

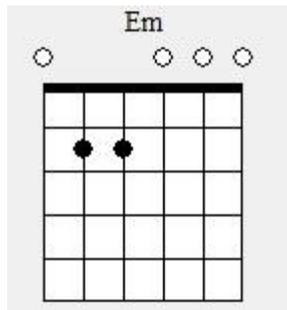
# 30 EASY AND POWERFUL CHORDS

By Claude Johnson

The following 30 chords are all played in the open position, meaning we are taking advantage of open strings. This makes them easy to play. I would definitely recommend learning all of these, if you don't know them already. Let's begin:

### Open Chord #1: E minor

This is one of the easiest chord to play, it's an E minor chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the minor chords are: Root, a minor 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.



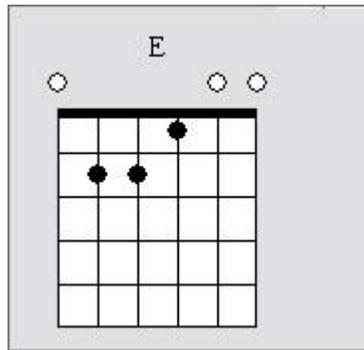
Also let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

	0	2	0
<b>T</b>	1	3	0
<b>A</b>	0	2	0
<b>B</b>	2	0	2
	3		0

### Open Chord #2: E major

This is another easy chord to play, it's an E major chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the major chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.

Here it is:

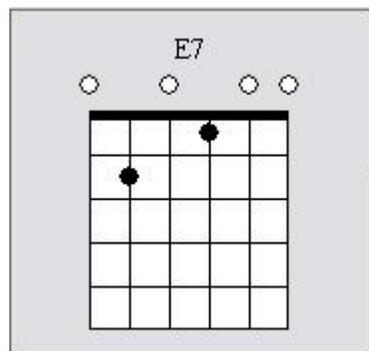


And let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

A musical score for guitar in 4/4 time. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains an E major chord (E, G#, B). The second measure contains a B major chord (B, D#, F#). The third measure contains a D major chord (D, F#, A). The bottom staff is labeled 'Gtr I' and shows the corresponding fretting for each measure: Measure 1: 0, 2, 2, 2, 0; Measure 2: 2, 4, 4, 4, 0; Measure 3: 0, 2, 2, 2, 0.

### Open Chord #3: E7 (dominant chord)

This is another really easy chord to play. it's an E dominant 7 or E7 chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the dominant chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Gr I

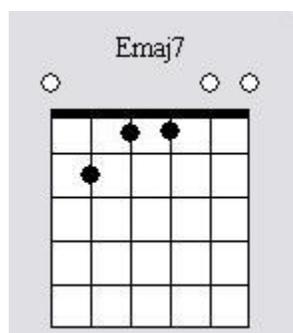
T 0 0 1 2 0

A 0 0 1 2 0

B 2 0 0 0 0

## Open Chord #4: Emaj7

This is an E major 7<sup>th</sup> chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the major 7<sup>th</sup> chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Gr I

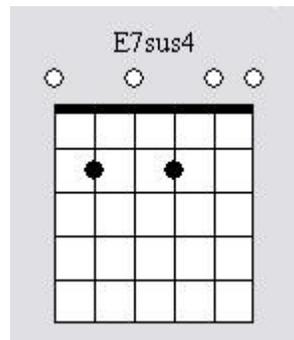
T 0 0 1 2 0

A 0 0 1 2 0

B 2 0 0 0 0

## Open Chord #5: E7sus4

This is another really easy chord to play, it's an E dominant7 with a sus 4<sup>th</sup> in its first position with open strings. The sus 4 means suspended 4<sup>th</sup>, so here we replace the major 3<sup>rd</sup> for a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure would be: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.



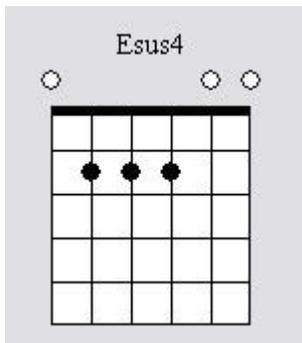
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for the E7sus4 chord. The top staff shows the chord in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chord is shown in its first position, with the root note E on the 2nd fret of the 4th string. The bottom staff shows the guitar fretboard for the chord, with the strings labeled T, A, B, and the fret numbers for each string.

