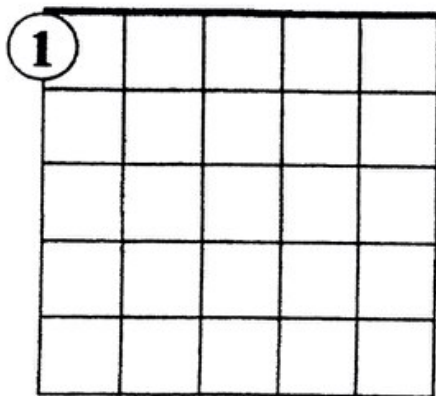


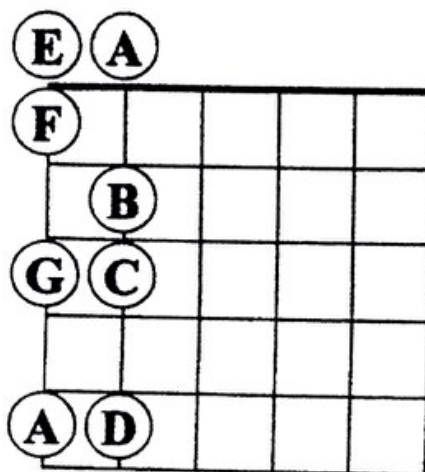
Creating a “simple bass” part from Chord Symbols

- Teach bass strings (fret numbers & letter names) using the 1st finger
- Place the 1st finger on the bass/root note of each chord in the tune
- Choose a specific rhythm for the bass part
- Play bass with any tune that has chord symbols written above the staff
- Create your own 3-part ensembles—Chords, Melody, and Bass

Finding the 1st Finger Position



Natural notes on strings 5 & 6



Suggested bass rhythms:

$\frac{4}{4}$

1.



2.



3.



$\frac{3}{4}$

4.



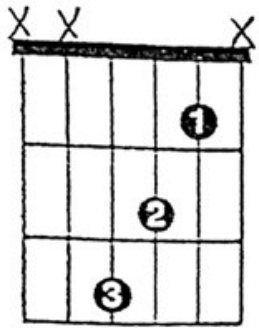
5.



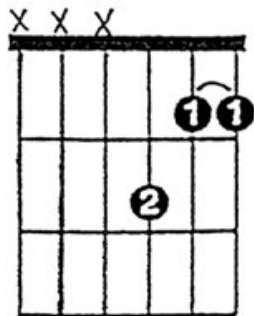
6.



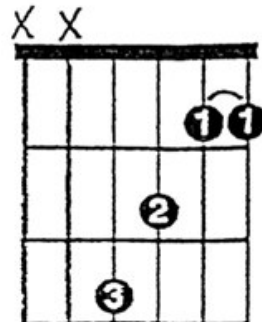
THE F CHORD



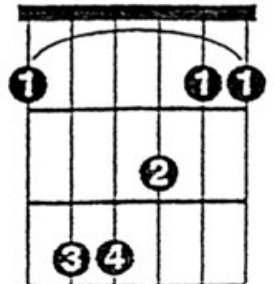
Ex. 1



Ex. 2



Ex. 3



Ex. 4

The F chord is one of the most difficult taught in a first-year class. There are no open strings in the F chord, a trademark feature of chords like C, G, D7, G7, and Em, making it tough to execute and produce a good sound.

By having a select group of student's play some form of the F chord, many tunes can be played in the key of C which will allow you to program wonderful ensemble material with melody, rhythm, and bass for practice and/or performance.

Above are 4 examples of the F chord, each with its own set of challenges.

Ex. 1 -- This example is somewhat like the C chord. Students have had their hand in this position since week one and might find it the most comfortable to play. Be sure to remind students that only three strings are sounding-- 4, 3, and 2.

Ex. 2 -- This example presents a new challenge for the left hand. Finger one has to create a small bar across strings 1 & 2 in the first fret area. Finger two plays the note on string 3 in the second fret area. This "mini bar chord" might be possible for your better students. Be sure to remind them that only three strings are sounding--3, 2, and 1.

Ex. 3 -- This is often referred to as "the small F chord." This is probably the hardest of all the examples. While finger one creates the small bar across strings 1 & 2 in the first fret area, fingers two and three are also fretting notes on strings 3 & 4. This is an awkward hand position for the beginner. Be sure to remind students that only four strings are sounding-- 4, 3, 2, and 1.

Ex. 4 -- This is the full bar chord position for the F chord. If some of your more advanced students have been playing power chord/rock songs, this example might be achievable for them. This position also includes the low F bass note, on string 6, which can almost give the illusion of the F chord by itself.

CHANGING CHORDS

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Practice strumming the C chord, and then move to G7.

C G7

| / / / / | / / / / | 4 beats of silence | / / / / | / / / / :||

C G7

| / / / / | / / / / | 2 beats of silence | / / / / | / / / / :||

C G7

| / / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / :||

YELLOW SUBMARINE TRACK 3

Words and Music by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

C G7 C

/ / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / |

We all live in a yellow submarine, yellow submarine, yellow submarine.

C G7 C

/ / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / / :||

We all live in a yellow submarine, yellow submarine, yellow submarine.


CHORD TO CHORD

You can now play five different chords. Let's practice changing between two chords at a time. Go slow at first; it's okay to pause between chords if you need to in the beginning.

D G7 D Em

 ||: / / / / | / / / / :||  ||: / / / / | / / / / :||

C G G D

 ||: / / / / | / / / / :||  ||: / / / / | / / / / :||