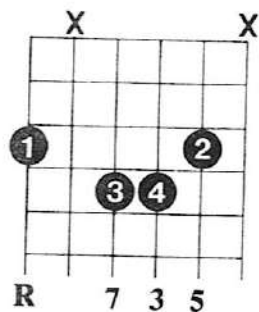


Chords on the Top Four Strings

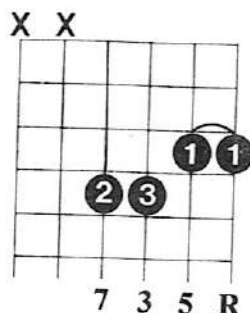
The chords played on the top four strings are very useful for two reasons. They are used for a certain style of accompaniment known as "comping;" this is where the guitarist doesn't play a steady four beats to the measure but instead plays chords in a very rhythmic manner, feeding chords to the soloist and pushing him along at the same time. The second reason is that they are used for "chord melody" playing, that is, playing chords and melody at the same time.

Learning the chords on the top four strings is not as much of a problem as you might think, because most of them are based on chord forms you already know. For example, the top string (first string) is the E string and the sixth string is also an E string (two octaves lower), therefore any chord you already know which has either its root, third, fifth or seventh on the sixth string can have that note which is on the sixth string moved up to the first string. See below:

Gmaj7 (Root on sixth string)

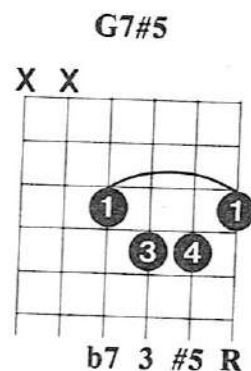
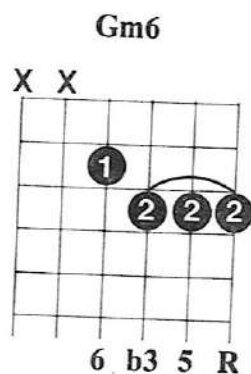
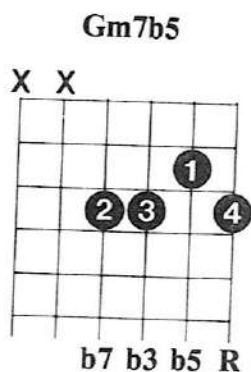
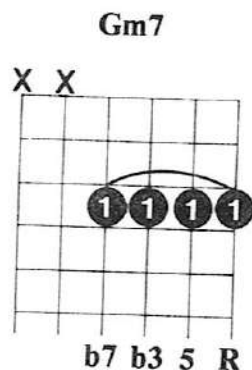
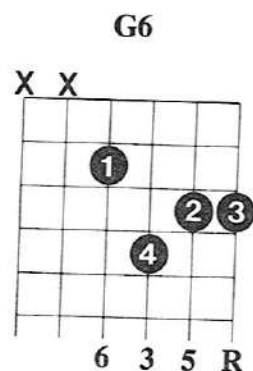
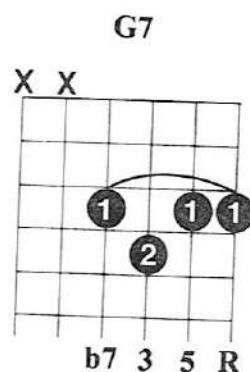
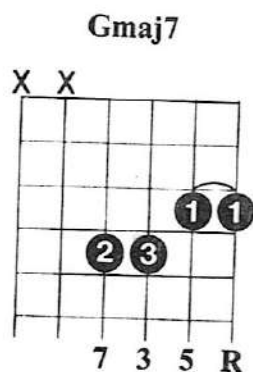
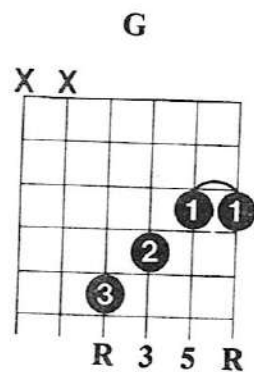


Gmaj7 (Root on first string)

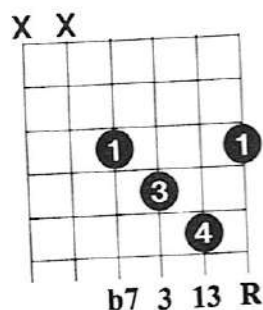


The root is taken from the sixth string placed on the first string. This can be done with all the chords you already know.

