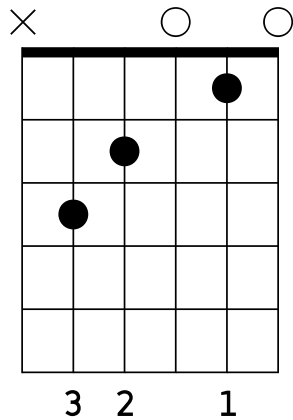
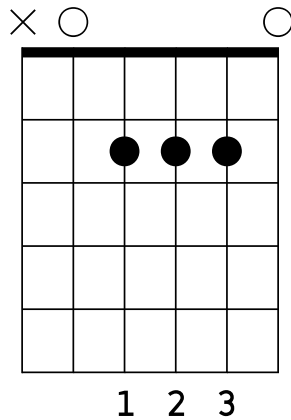


Chapter 3: The C A G E D Chords

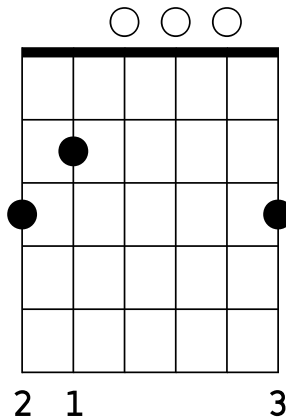
C



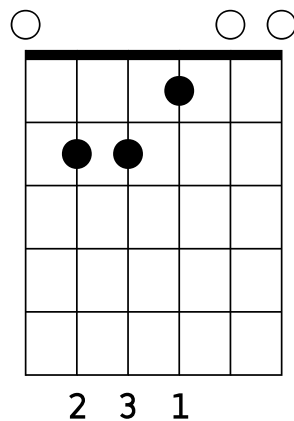
A



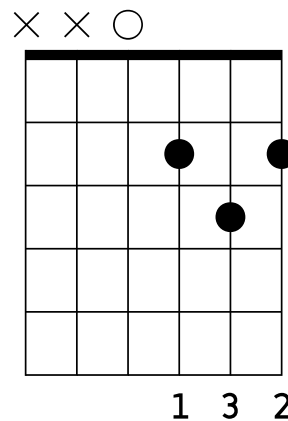
G



E



D



If you haven't realized it by now, we call the above chords the CAGED chords simply because the chord names spell the word "caged." Another way to refer to these chords is to call them **open chords**. Open chords refer to any chord that uses one or more open strings. The term open chord also encompasses more than just these 5 **major chord** shapes, as we will see in the next section. Before jumping ahead make sure you can play the above chords with

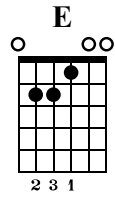
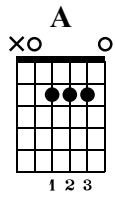
minimal buzzing or muting of the strings. It's ok if you can't get one or two of the chords perfectly before moving on. With practice you will eventually be able to nail them without much effort. Once you start getting good sound on each chord try the following exercises:

Exercise 1:

- Start with 2 chords (A and E tend to be the easiest for most people).
- Strum down (▮) 4 times on A. **Rest** for four beats, then switch to E and strum down 4 times. Rest for four more beats and then switch back to A. Repeat this at least ten times and then move to the next chord combination.
- COUNT OUT LOUD: "1, 2, 3, 4" as you strum and as you rest. DO NOT skip the counting part. I can't express important this is.
- Also continue strumming even as you rest. I like to call this "ghost strumming." Strumming while resting will help your timing and coordination. The idea is to ghost strum while you switch chords. This will develop coordination and independence between your left and right hands, enabling you to switch between chords more efficiently.
- Once You have **A** \longleftrightarrow **E** down try these combinations:
 - **D** \longleftrightarrow **A**
 - **G** \longleftrightarrow **D**
 - **C** \longleftrightarrow **G**

▮ = Down Strum ▽ = Up Strum

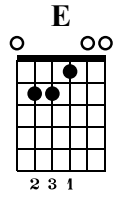
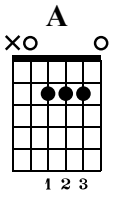
The diagram shows two guitar chord diagrams: **A** (x02221) and **E** (02210). Below them is a musical staff in 4/4 time. The first phrase consists of four down strums (▮) for chord A, followed by four rests (▭). The second phrase consists of four down strums (▮) for chord E, followed by four rests (▭). The counts "1 2 3 4" are written below the staff for each phrase. A "s.guit." label is on the left, and a "Count: '1 2 3 4'" label is at the bottom left.



