

E Style Barre Chord Exercises

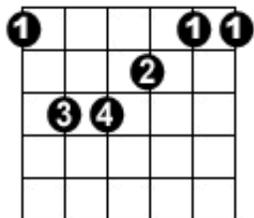


Video Reference: Chapter 2 - "Barre Chord Exercises"

Here's where we start having fun with barre chords. In the exercises below, you are to figure out the barre chord that needs to be played, and apply them to strumming basic quarter notes.

These are all E Style Barre chords because they focus on the E Major open pattern, but are simply moved up the neck. Moving a chord up the neck requires the note to change.

Remember the E Style Barre chord format, with the image below becoming an F barre chord, due to its placement on the 1st fret of the guitar:



You can play each exercise below using the same concept. Notice in the tablature below that all notes are complimentary to the overall E Style Barre chord pattern.

1.

Here's how the 4 barre chords for the first exercise are tabbed out, in no particular order:

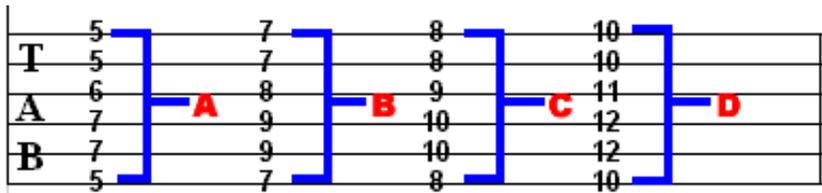
	5	7	8	10
T	5	7	8	10
A	6	8	9	11
B	7	9	10	12
	7	9	10	12
	5	7	8	10

Without using a metronome, play each of the four barre chords above at any tempo. Just drill into your head what each of the barre chord shapes above are.

Remember the note order. We are playing the chord progression G, A, C, and D. Which one is which above? Do you know?

You should if you remember the note order. The lowest note is your root, so our first tabbed out exercise above would be an A barre chord, because the root note is on the fifth fret of the Low E string. This also happens to be the lowest note. That being said, the order above is as follows:

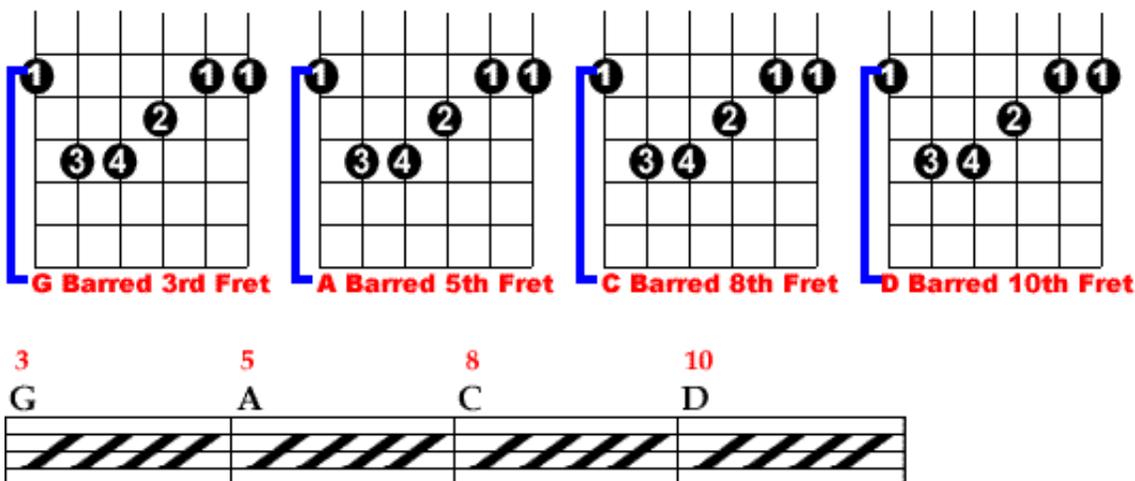
- Barre Chord 1 = A Major Barre Chord (lowest root note on Low E = A)
- Barre Chord 2 = B Major Barre Chord (lowest root note on Low E = B)
- Barre Chord 3 = C Major Barre Chord (lowest root note on Low E = C)
- Barre Chord 4 = D Major Barre Chord (lowest root note on Low E = D)



That should make sense considering we've just learned the Primary notes on the guitar.

