

# Shared Fingers Concept

Scott Jensen

## Example 1

The shared finger concept, as many other concepts for playing guitar, is all about efficiency. The idea is not to move any fingers unnecessarily when changing chords. If two chords share a common note, then why bother wasting our time and energy moving that finger? In the first example we see clearly that G and Cadd9 share not only one, but two fingers. Leave them down and focus only on your 1st and 2nd finger movement.

Example 1 shows the transition from a G major chord to a C major add9 chord. The G chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings (3, 2, 3). The C(add9) chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 3rd, 2nd, 1st, and 4th strings (3, 2, 3, x). The musical notation shows the G chord on a treble clef staff, followed by the C(add9) chord. The TAB below shows the string numbers for each chord: G (3, 2, 3) and C(add9) (3, 2, 3, x).

## Example 2

Another good example is G and D, which share the note D on the 2nd string 3rd fret. Leave that 3rd finger there as you switch for a cleaner, easier chord change.

Example 2 shows the transition from a G major chord to a D major chord. The G chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings (3, 2, 3). The D chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 2nd, 3rd, and 1st strings (2, 3, 0). The musical notation shows the G chord on a treble clef staff, followed by the D chord. The TAB below shows the string numbers for each chord: G (3, 2, 3) and D (2, 3, 0).

## Example 3

Here's a common chord progression that really showcases the idea of shared fingers. Go through and notice which fingers stay the same between chords and then practice changing them without moving the shared fingers.

Example 3 shows a chord progression: Am, C, Em, G. The Am chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 2nd, 1st, and 4th strings (x, 0, 2, 2, 0). The C chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings (x, 0, 2, 3). The Em chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 2nd, 3rd, and 1st strings (0, 2, 2, 0). The G chord is represented by a guitar diagram with notes on the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st strings (3, 2, 3). The musical notation shows the Am chord on a treble clef staff, followed by the C, Em, and G chords. The TAB below shows the string numbers for each chord: Am (x, 0, 2, 2, 0), C (x, 0, 2, 3), Em (0, 2, 2, 0), and G (3, 2, 3).

## Adding Strumming

Now let's add a simple strumming pattern to practice with. If this is too much try strumming once per chord, then twice, and so on until you can play along with Scott.

The first musical example shows two chords: Am and C. The Am section consists of six measures, and the C section consists of six measures. Above the guitar staff, a treble clef and a key signature of one flat are indicated. The Am chord is represented by a vertical line of notes on the strings (A, C, E, G, A, C). The C chord is represented by a vertical line of notes (C, E, G, C, E, G). Below the guitar staff, a strumming pattern is shown with square symbols for downstrokes and inverted triangle symbols for upstrokes. The pattern is: down, down, down, up, down, up for Am, and down, down, down, up, down, up for C. The guitar staff shows the fretting hand positions for each measure, with fingerings indicated by numbers 0-3.

As you go from G back to Am you'll notice there are no chords in common. Here you will want to be forming the chord in mid-air as you're moving towards it for a clean landing.

The second musical example shows two chords: Em and G. The Em section consists of six measures, and the G section consists of six measures. Above the guitar staff, a treble clef and a key signature of one flat are indicated. The Em chord is represented by a vertical line of notes (E, G, B, D, E, G). The G chord is represented by a vertical line of notes (G, B, D, G, B, D). Below the guitar staff, a strumming pattern is shown with square symbols for downstrokes and inverted triangle symbols for upstrokes. The pattern is: down, down, down, up, down, up for Em, and down, down, down, up, down, up for G. The guitar staff shows the fretting hand positions for each measure, with fingerings indicated by numbers 0-3.