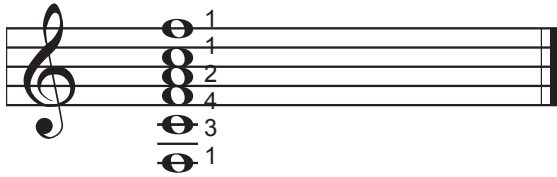


The "F" Chord (and related problems)

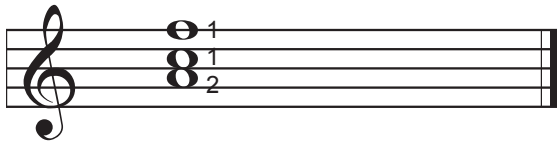
F



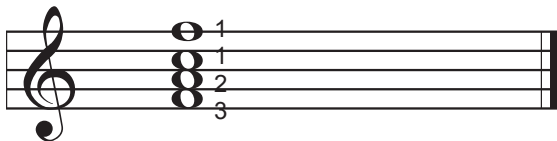
For larger image, refer to the chord dictionary at the back of the book.



The full "bar" chord can be a real challenge to beginner students. The trick is to learn to play the chord with a minimum of fingering pressure rather than a maximum effort.



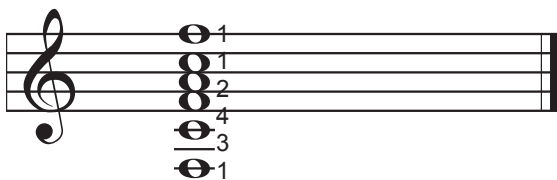
Start by playing this "triad." (three note chord) It is best to first put the second finger on the note "A" and then lay the first finger over the 1st and 2nd strings.



When you have comfortably achieved the above three note chord, add in the note "F" on the fourth string.



Incidentally, if you still have trouble with the fingering, try moving the whole chord up two frets. It won't be an "F" chord but rather, a "G" chord using the same fingering pattern. At the third fret, the string pressure will be less than it is at the first fret.



Now rearrange the fingering slightly to add in the note "C" on the 5th string. In many playing situations, this fingering of the "F chord" would be very satisfactory.

For the best result, now add the first finger to cover all six strings. This process will take patience.

Note to students with lesser quality guitars:

It is not so important to have the most expensive guitar on the market but what ever guitar you have, should be adjusted to have optimum string action. Even some brand new good guitars tend to come out of the factory with marginally good playing action. Most often, the "nut" height is not finely adjusted. If this is the case with your guitar, take it to a guitar repairman at your local music store and have them do the necessary work. The dollars spent on this will be very much worth while. Struggling with "poor action" has stopped many students from continuing their guitar study.

Progress Report: _____