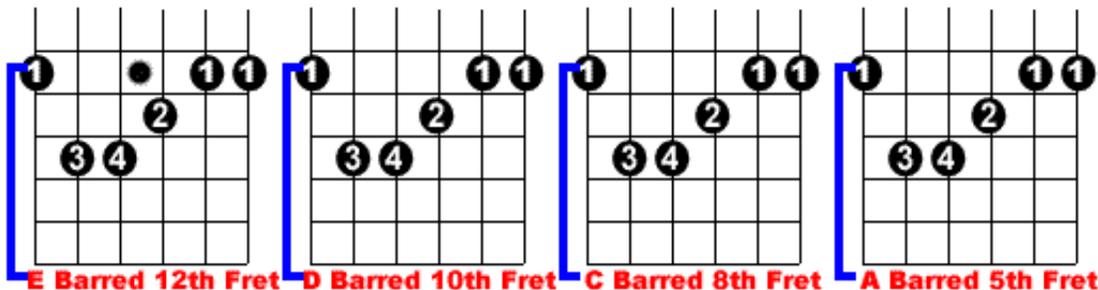
2.

This one is just a variation of the exercise above using quarter notes. Notice that the pattern is still the same..



3.

Not only can we play an E chord in the open position, but we can also play an E chord at the 12th fret, like this (we've included the dot inlay on the 12th fret):

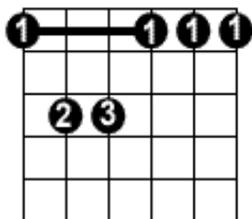


As you can see, we'll be moving down the fretboard this time. Consider it descending.



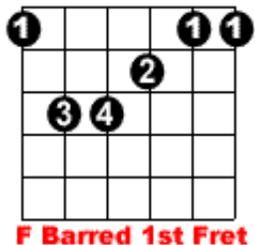
4.

Now we'll introduce the minor version of the E style barre chord. It's quite similar to E major (you basically just take a finger away and rearrange your fingers). Here's what it looks like:



This looks quite similar to a power chord. The good news is that if you can play a barre chord, you can most definitely play a power chord. Power chords are much easier since you don't use all strings.

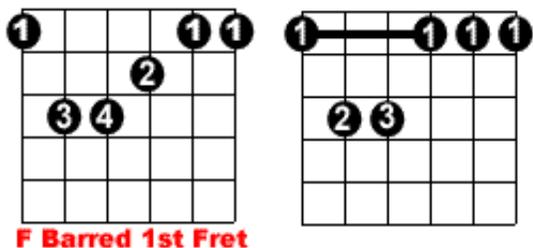
Note: Textbooks will show that you play the minor version of a barre chord the way seen above, but I want to include how I would play this barre chord. I completely DISAGREE with what you see in various books and what instructors teach you. The original placement just doesn't make any sense. If you remember, the Major barre chord is fingered (with your 1st finger) as this:



So....Why not stick with the overall format using the finger placement above? I am including how other books show you to finger the following barre chords for all exercises from here on out, but I think you'll find my way the easiest.

Let's take a look at a more logical approach.

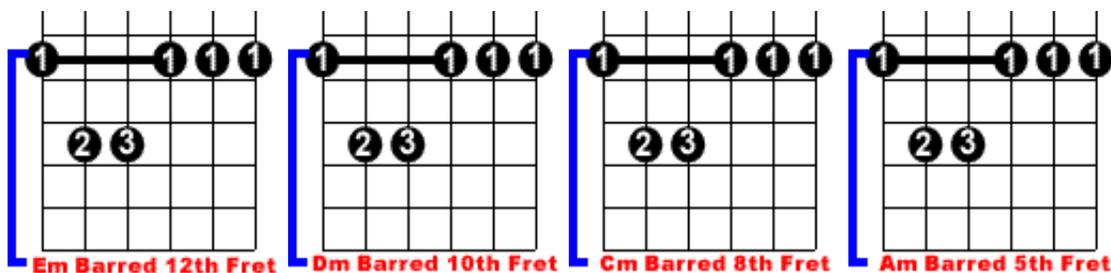
Do you see any real difference between these two barre chords?



