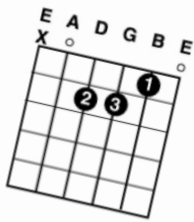


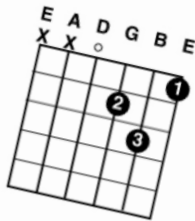
GUITAR LESSON PLAN 4

FINAL THREE CHORDS
THAT A BEGINNER NEEDS

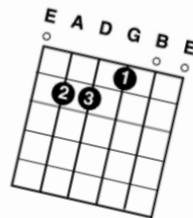
Am - Dm - E Chord Progression



Am



Dm



E



Repeat as Required

TEACHWOMBAT.COM

GUITAR TEACHER'S DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES WEBSITE

Lesson Plan 4

If you have been paying attention up to now you will know the drill for this kind of lesson in that you introduce your student to three new chord shapes (Am, Dm and E - the final three shapes that a beginner needs to learn) and then when they can move between them you introduce them to the (funky) backing track

From there (just as in all of the lessons to this point) you ask them to strum a single downstroke as each chord changes before encouraging them to play more involved strumming patterns as the lesson develops

The challenge here is that the Dm and E shapes change more quickly than has been the case with the other backing tracks but given a little time during the lesson students can generally handle this challenge pretty well

If they have trouble its simply a case of spending more lesson time moving between the shapes without the backing track before firing it up again

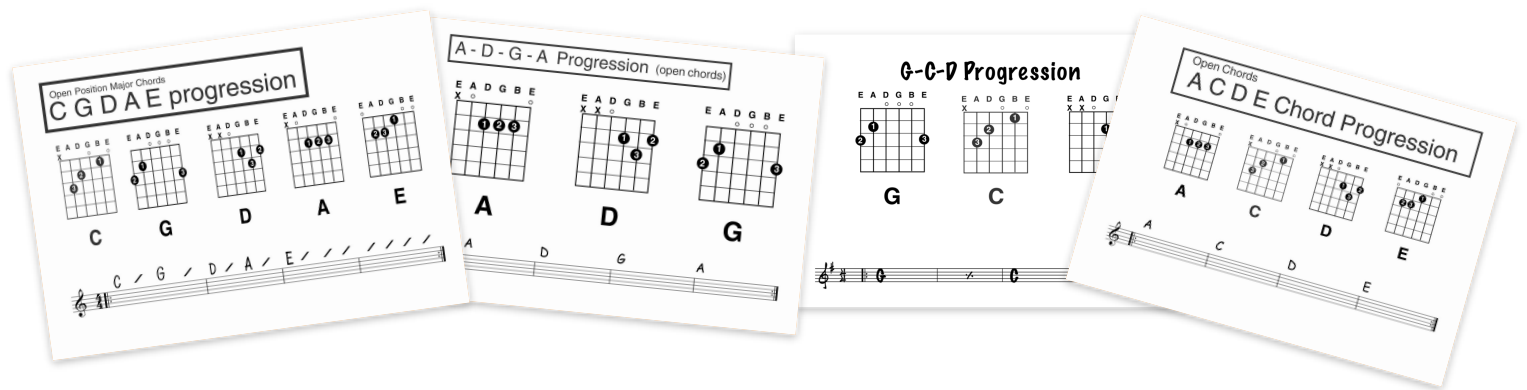
Continue with this document for first a simple analysis of where we are and where we should go next followed by a more “in depth” look at the stage containing more involved and theoretical material

