

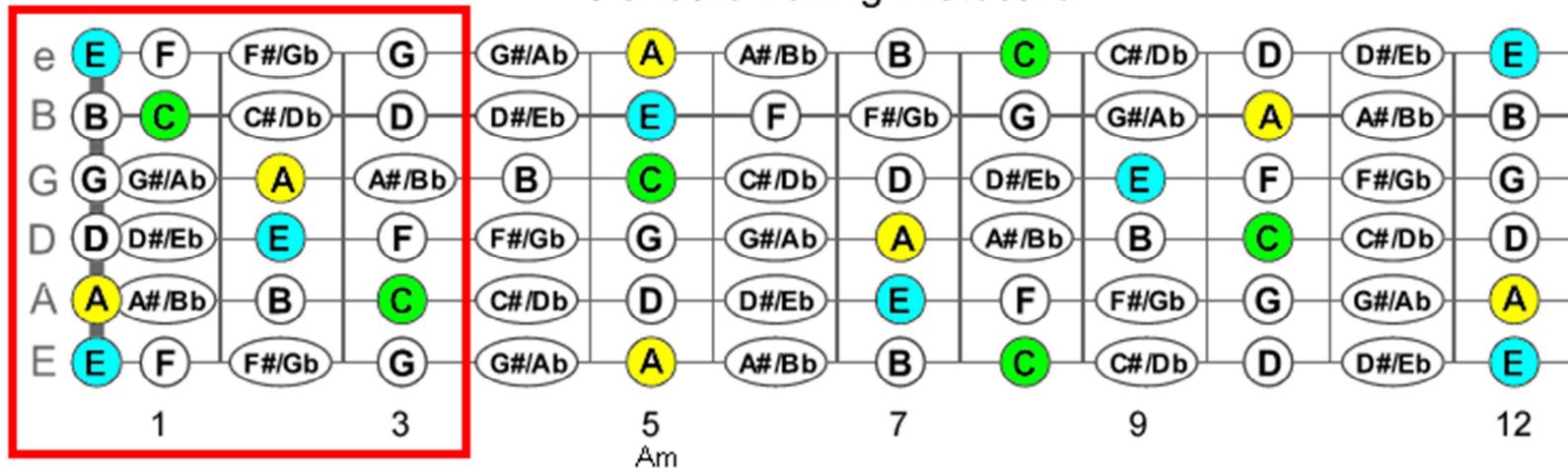
# Chapter 1 - Find Chords Anywhere!

Now we're ready to tackle minor chords. You may be wondering why I reserved minor chords for later. Well, they're MUCH easier to understand how to play, because you've already grasped their major counterparts. This time we'll be doing things a little different.

## The A minor chord

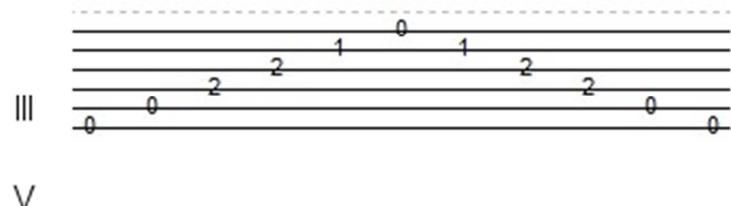
The A minor chord (Am, A minor) consists of the notes A, E, and C. I'm not going to put you through all the steps like we did with the Major chords. If you HAVE NOT grasped the Major chord counterparts, DO NOT proceed.