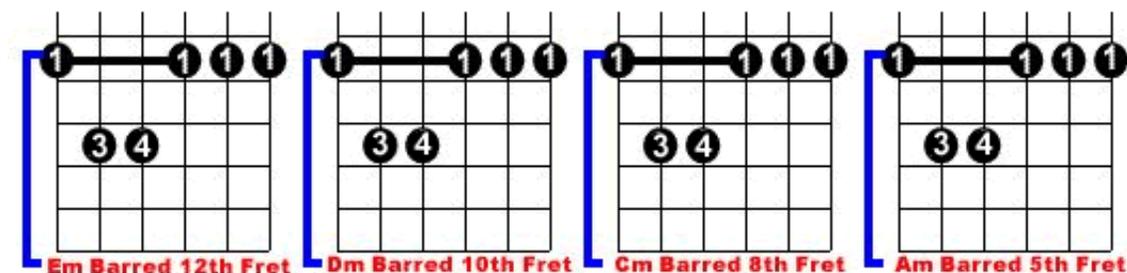
Only a subtle one. The major (the first image above) shows your 2nd finger played on the G string on the second fret, where the minor version doesn't show the second fret being played on the G string. It shows it as a barre from your 1st finger. Um...then why in the world would teachers try to confuse you like this?

Simply LIFT UP your 2nd finger. Bam! You've just created the minor version without having to re-adjust your finger placement. Pretty easy now, right? That technically means that once you learn your E Major barre chord style, removing this added note creates a minor (at least in the E style barre chord) so you've learned two barre chords for the price of one.

Books say:



Nathan says:

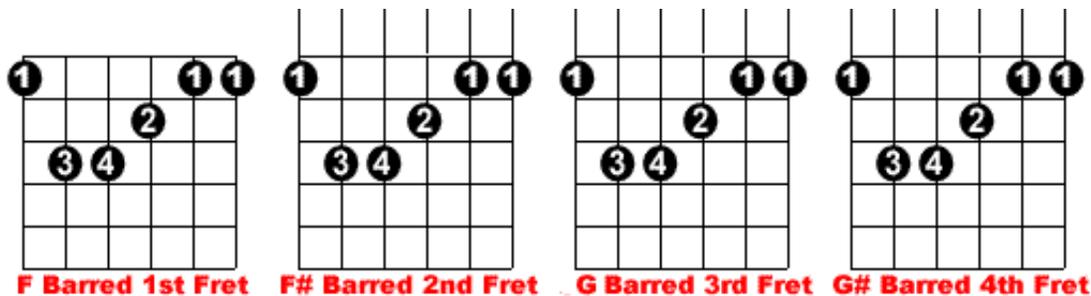


(There are more of these further down the page)

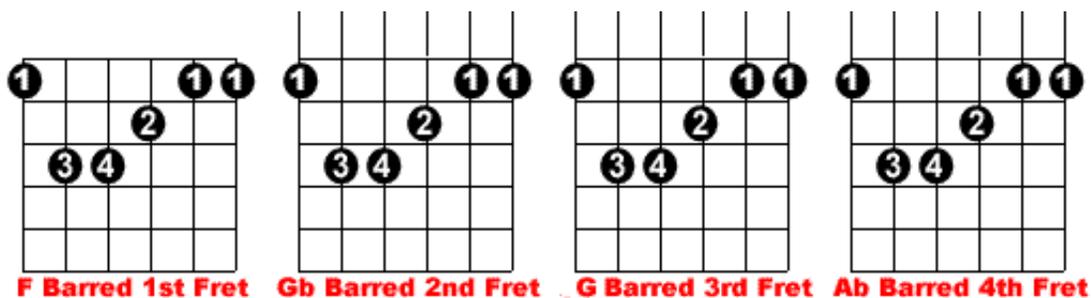
Supplemental Exercises

Note: The following two supplemental exercises are the same. Why?

Supp. 1



Supp. 2



Because F# is the same as Gb. G# is the same as Ab.

It wasn't my intention to trick you, but I always like to note when a chord might LOOK different when it really isn't. Remember that secondary notes have 'dual' names.

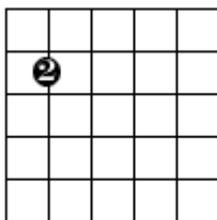
Even MORE Exercises

These exercises weren't on the DVD due to space restraint, but they are great practice. Each added exercise will offer alternate finger placement options as explained above. (when needed)