Next Lessons

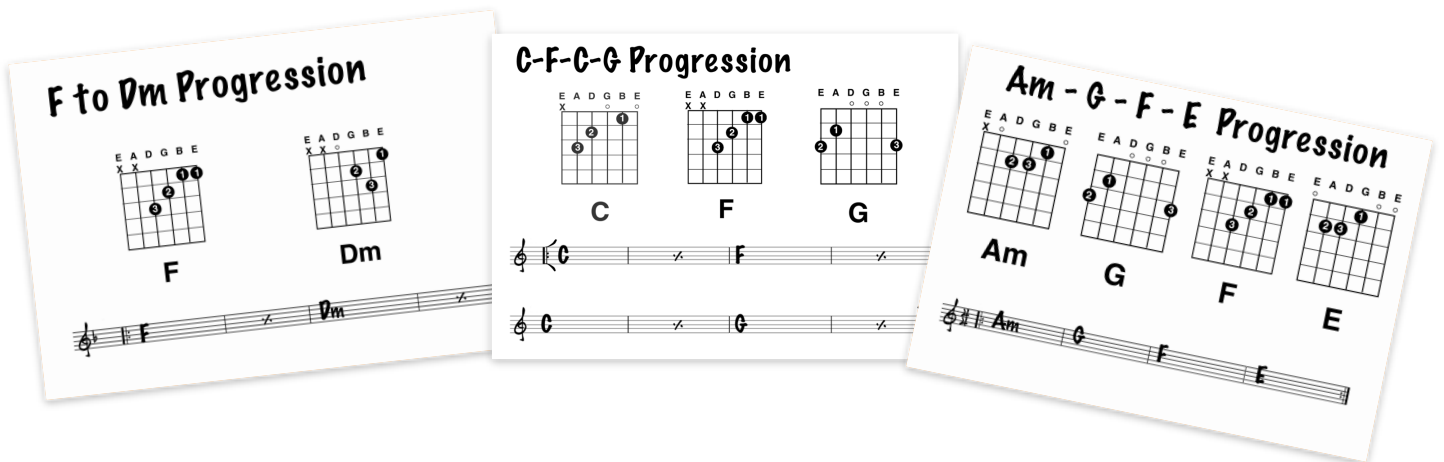
As lessons progress from this point other elements such as the development of a repertoire of songs (or parts of songs) can be combined with working towards more “difficult” technical areas such as developing the ability to play power chords and bar chords

Simple Plan

A simple plan for the next stage would be to work with more of the backing tracks that feature the eight chords learned so far but which require the student to change between them faster and more often.....



.....and work on having your student become comfortable with the F chord shape



A more in depth look at this stage of student development

This lesson represents an important “staging post” on your students journey from being a complete novice to becoming an intermediate level player

By the beginning of the next session (presuming that the learner has taken the opportunity to practice) they will be able to move (albeit perhaps not as quickly and smoothly as will later become the case) between the eight chords that they need to learn in order to become a competent and capable guitarist

It will then be possible to split their learning into three strands

1: To continue to improve at changing between the eight chords encountered to this point smoothly and competently

2: To engage with new material (including the development of a repertoire of songs (or fragments of songs) that they know and like
New chords are best introduced at this stage on an “as required” basis as part of learning existing songs

3: They should also be in a position to develop new capabilities with regard to single note playing (solos?) and more advanced technical capabilities such as becoming able to play power chords and bar chords

Before we progress to the lesson plan for this session it is a good idea to take a more detailed look at these three strands

Strand 1

1: To continue to improve at changing between the eight chords encountered to this point smoothly and competently

To be perfectly honest even though I am going on to detail more advanced concepts such as solos and bar chords **THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT STRAND!**

This part of a students journey should be approached by simultaneously adopting the following two practices

1: Continue to work with newly introduced backing tracks that require students to change between the eight beginners chords smoothly and competently

2: To begin developing repertoire of songs that they already know based on moving between the eight chords studied to this point

The reason for working with backing tracks up until now is simple Students are much happier to be working towards being able to play along with a fairly nondescript backing track than they are at “failing” to play a song that they know

Now that they can move (even slowly) between the shapes they are in a position to start combining those chords rhythmically to produce recognisable versions of music with which they are familiar This is where their hard work starts paying off!

