

Chord Dictionary (cont'd)

All of the "F" type chords require a "bar" fingering which can pose a challenge for most beginners.

The diagram illustrates three guitar chord fingerings: F, F7, and Fm. Each chord is shown with a fretboard diagram and a corresponding musical staff. The fretboard diagrams show the root note (F) on the first fret of the first string. The F chord uses fingers 1, 2, 3, and 4. The F7 chord uses fingers 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Fm chord uses fingers 1, 3, and 4. The musical staff shows the chord's sound, with the root note (F) on the first string and the other notes (A, C, D) on the second, third, and fourth strings.

All chords should eventually be memorized but don't try to do it all in one quick session. Over a course of time when you have used the chord fingerings for developing accompaniments to a good number of songs, you should find that the patterns will stick to your mind.

The chords in this basic chord dictionary are by no means the only ones possible on the guitar. There are hundreds of possibilities. However, even with this limited number of chord fingerings, it is possible to play at least a rudimentary accompaniment to an absolutely huge number of songs, but restricted to a few keys.

More intricate rhythmic patterns will be suggested in Guitar Fundamentals, Book 1. The basic rhythms which have been discussed up to this point are effective in lots of musical styles but are not particularly suited to more contemporary complex music. Even basic rock music has rhythmic complexity that is not present in simple folk music.

Chord theory and usage will be discussed in detail in Guitar Fundamentals, Books 2 through 5. Ultimately, you will be capable of developing the chord fingerings through a thought process rather than relying on diagrams. Large chord bibles are mostly a waste of time for serious players. There is a relatively simple science to chord fingerings on the guitar. This scientific process will be revealed through your study of the 5 volumes of Guitar Fundamentals. (scientific=usually involves logic and at least some form of mathematics.)

Music is in most respects a rather mathematical process. The standard tuning of a guitar is a mathematical process. Therefore, the idea of chord fingerings can be easily analyzed mathematically. By the way, you only have to know basic arithmetic and most of us learn that in grade school.