicates **alternate tunings** at the beginning of the first line.



Open G Tuning: D G D G B D



Common Notation

So far, you have only been practicing in the **keys** that are easiest for guitar.

Singers and other instruments will often prefer other keys.

Practice playing pieces in other keys, and learn the main chords in each key.*



F major B \flat major E \flat major A \flat major D \flat major G \flat major C \flat major
D minor G minor C minor F minor B \flat minor E \flat minor A \flat minor



G major D major A major E major B major F \sharp major C \sharp major
E minor B minor F \sharp minor C minor G \sharp minor D \sharp minor A \sharp minor

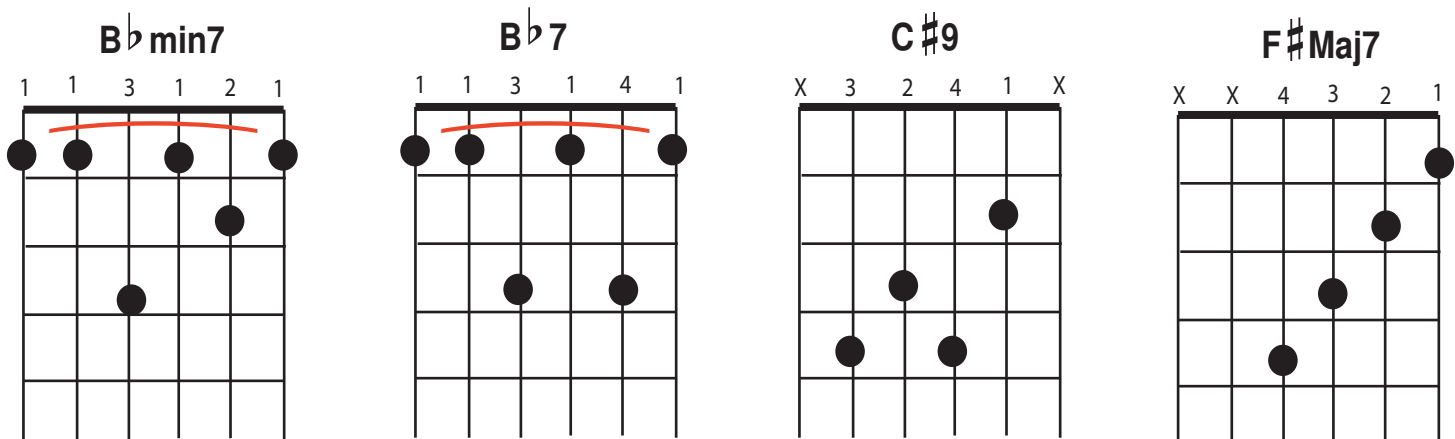
Barre chords become very useful in keys that have many flats or sharps.

Chords

Make barre chords by replacing the open strings of easy chords with a first finger barre.

Or play fewer strings, adding fingers only on the necessary strings.

Or transpose to an easier key (see lesson 25) and use a capo.



*the circle of fifths helps keep track of key signatures: <http://cnx.org/content/m10865/latest/>