Added Exercise 5

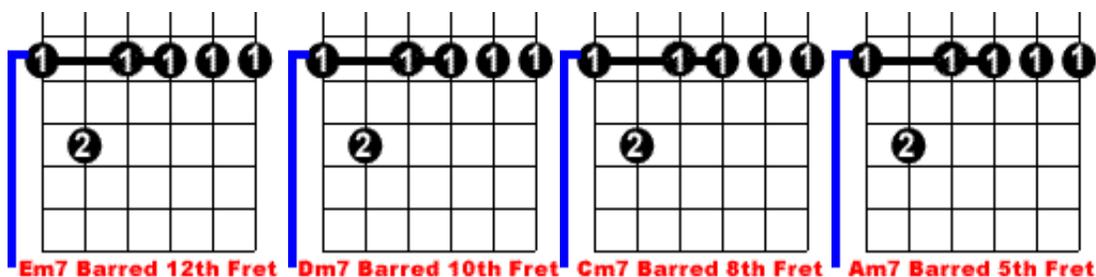
The minor 7th version of the E style barre chord is another popular variation. It looks like this:

Em7



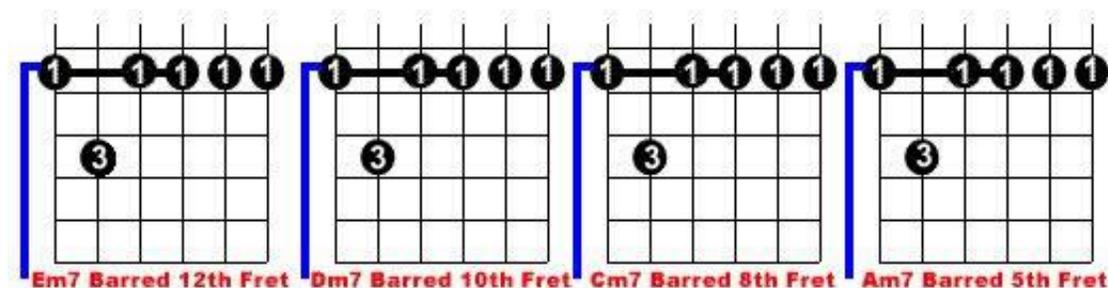
You are basically omitting every note except the 1st finger barre (on all strings) and the new note, which appears above. Again, just because the Em7 in open position can be fingered this way, remember to take everything you've learned about the E Style barre chord and apply it here. You'll then add another series of barre chords learned to your arsenal!

Books say:



Nathan says:

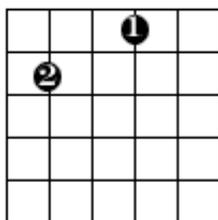
Same situation as the E Major Style Barre chord, with the 2nd and 4th finger omitted. If you've barred your 1st finger (or thumb) correctly, those notes will ring as they should.



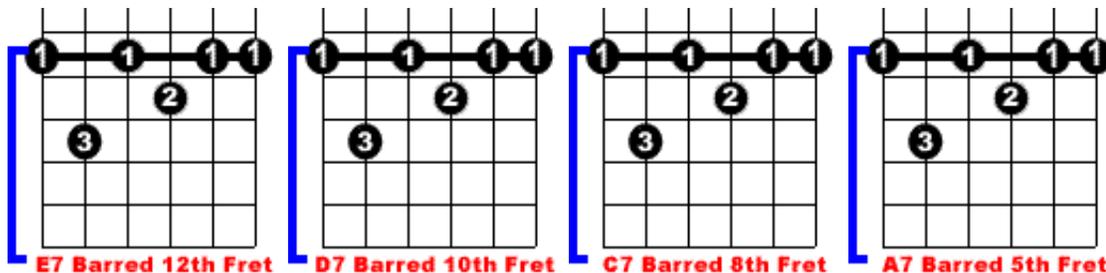
Added Exercise 6

And finally here is the dominant 7th version of the E style barre chord:

E 7



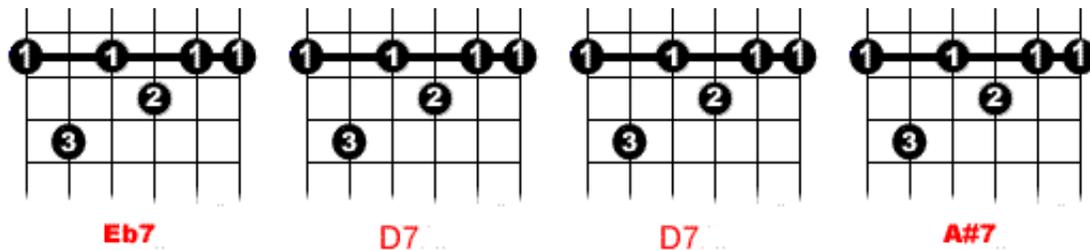
Now, here's where the books start making sense again. This is technically the same as the E Major barre chord style, without the added 4th finger on the D string. Ahh...Eureka!