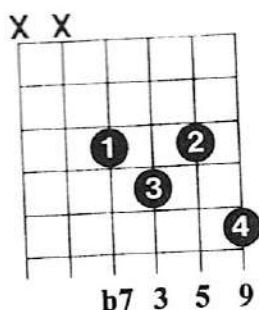
Chords with Their Root on the First String



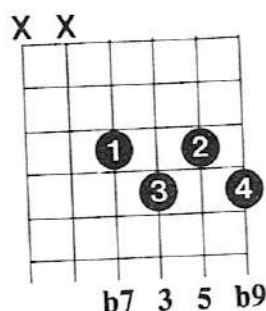
G13



G9 (No root)



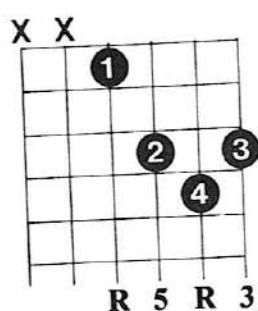
G7b9 (No root)



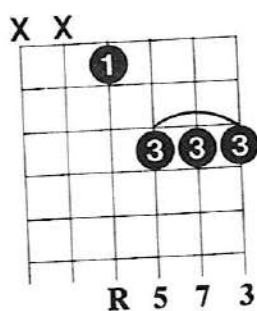
Play all of the above chord forms up the fingerboard and be sure you know the relative position of each note on each string within the chord. For example, you should know that the fifth of the chord is on the second string, the third of the chord is on the third string, etc.

Chords with Their Third on the First String

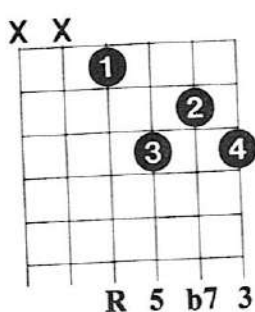
Eb



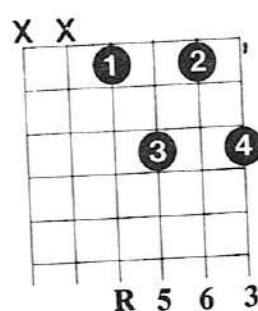
Ebmaj7



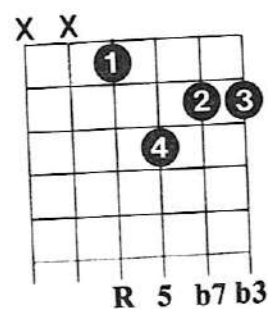
Eb7



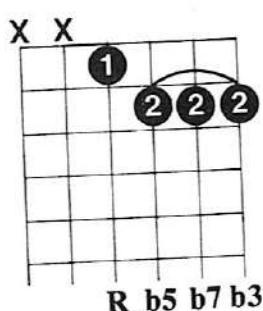
Eb6



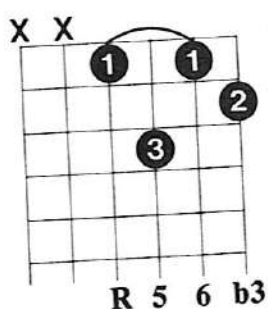
Ebm7



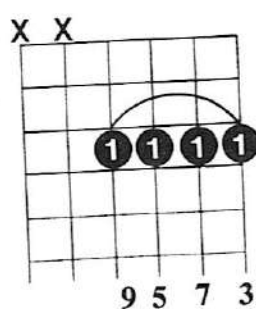
Ebm7b5



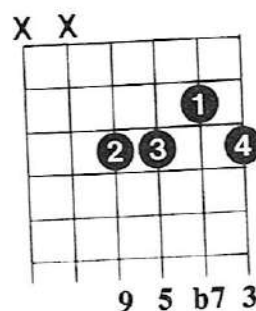
Ebm6



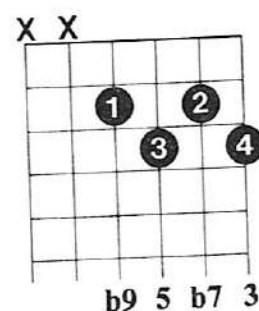
Ebmaj9 (No root)



Eb9 (No root)



Eb7b9 (No root)



These chords with the third on the first string also have the root in the bass (fourth string). They can be used to expand the harmonized scale possibilities.

Chords with Their Fifth on the First String

<p>Cmaj7</p> <p>3 7 R 5</p>	<p>C7</p> <p>3 b7 R 5</p>	<p>C6</p> <p>3 6 R 5</p>	<p>Cm7</p> <p>b3 b7 R 5</p>	<p>Cm7b5</p> <p>b3 b7 R b5</p>
<p>Cm6</p> <p>b3 6 R 5</p>	<p>Cm9 (No root)</p> <p>b3 b7 9 5</p>	<p>C9 (No root)</p> <p>3 b7 9 5</p>	<p>C7b9 (No root)</p> <p>3 b7 b9 5</p>	<p>C7b5b9 (No root)</p> <p>3 b7 b9 b5</p>
<p>C13 (No root)</p> <p>3 b7 9 13</p>	<p>C9#5 (No root)</p> <p>3 b7 9 #5</p>	<p>Cmaj9 (No root)</p> <p>3 7 9 5</p>		

Chords with Their Seventh on the First String

<p>Amaj7</p> <p>5 R 3 7</p>	<p>A7</p> <p>5 R 3 b7</p>	<p>Am7</p> <p>5 R b3 b7</p>	<p>Am7b5</p> <p>b5 R b3 b7</p>	<p>Amaj7 (Alternate form)</p> <p>R 3 5 7</p>
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