

If you memorized a French dictionary, you still wouldn't be able to speak French. Likewise, if you memorized a chord book, you still wouldn't be able to play guitar. You need to know which chords belong together. This lesson will teach you the basic chords that belong together in each of the twelve major keys. The keys of C, A, G, E, and D are especially important for guitar players. You should make sure you know how to play all the chords in those five keys.

In every major key (a major scale is a major key) there are seven different notes.

The seven different notes are used as the bass notes upon which the basic chords for the key are formed. There are seven basic chords in each key. There are three kinds of chords that are formed. They are: Major, Minor and Diminished.

The Basic Chords of a Key

In every major key the chords built on the seven different notes are:

- 1 is Major
- 2 is Minor
- 3 is Minor
- 4 is Major
- 5 is Major
- 6 is Minor
- 7 is Diminished

So, for example, the seven basic chords in the key of C major would be:

- 1 is C major (C)
- 2 is D minor (Dm)
- 3 is E minor (Em)
- 4 is F major (F)
- 5 is G major (G)
- 6 is A minor (Am)
- 7 is B diminished (B^o) A degree sign designates diminished.

The Chords in the key of C Major	C		Dm		Em	F		G		Am		B ^o	C

Just as the universal major scale numbers can represent any one of the twelve major scales, universal numbers can also be used to indicate the chords of each key.

Chords in the universal key are typically shown in two ways.

Roman Numerals: Major chords are in capitals, and minor chords are in lower case.

I ii iii IV V vi vii^o

Common Numbers: Numbers without a minus sign indicate major chords. Numbers with a minus sign indicate minor chords.

1 2- 3- 4 5 6- 7^o

The Chord Types	Maj.	Min.	Min.	Maj.	Min.	Min.	Dim.
The Universal	1	2-	3-	4	5	6-	7 ^o 8