	0	0	0
<b>T</b>	0	0	0
<b>A</b>	2	1	2
<b>B</b>	2	2	0
	0	0	

## Open Chord #6: Esus4

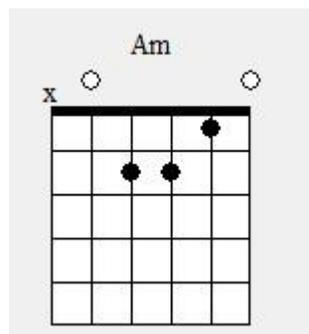
This is an E major chord in its first position with open strings with a suspended 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure of the major sus4 chords are: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

### Open Chord #7: A minor

This is another easy chord to play, it's an A minor chord in its first position with open strings.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

4/4

Gtr I

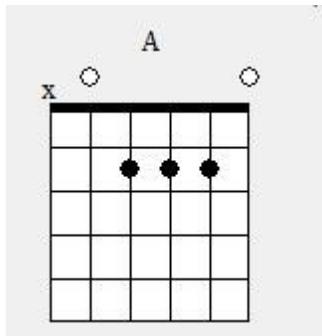
T 0 1 0

A 0 2 2

B 0 2 3

## Open Chord #8: A major

Another 'Must know' chord, it's an A major chord in its first position with open strings. As we already have seen, the chord structure of the major chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

4/4

Gtr I

T 0 2 2

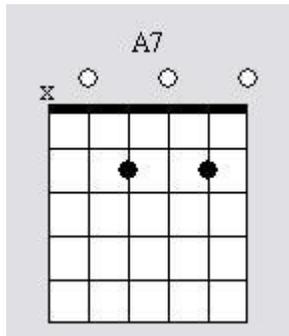
A 2 2 2

B 0 4 4

## Open Chord #9: A7

This is an A dominant chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the dominant chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it:

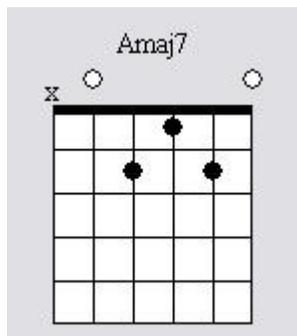


Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

0 2 0 2 0  
T 0 2 1 3  
A 0 2 2 2  
B 0 0 0 0

## Open Chord #10: Amaj7

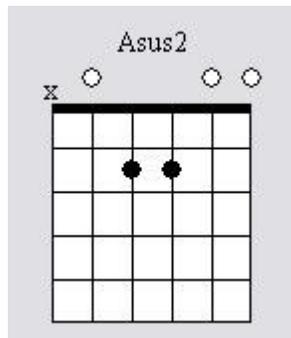
This is an A major 7<sup>th</sup> chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the major 7<sup>th</sup> chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

## Open Chord #11: A sus2

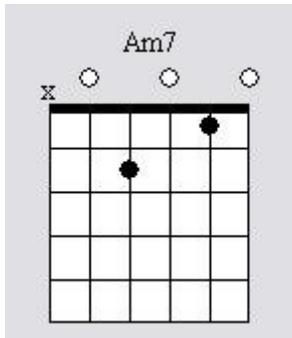
This is an A major sus2 chord in its first position with open strings. The sus2 means that it has a suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> so the chord structure would be: Root, a major 2<sup>nd</sup>, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>. In the example below I didn't put the 3<sup>rd</sup> so it can be used like a minor chord too. Check it out!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

## Open Chord #12: A minor 7

This is a minor chord with the add of a minor 7<sup>th</sup>. So the structure would be: Root, minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.



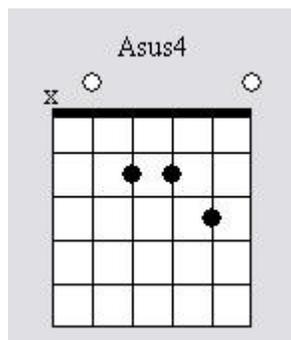
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for Am7 in 4/4 time. The top staff shows the chord in treble clef, with notes on the 6th, 5th, 4th, and 3rd strings. The bottom staff shows the guitar fretboard with fingerings: 6th string (0), 5th string (1), 4th string (2), and 3rd string (0). The label 'Gtr I' is above the fretboard.