Added Exercise 7

Sharps and flats (# & b) can be confusing as they have dual names, but they mean the same thing. Why is this? Since the guitar was created with the piano in mind, we still have to assign notes based on Western Music.

In other words, the # & the b is interchangeable.



What did you notice about the example above?

Did you see that you played the tenth fret twice? Good. Just checking to make sure you were

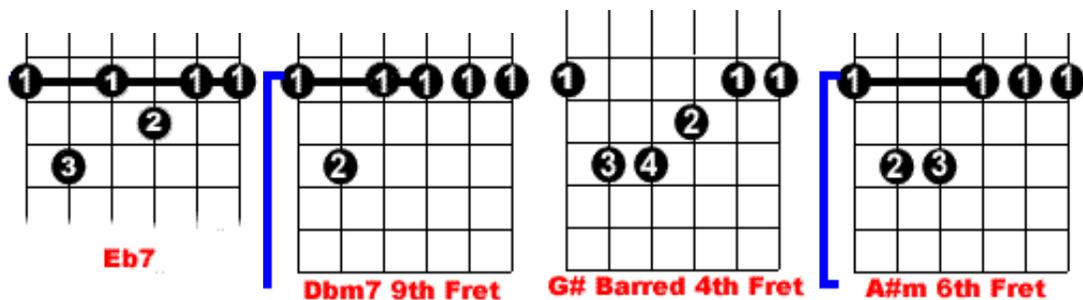
paying attention. It's easy to get lost in strumming, especially when you are planning on a new chord. This time, there's no change on the second and third measures above.

Now let's get really tricky!

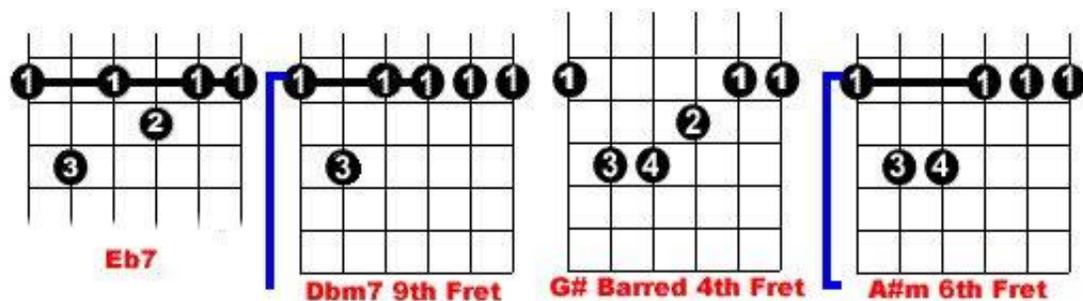
Added Exercise 8

Pay special attention! The major chords are mixed with minors, minor 7th, and 7th chords now.

Books say:

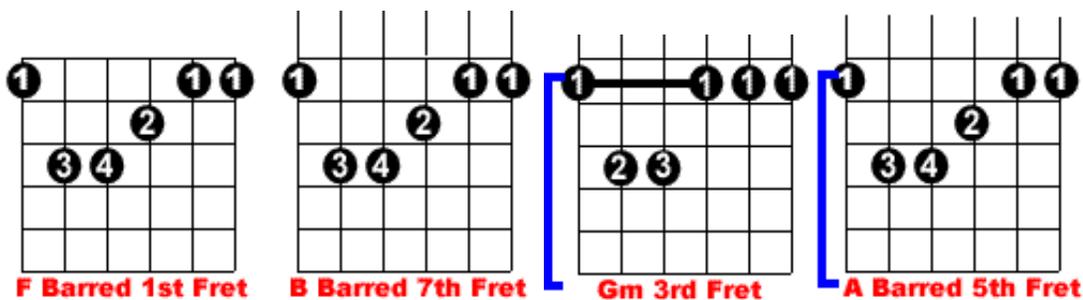


Nathan says:

