

12 Easy Rock Songs



GuitarZoom

There are TONS of guitar chords. Thinking about that can be intimidating...

But here's the thing: you don't have to know a hundred guitar chords to play songs and sound awesome. In fact, you only have to know a few of them.

Here are 4 of the most common chords used in guitar music. Every guitar player you have ever heard knows these chords.

Even if you've never touched a guitar before, these chords are a great place to start. And once you master them, they're yours for life.

The G chord



The G chord is an awesome first chord to learn. It uses all 6 strings, and it sounds amazing. To make it, put your middle finger on the sixth string, third fret. Next, put your index finger on the fifth string, second fret. When you've got those down, put your ring finger on the first string, third fret. Leave the other three strings open. (HINT: "open" just means you're not pressing down on the string.)

The E minor chord



The E minor (Em) chord is another great place for guitarists to start. Like the G chord, the Em chord uses all six strings. It's a little easier to play, though, because you only need two fingers for it. To make this chord, put your ring finger on the fourth string, second fret. Next, put your middle finger on the fifth string, second fret. Leave all the other strings open.

This next chord is a little more tricky, but with a little practice, you'll have it down in no time. Scroll to the next page to see a picture of it.

The C chord



The C chord requires a little more of a “stretch” for your fingers. And unlike the first two chords, the C chord only uses five of your guitar strings. First, put your ring finger on the fifth string, third fret. Next, put your middle finger on the fourth string, second fret. Finally, put your index finger on the second string, first fret. Leave the first and third strings open, and don’t play the sixth string.

There’s one more chord left to learn. After you learn this last chord, you’ll be ready to start strumming a few songs. Scroll down to the next page for this last chord.

The D chord



The D chord can be tricky at first, but once you get it down it’s no problem. First, put your index finger on the third string, second fret. Next, put your ring finger on the second string, third fret. Finally, put your middle finger on the first string, second fret. Leave the fourth string open, and don’t play the fifth or sixth strings.

Guess what? You know four guitar chords now.

Guess what else? You’re about to see a list of 12 popular songs that **ONLY** use these four chords.

With a little practice, you’ll be strumming along to these songs, and many others. Scroll down to the next page for the list.

“Last Kiss” - Pearl Jam

This classic cover song is just G, Em, C, and D over and over. Listen to the song. Can you hear the chord changes?

“Ring Of Fire” - Johnny Cash

This iconic tune from “The Man In Black” is just G, C, G, D, G in the verses and D, C, G two times in the chorus, followed by C, G, D, G.

“You Shook Me All Night Long” - AC/DC

This hard-rocking classic can be played just by strumming G, C, D, G in the verses and G, C, D, G, C, D for the chorus.

“Sweet Home Alabama” - Lynyrd Skynyrd

You can strum along with this staple of “Southern” rock just by strumming D, C, and G through the verses and choruses.

“Brown Eyed Girl” - Van Morrison

This bittersweet love song can be easily played, just by strumming G, C, G, D for the verse, then switching to C, D, G, Em, C, D, G for the chorus.

“What I Got” - Sublime

For this upbeat tune, you only need two chords. Just switch between D and G for the entire song.

“Every Rose Has Its Thorn” - Poison

This classic power ballad is just G, C four times, then D, C for the verse, then G, C, G, C, G, D, C, G, C for the chorus.

“The Joker” - Steve Miller Band

This one from the “gangster of love” is just G, C, D, C for the verse and G, C, G, C, G, C, D for the chorus.

“Leaving On A Jet Plane” - John Denver

This timeless piece of Americana can be played just by strumming G, C, G, C, G, C, D through the verse and chorus.

“Rockin’ In The Free World” - Neil Young

This hard-rocking tune can be played with just Em, D, C for the verse, then G, D, C, Em for the chorus.

“Good Riddance (Time Of Your Life)” - Green Day

You can play this one by strumming G, C, D two times, then Em, D, C, G two times for the verse. The chorus is just Em, G, Em, G, Em, D, G

“Zombie” - The Cranberries

This one is just Em, C, G, D through the verses and chorus. Just strum a little harder on the chorus, and you’ll sound awesome.

A man with long, straight brown hair and a friendly smile is the central figure. He is wearing a black t-shirt with the word "Guitar" printed in white. He has a large, intricate black tattoo on his left forearm. He is holding a blue electric guitar with a sunburst finish. The background is a dark studio with two large black speakers mounted on the wall. The overall lighting is soft and focused on the man.

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