

Principal Chord in the Key of G Major

(For larger images, see the Chord Dictionary at the end of the book.)

G optional fingering shown in brackets
(1) 2 3 4 (3)

C
2 3

D7
1 2 3

Tonic (or I) chord
(built on the Tonic note)

Sub-Dominant (or IV) chord
(built on the Sub-Dominant note)

Dominant (or V) chord
(built on the Dominant note)
This chord is nearly always a "7th" chord.

The first step is to memorize the chord fingerings. You must know them so well that you have a perfect mental picture of where the fingers must be placed. If you have to rely on the chord diagram, you will never be particularly good at chord playing.

The next step is to practice changing from one chord to the other without losing the rhythm. It is most common that it is the changing of chords that produces a problem rather than any one chord on its own. Many students will learn to finger the chords but not necessarily get to the point where the chord changes are flawless.

Use "G" and "C" as an example:

Play the "G" chord twice and the "C" chord twice, giving each chord two beats and count as shown below. ~~Begin changing to the "G" chord on the "4th count".~~

G G C C G G

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & etc.

Begin changing to the subsequent chord on the 4th beat. (as shown by the line)

Strum the chords on counts 1 and 3.

The strumming action comes from the hand, wrist and arm, very much like flicking water from a wet hand. The stroke should be light and fast enough to explode all of the needed strings into sound more or less simultaneously.

With three chords, you have three possible changes:

G to C (or C to G) G to D7 (or D7 to G) C to D7 (or D7 to C)

Progress Report: _____

