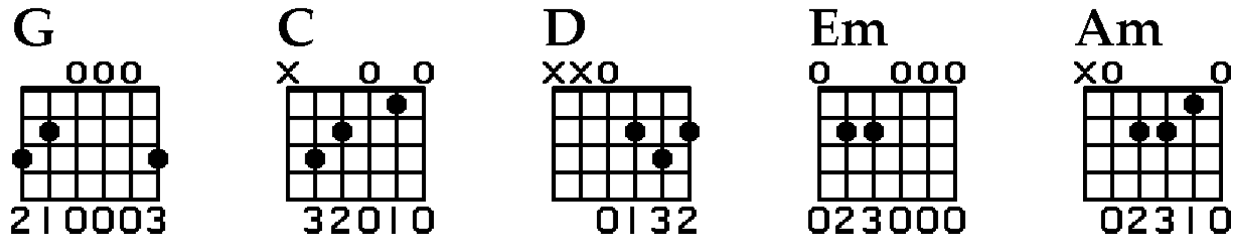


# First Chords

by John Collins



The chords above may be taken as good candidates for the first chords that a beginning guitarist should learn how to play. They are *G major*, *C major*, *D major*, *E minor*, and *A minor*. By learning these few chords alone, and how to strum them, you'll be able to play a number of different songs.

The horizontal lines in the diagrams represent guitar strings (with the thickest string represented by the leftmost line in each diagram), and the vertical lines represent frets (the metal strips embedded in the guitar fingerboard). The numbers along the bottom of each diagram point out which finger to use on a given string: "1" for index, "2" for middle finger, "3" for ring finger. A "0" indicates an "open" string (a string that's part of the chord, but left open, and not fingered), and an "X" indicates a string that is not involved in the playing of the chord.

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