### Open Chord #13: Asus4

This is an A major chord in its first position with open strings with a suspended 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure of the major sus4 chords are: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!

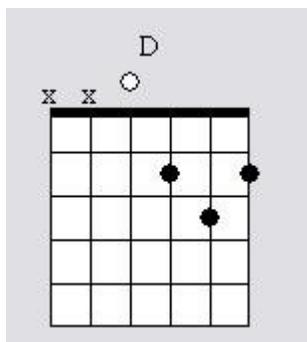


Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

## Open Chord #14: D major

Another 'Must know' chord, it's a D major chord in its first position with open strings. As we already have seen, the chord structure of the major chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.

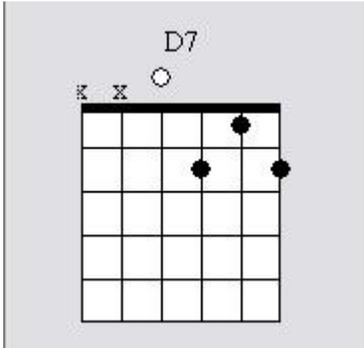
Let's see how to play it!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

## Open Chord #15: D7

This is a D dominant chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the dominant chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.



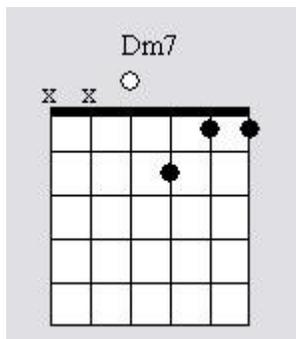
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for the D7 chord. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chord is shown as a whole note chord. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram for the D7 chord, labeled "Gtr I". The strings are labeled T, A, B from top to bottom. The fret numbers are: T (2), A (1), B (2) for the first measure, and T (3), A (3), B (0) for the second measure.

## Open Chord #16: D minor 7

This is a minor chord with the add of a minor 7<sup>th</sup>. So the structure would be: Root, minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

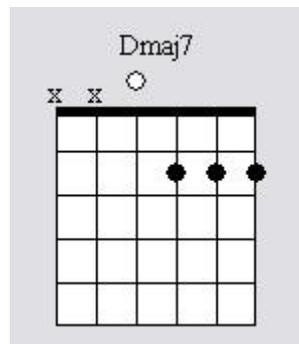
Musical notation for Open Chord #17: Dmaj7. The notation shows three measures of chords in 4/4 time. The guitar fretboard diagram below indicates the following fret numbers for strings T, A, and B:

String	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3
T	1	3	0
A	1	0	1
B	2	0	2

## Open Chord #17: Dmaj7

This is a D major 7<sup>th</sup> chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the major 7<sup>th</sup> chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



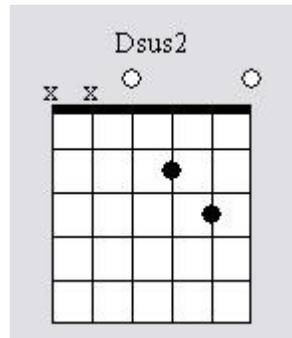
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for Open Chord #18: Dsus 2. The notation shows three measures of chords in 4/4 time. The guitar fretboard diagram below indicates the following fret numbers for strings T, A, and B:

String	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3
T	0	0	2
A	2	0	2
B	2	2	0

## Open Chord #18: Dsus 2

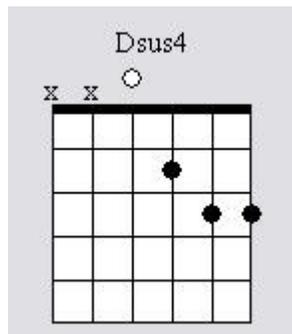
This is a D major sus2 chord in its first position with open strings. The sus2 means that it has a suspended 2<sup>nd</sup> so the chord structure would be: Root, a major 2<sup>nd</sup>, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>. In the example below I didn't put the 3<sup>rd</sup> so it can be used like a minor chord too. Check it out!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

### Open Chord #19: D sus4

This is a D major chord in its first position with open strings with a suspended 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure of the major sus4 chords are: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.