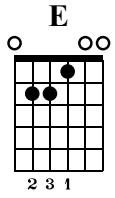
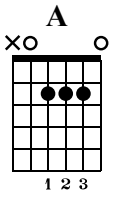
17 18 19 20

(4)

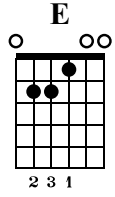
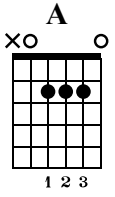
Count: "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and"



21 22 23 24



25 26 27 28



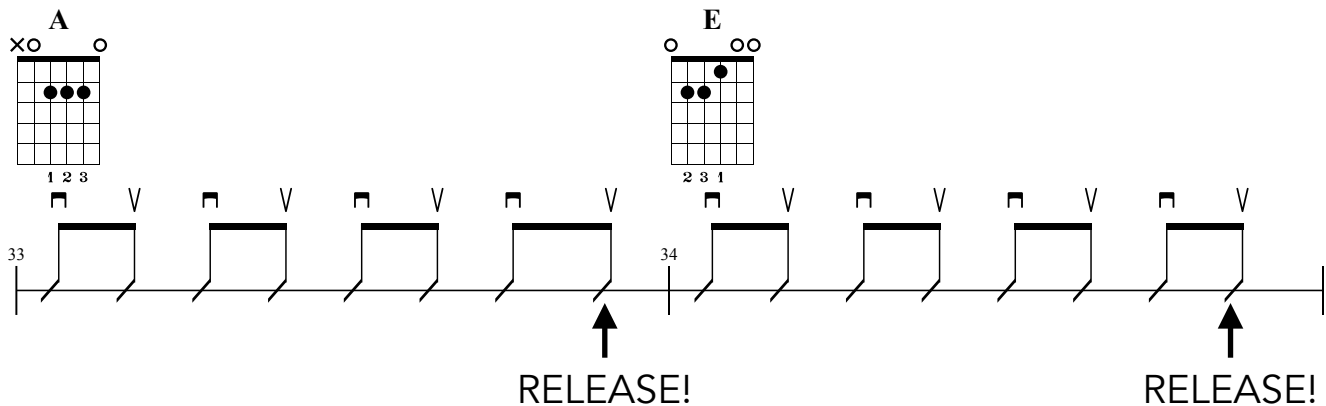
29 30 31 32

Exercise 2:

- Use the same chord pairings from exercise 1.
- Now add up strums (V) counting out loud "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and." Down strums should hit when saying the numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) and up strums should hit when saying "and." Make all strums the same length and duration. When done properly you will be strumming down on the **down beats** and strumming up on the **up beats**.
- After strumming down and up for 4 beats rest for 4 beats and then move to the next chord. Rest for another 4 beats and return to the first chord.
- Keep ghost strumming during the rests. Remember we are trying to build coordination and independence between our hands.
- Once you feel comfortable and are strumming evenly start eliminating the resting beats. Try counting to 3, then 2, then just 1 in between chords until you feel ready to switch without any rest. That's the next exercise.

Exercise 3:

- Put it all together by switching between the chord pairs without pausing.
- To do this we will intentionally ghost strum or miss the last up strum of each chord.
- The goal is to be able to switch to the next chord in the time it takes to perform that last up strum.
- Start super slow on this and gradually increase your speed.
- Keep counting and remember it is better to play slowly, evenly and clearly than it is to play fast, disjointed and off beat. Speed comes naturally with practice.



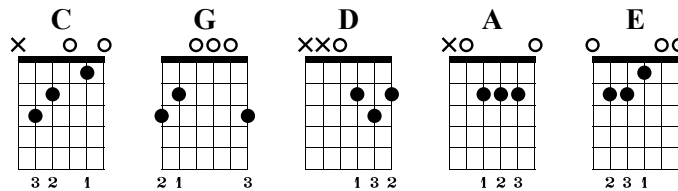
Hey Joe - Jimi Hendrix:

- If the above exercise is feeling good you are ready to play some Jimi Hendrix.
- Below is 2 simplified ways to play "Hey Joe" using your 5 CAGED chords.
- Keep using all the same technique and concepts from the previous exercises including counting and ghost strumming on the last up strum before switching.
- Remember to start slow and build speed as you progress.

Hey Joe (Stripped and Simplified)

Jimi Hendrix

Transcribed by Pete Cornell



Level 1

Count:

"1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and"

s.guit. **4/4** 1

C V **G** V **D** V **A** V

RELEASE! RELEASE! RELEASE! RELEASE!

2

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4"

E

3 4

Level 2

"1 and 2 and ah 3 and 4 and ah 1 and 2 and ah 3 and 4 and ah"

C V **G** V **D** V **A** V

RELEASE! RELEASE! RELEASE! RELEASE!

5 6

1 and 2 and ah 3 and 4 and ah 1 and 2 and ah 3 and 4 and ah

E

7 8

RELEASE!