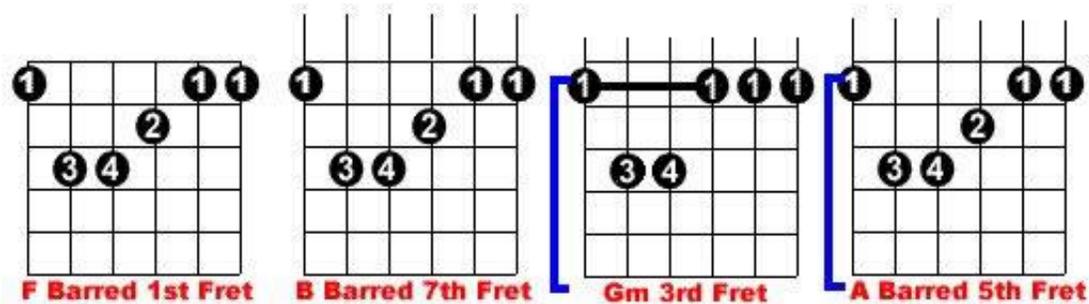


Added Exercise 9

Books say:

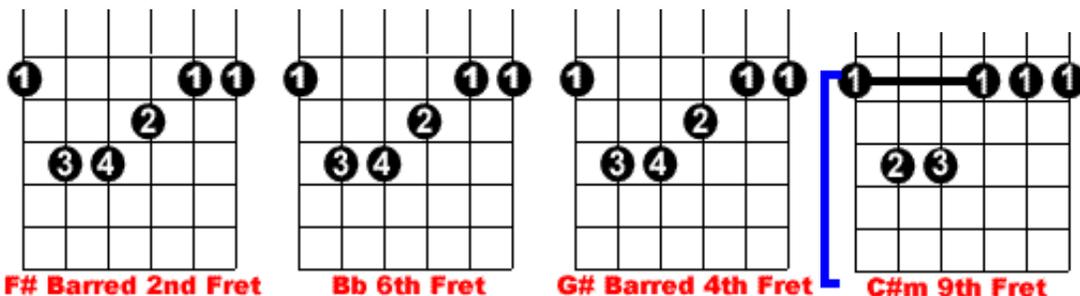


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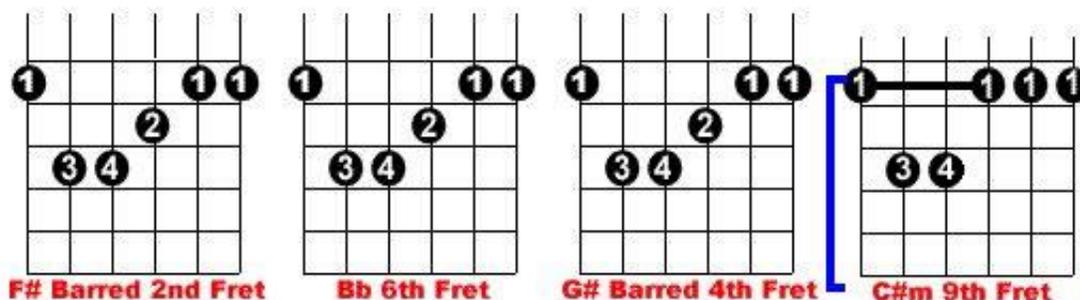


Added Exercise 10

Books say:



Nathan says:



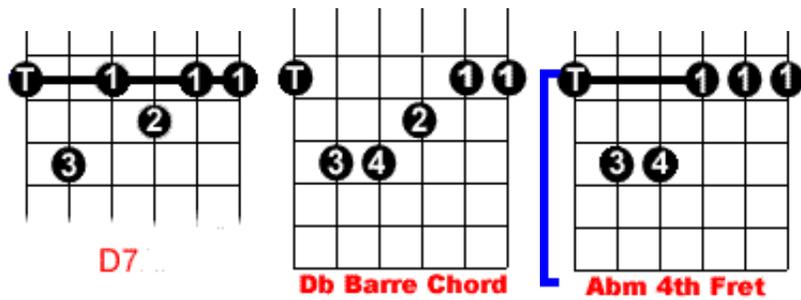
How did you do?

I neglected to mention ONE VERY IMPORTANT thing on the DVD, and I apologize for this. Here it is:

When you use your thumb, it obviously isn't possible to barre all six strings with it, so for whatever

your thumb won't reach, simply use your 1st finger instead. This is usually only applied to the high E string and sometimes the B string, so I think you'll be able to figure out how to barre it by just looking at what notes you can't barre with your thumb.

Here are a few samples using the thumb:



As you can see, there isn't MUCH of a change, but there is one.