

Moveable Chords (Root Bass Note on 5th string)

On this series of moveable chords, the alternate bass note can be either on the 4th string or on the 6th string. In low pitch position, the bass note on the 6th string can be somewhat muddy.

The diagram illustrates moveable chords with the root bass note on the 5th string. The chords are grouped into three rows:

- Row 1: A Major and A7**
 - A:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5. Labels: "optional alternate bass" (diamond on 4th string), "root alt." (circle on 4th string), "root" (diamond on 5th string).
 - A7:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5.
 - Musical notation:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), showing an alternate bass note (circle) and root note (diamond) on the 5th string.
- Row 2: Bb Major and Bb7**
 - Bb:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5. Labels: "root alt." (circle on 4th string), "root" (diamond on 5th string). Fingerings: 1 1 2 3 4 1.
 - Bb7:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5.
 - Musical notation:** Treble clef, key signature of two flats (Bb), showing an alternate bass note (circle) and root note (diamond) on the 5th string.
- Row 3: Bb minor and Bbm7**
 - Bbm:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5. Fingerings: 1 1 3 4 2 1.
 - Bbm7:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5. Fingerings: 1 1 3 1 2 1.
 - Musical notation:** Treble clef, key signature of two flats (Bb), showing an alternate bass note (circle) and root note (diamond) on the 5th string.
- Row 4: B Major and B7**
 - B:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5. Labels: "root alt." (circle on 4th string), "root" (diamond on 5th string). Fingerings: 1 1 3 3 3. An 'x' is marked above the 6th string.
 - B7:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5.
 - Musical notation:** Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (B), showing an alternate bass note (circle) and root note (diamond) on the 5th string.
- Row 5: B minor and Bm7**
 - Bm:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5.
 - Bm7:** Fretboard diagram shows notes on strings 2, 3, 4, 5.
 - Musical notation:** Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (B), showing an alternate bass note (circle) and root note (diamond) on the 5th string.

These chord forms can also be moved up the fretboard to perhaps the 10th fret or higher. The "major" chord form becomes crowded even when you reach the 5th fret. Rather than squeezing three fingers into the same fret position, the 1st string is often omitted and in that case, you can finger the three notes with the 3rd or 4th finger. (This fingering is demonstrated on the "B" chord.)

The following page demonstrates that virtually any chord fingering in open first position can be transformed into a "bar" chord in a higher pitch setting.