

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 C minor chord

The C minor chord (Cm, C minor) consists of the notes C, Eb (D#), and G. 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

Legend:

- Yellow circle = root
- Cyan circle = note
- Green circle = note

The C minor Chord contains notes:
C - Eb (D#) - G
root note = C

Diagram 1: Cm (C minor) at fret 1. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 2: Cm (C minor) at fret 3. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 3: Cm (C minor) at fret 5. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 4: Cm (C minor) at fret 7. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 5: Cm (C minor) at fret 9. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 6: Cm (C minor) at fret 12. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 7: Cm (C minor) at fret 1. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 8: Cm (C minor) at fret 3. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 9: Cm (C minor) at fret 5. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

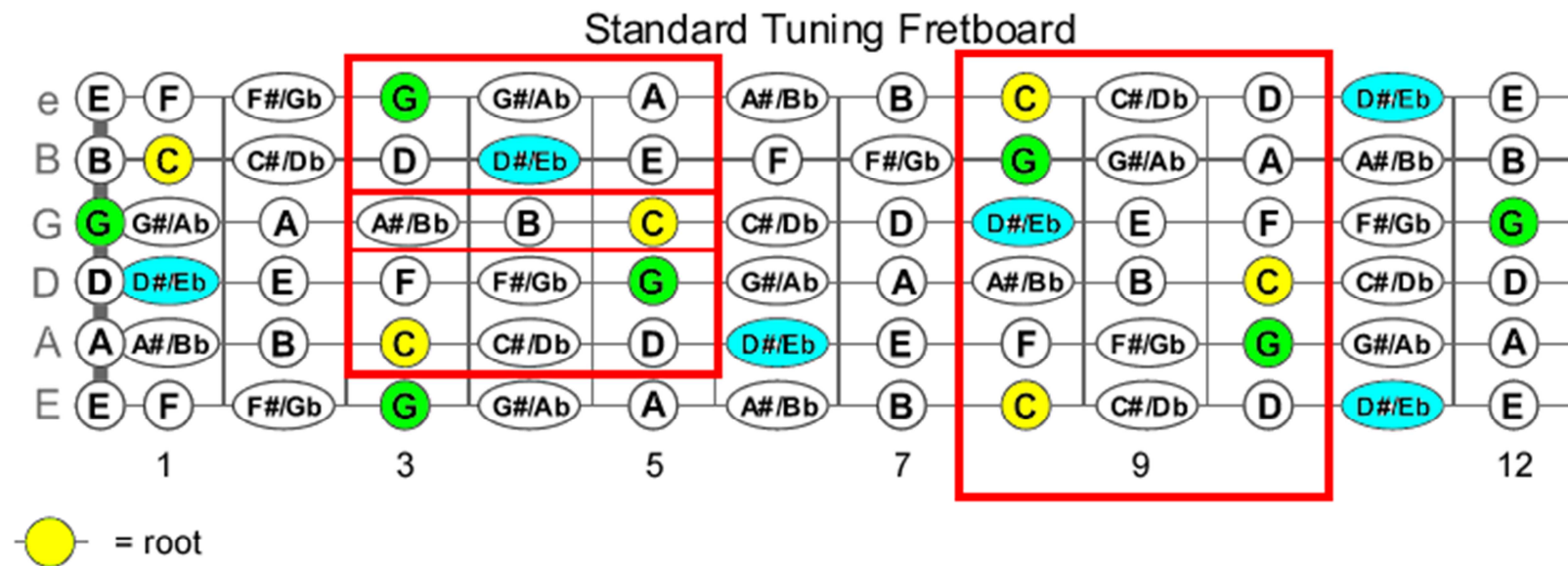
Diagram 10: Cm (C minor) at fret 7. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 11: Cm (C minor) at fret 9. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Diagram 12: Cm (C minor) at fret 12. Notes: C (root, yellow), Eb (D#, cyan), G (green).

Above you'll see all of the notes available in the Cm chord. I've boxed in the one you'll be most familiar with. However, there are more positions available along the fretboard. BEFORE you get confused as to why I've listed two chord diagrams, I want you to understand something first. When you are in doubt as to whether or not a given chord is too hard to play, you can ALWAYS revert to the barre chord version of it when available. I HAVE NEVER and WILL NEVER play the Cm chord in the open position. To me it is just ridiculous. Not only is it very taxing, you rarely get the full spectrum of the chord due to finger muting, lack of ability to push down, and other reasons. In the case of Cm, please just trust me. Stick with the barre chord version.

Here are the additional positions:



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:

E-----11-----
 B-----13-----
 G-----12-----
 D-----10-----
 A-----x-----
 E-----x-----

Here the 10th 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 "C."
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})

C	D	E	F	G
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5

This time the fifth is G.

NOTE: When using power chords, there is NO SUCH THING as a minor power chord. If you see an C5, it's just a C5. There is no minor. Extra points for you if you know why! (If not, you will soon!)

Exercises:

Chord progression: Cm C5 (C5) Cm

Tablature (T, A, B strings):

Measure	T	A	B
1	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
2	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
4	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Chord: Cm

Tablature (T, A, B strings):

String	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
A	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
B	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Which variations did you like? _____