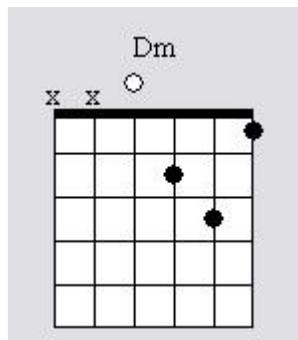
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for Open Chord #20: D minor. The notation shows a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with three measures of chords: C major, D minor, and C major. Below the staff is a guitar tablature for the first string (labeled "Gtr I") with fret numbers for each string across the three measures.

### Open Chord #20: D minor

This is another easy chord to play, it's a D minor chord in its first position with open strings.

Let's see how to play it!



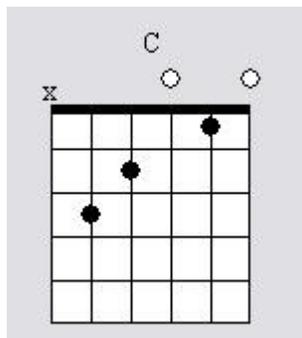
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation for Open Chord #21: C major. The notation shows a treble clef staff in 4/4 time with three measures of chords: C major, D minor, and C major. Below the staff is a guitar tablature for the first string (labeled "Gtr I") with fret numbers for each string across the three measures.

### Open Chord #21: C major

Another 'Must know' chord, it's a C major chord in its first position with open strings. As we already have seen, the chord structure of the major chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



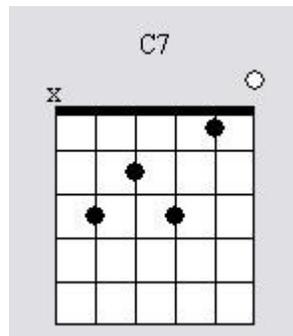
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

String	Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3
T	0	0	0
A	0	0	2
B	3	2	0

## Open Chord #22: C7

This is a C dominant chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the dominant chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

What's nice about this chord is you can finger it just like a normal C chord, then add your pinky on the G string to add some "spice" to this chord.

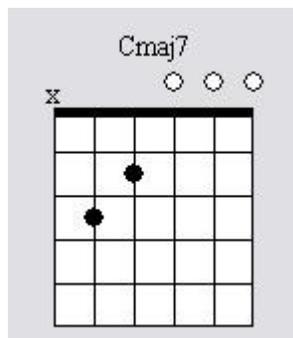


Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

### Open Chord #23: C maj7

This is a C major 7<sup>th</sup> chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of the major 7<sup>th</sup> chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a major 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

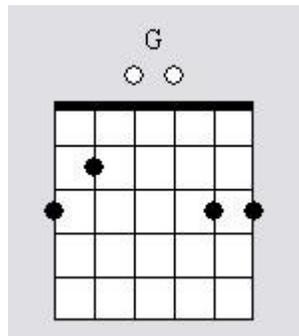
4/4

Gtr I

T	0	0	0
A	0	1	1
B	0	0	2
	2	2	3
	3	0	

### Open Chord #24: G major

Another 'Must know' chord, it's a G major chord in its first position with open strings. As we already have seen, the chord structure of the major chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup> and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

4/4

Gtr I

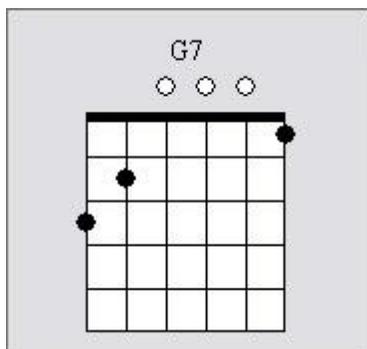
T	3	0	2
A	3	1	3
B	0	0	2
	0	2	0
	2	3	

### Open Chord #25: G7

This is a G dominant chord in its first position with open strings. The chord structure of

the dominant chords are: Root, a major 3<sup>rd</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



