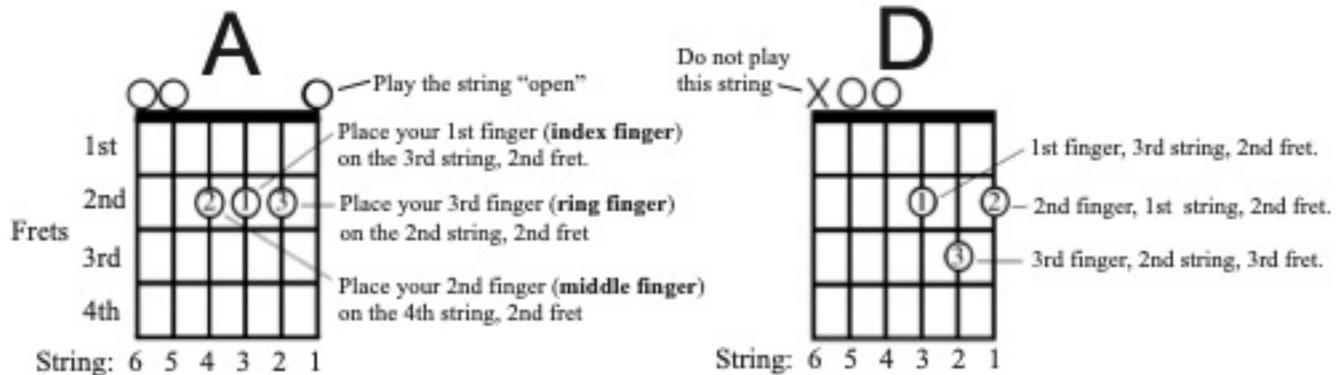


Lesson 1

The A and D Chords




Notice that for both the A and D chord, the index finger is placed on the 3rd string, 2nd fret. Keep this finger down when switching between chords. It serves as a pivot finger, making the switch between the A and D chords much easier.

The Beat

Beats exist in all music. They are markers in time that let us know exactly when to strum a chord (or play a note) and *how long* to let that chord or note ring out. Playing to the same beat enables musicians to be perfectly synchronized.

Music is always organized into groups of beats. Beats can be grouped into any number, but most often they're grouped into four. These groups of beats are called **bars** or **measures**. (see exercise 1 below.)

 This is called a **time signature**. The top number tells you how the beats are organized in each bar; in other words, how many beats are in each bar. The bottom number is the value of the beat, which we'll discuss later.

We can strum a chord on a beat or let the beat be silent. This symbol tells you to strum on the beat.



This symbol, called a **rest**, tells you that the beat should be silent.



Each exercise below is two measures long and has a $\frac{4}{4}$ time signature, which means that each measure has four beats. At the end of each exercise, you'll see a **repeat sign**. This means to go back to the beginning (measure 1) and repeat the exercise.

1

Downstrum on beat 1 and rest on beats 2–4.



2

Strum on beats 1 & 2 and rest on beats 3 & 4.



3

Strum on beats 1–3 and rest on beat 4.



4

Strum on all four beats.

