

Chord Shapes In D-A-D Tuning

This material is intended as a guide to help you determine the name of each chord in D-A-D tuning by way of shapes.

1. Major Chords in the key of D = D, G & A (the word "Major" is implied when referring to these chords)
2. Minor Chords in the key of D – Em, F#m & Bm (you must use the term "minor" to distinguish these as minor chords)

Barre – Barre chords are built by noting all three strings in the same fret space. The most efficient way of building barre chords is to use the last three fingers, leaving the index finger and thumb available to fret any notes which might occur in front of the barre chord. Barre chords get their name from the note being built on either the bass or melody string. One interesting fact about barre chords is that they can represent either Major or minor chords since the note which distinguishes the Major chord from the minor chord is missing in barre chords.

	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C	D	E	F#m
D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
dd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

L-Shape – Think of the letter L when building this chord. An L shaped chord can easily be build from an existing barre chord form by simply adding the thumb on the melody string. All L-shaped chords take their name from the note being built on the bass string.

	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C	D	Em
D	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
dd	2	3	4	5	6+	7	8	9	10

Slant – This chord shape slants across the fingerboard at a 45 degree angle. Slant chords take their name from the note being built on the middle string. Note the exception at 1-2-3 and 10-9-8. We're going to call these chords A chords since the A is more useful to us than a C# chord. *exception*

	Bm	A	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	A'
D	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	7	8
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
dd	2	3	4	5	6+	7	8	9	10

Expanded Slant – The chord is similar to the slant chord mentioned above except that it expands by stretching the thumb farther up the fingerboard, creating a space between the melody and middle strings. All Expanded Slant chords take their name from the note being built on the melody string.

	G	A	Bm	C	D	Em	F#m	G
D	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+	7
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
dd	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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