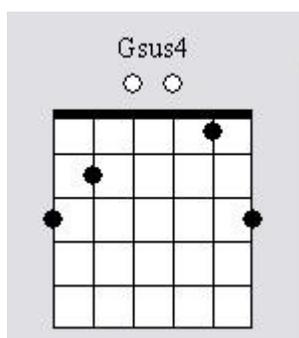
Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

A musical score for a G7 chord in 4/4 time. The top staff is a treble clef with a 4/4 time signature and a G7 chord symbol. It shows three measures: the first measure has a G7 chord, the second measure has a G7 chord, and the third measure has a G7 chord. Below the treble staff is a dashed line, then the text 'Gtr I' is centered. Below that is a guitar tablature with six staves labeled T, A, and B. The strings are numbered 1 to 6 from top to bottom. The tablature shows the following fret numbers for each string across the three measures: Measure 1: T (1), A (2), B (3); Measure 2: T (1), A (2), B (3); Measure 3: T (0), A (0), B (0).

### Open Chord #26: Gsus4

This is a G major chord in its first position with open strings with a suspended 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure of the major sus4 chords are: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, and a perfect 5<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

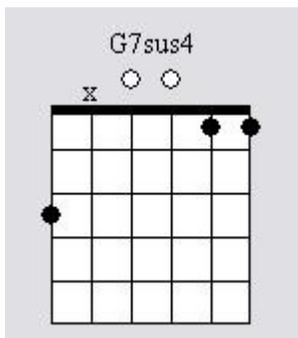
Open Chord #27: G7sus4

Musical notation showing three measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure is a whole note chord. The second measure is a whole note chord. The third measure is a whole note chord. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B. The fretboard shows fingerings for the first, second, and third measures.

## Open Chord #27: G7sus4

This is a G dominant with a sus 4<sup>th</sup> in its first position with open strings. The sus 4 means suspended 4<sup>th</sup>, so here we replace the major 3<sup>rd</sup> for a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>. The chord structure would be: Root, a perfect 4<sup>th</sup>, a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> and a minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

Let's see how to play it!

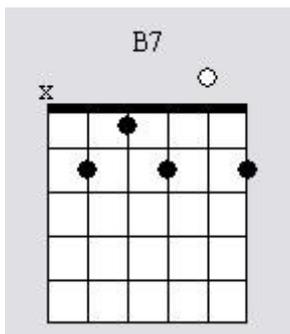


Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Musical notation showing three measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure is a whole note chord. The second measure is a whole note chord. The third measure is a whole note chord. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with strings labeled T, A, and B. The fretboard shows fingerings for the first, second, and third measures.

## Open Chord #28: B7

This is the dominant shape for the B chord, it's the only way for playing it with an open position. Check it out!

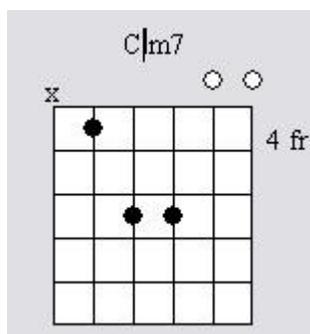


Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

	Gtr 1	
<b>T</b>	0 2	0 2
<b>A</b>	0 0	2 2
<b>B</b>	2 2	1 2
<b>B</b>	0 0	2 0

### Open Chord #29: C#m7

This is the only open position for playing a C#m7 chord. Check it out!



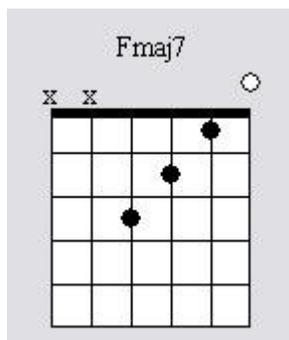
Here's the chord in a musical context...

Gtr I

	0	2	0
<b>T</b>	0	2	0
<b>A</b>	2	4	6
<b>B</b>	0	4	6
	0	2	4

### Open Chord #30: Fmaj7

This is the only way for playing an F chord with an open position. It's an Fmaj7 chord so Check it out!



Let's take a look at this chord in a musical context...

Gtr I

	0	1	1
<b>T</b>	1	1	1
<b>A</b>	2	2	0
<b>B</b>	3	0	0
			3