### Standard Tuning Fretboard

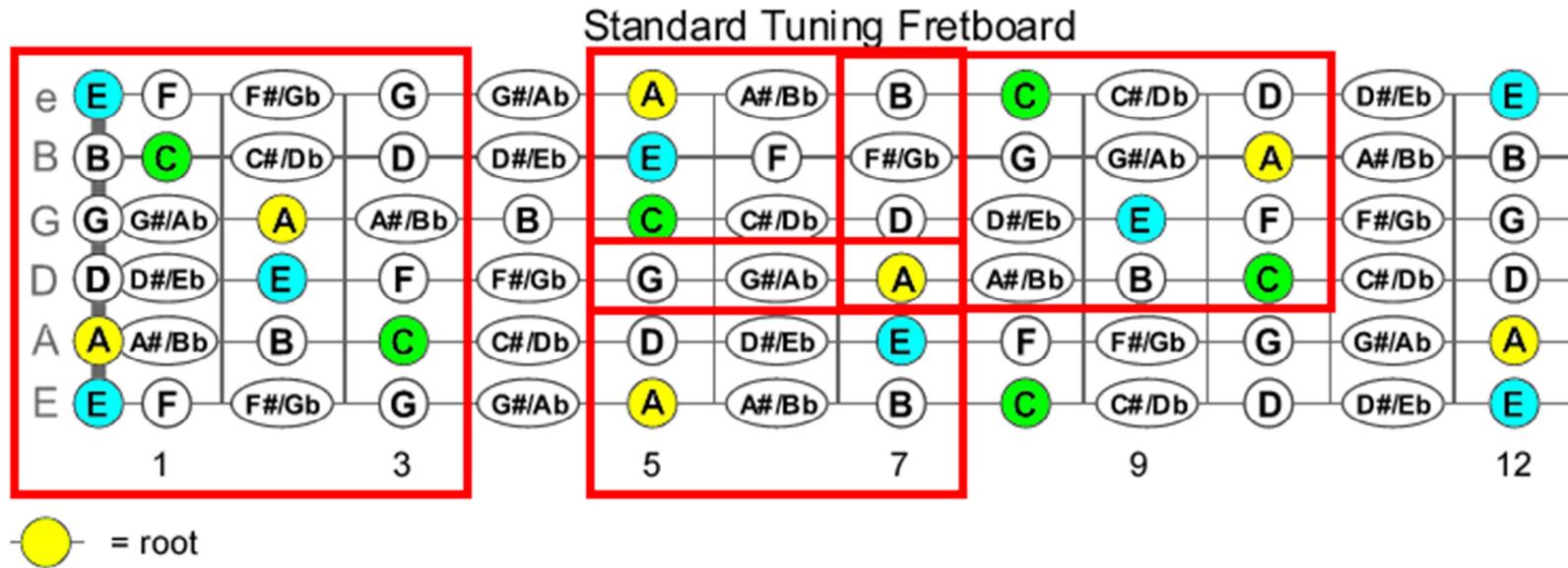


- = root
- = note
- = note

The A minor Chord  
contains notes:  
A - E - C  
root note = A



Above you'll see all of the notes available in the Am chord. I've boxed in the one you'll be most familiar with. However, there are more positions available along the fretboard. Here they are:



There ARE more, but I just want you to get an idea of a few logical positions. You can deduce for yourself which additional positions are possible. Remember that the rule is: ALL you need are the notes required within the chord, with a lowest tone root note included in the chord.

For example, you could also include:

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E-----8-----
B-----10-----
G-----9-----
D-----7-----
A-----x-----
E-----x-----
    
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Here the 7<sup>th</sup> fret note on the D string is the root. It's the lowest root available. Use it!

## What About Using A Power Chord?

1. Find the note "A."
2. Search for the next note that appears ONE string HIGHER in pitch and is the FIFTH.

Remember the note order: A – B – C – D – E – F – G (we don't need to worry about sharps {#} or flats {b})

A    B    C    D    E  
 1.....2.....3.....4.....5

This time the fifth is E.

NOTE: When using power chords, there is NO SUCH THING as a minor power chord. If you see an A5, it's just an A5. There is no minor. Extra points for you if you know why! (If not, you will soon!)

### Exercises:

The image shows a musical exercise for guitar. It consists of a staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The exercise is divided into four sections by vertical dashed lines, each with a chord name above it: Am, Am, Am, and A5. The first three sections (Am) show a sequence of chords with a melodic line in the treble clef. The fourth section (A5) shows a sequence of power chords with a melodic line in the treble clef. Below the staff are three lines representing the guitar strings: Treble (T), A, and B. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4. The Am sections use a standard open chord fingering (0-2-0-2-0-0). The A5 section uses a power chord fingering (7-7-7-7-7-7).

Which variations did you like? \_\_\_\_\_

(A5) Am Am

T		12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
A	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
B	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
B	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

Which variations did you like? \_\_\_\_\_