Strand 2:

To engage with new material (including the development of a repertoire of songs or fragments of songs) that they know and like

The eight chords studied so far have been used by professional guitar teachers all over the world for decades in order to get their students off to the best possible start on the instrument

Without going too far into the music theory of it they allow a beginner guitar player to operate effectively in a few “guitar friendly” keys

A player who masters moving between the eight shapes in time to music can play (by using combinations of G Am C D and Em) the most important chords encountered when playing pop songs in the key of G

The chords of A D and E allow a player to produce versions of countless Blues, Country and Rock and Roll songs in the key of A

Chords of D G and A offer the same for the key of D and if your student wants to play (or write) a rock chord progression in the key of A all they need do is choose from combinations of the chords of A C D E and G

I am (quite rightly) not allowed to sell chord sheets for commercial and copyrighted songs but the download contains loads of blank chord charts etc so that you could easily produce a range of your own (and scan favourites for future lessons)

Strand 3:

They should also be in a position to develop new capabilities with regard to single note playing (solos?) and more advanced technical capabilities such as becoming able to play power chords and bar chords

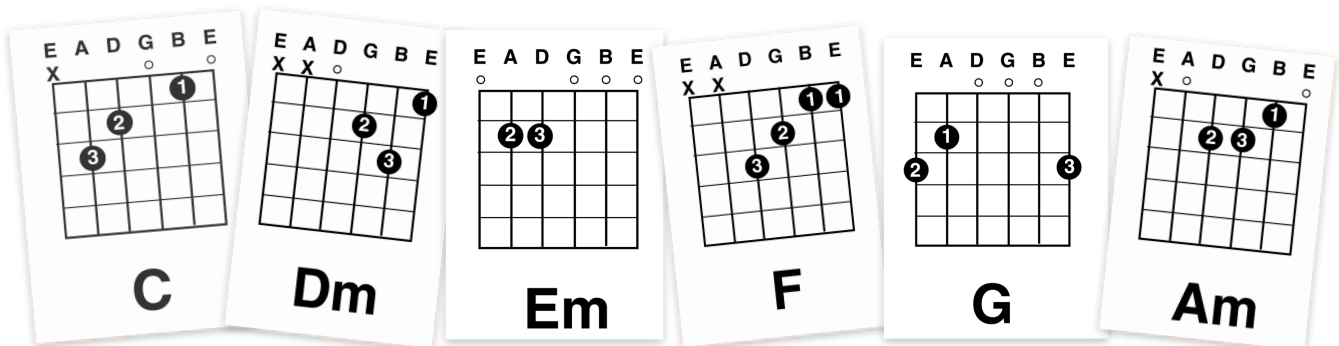
Which new chords should be introduced?

Although I have just stated that new chord shapes should be introduced on an “as required” basis when working on cover songs it may be useful to consider introducing the four string Bm chord shape (which gives us the only useful chord in the key of G not in the original list of eight chords studied)

In addition around now is a good time to introduce the “dreaded” F chord shape which is the first shape encountered where students are required to hold down two strings with a single finger

It cannot be overstated that F is not a suitable chord for a beginner on the guitar and it should only be introduced when players have developed the dexterity and motor skills to move smoothly between the original eight chord shapes studied to this point

By becoming able to play the F chord a student will be in a position to start playing chord progressions in the key of C (the “important” chords in the key of C are C Dm Em F G and Am and apart from F all of them were contained within the original eight chords studied at the absolute beginner stage



Music Theory

It must be acknowledged that in order to be a “complete” musician a knowledge of, and a familiarity with, music theory is very important. However it should also be recognised that at this stage our students are still in the very early stages of developing a physical capability on the guitar and spending too much time on developing a knowledge of music theory will probably be less fulfilling than developing motor skills and repertoire.

The F Chord

Whilst acknowledging the above it should be noted that an ability to use the F Chord allows our students to work with the important chords in the key of C Major which is the starting point for any study of music theory.