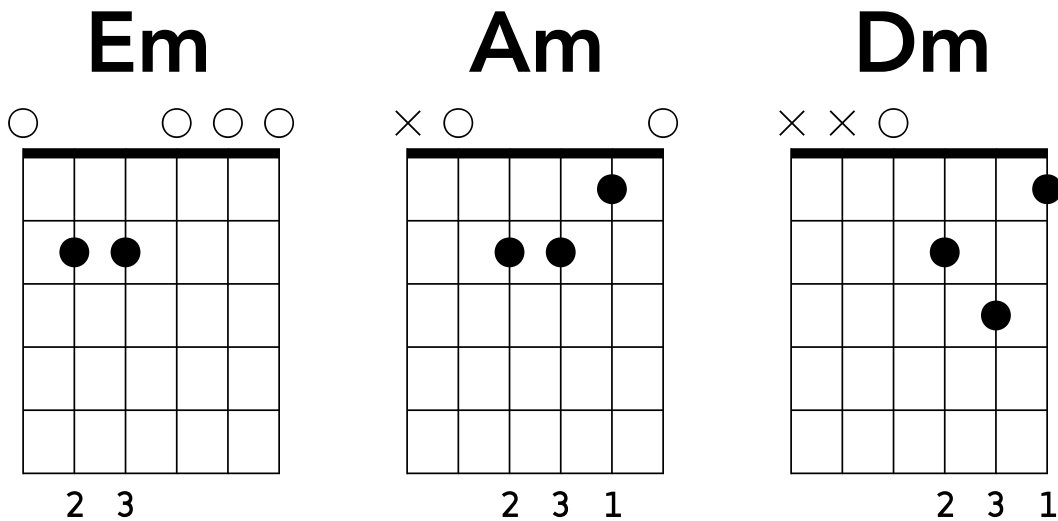


Chapter 4: Minor Chords



Now time for some **minor chords**. The chord diagrams above display the 3 basic minor chord shapes on the guitar. Once you get these down you will know the 5 basic major chord shapes and the 3 basic minor shapes, and will be ready to start learning more advanced shapes and chord types.

**Quick note on major and minor chords: Many musicians will refer to major chords as sounding happy and minor chords as sounding sad. I'm not a big fan of these descriptions as the sound of chord will give us different emotional reactions depending on the context in which they are used. The chords that come before or after a given chord in the flow of a piece of music have as much to do with how that chord makes us feel. If major chords sound happy and minor chords sound sad to you then go with it. What's important is that you hear that there is a distinct difference in the character of the sound between major and minor chords. Personally I like thinking of major chords as brighter and minor chords as darker, but again there is a spectrum here.*

To learn these chords try substituting in Am, Em and Dm while playing the chord exercises from the previous section. Try going from **Am** \longleftrightarrow **Em** and **Am** \longleftrightarrow **Dm**.

If that checks out then try the following exercise that incorporates major and minor chords.

The exercise consists of four rows, each representing a measure of music. Each row contains two sets of four chords, with a 'RELEASE!' instruction and an upward arrow pointing to the end of the second set of chords.

- Row 1 (Measures 43-44):** Am (fingering 2 3 1), C (fingering 3 2 1). Measure 43 contains four Am chords. Measure 44 contains four C chords.
- Row 2 (Measures 45-46):** Em (fingering 2 3), G (fingering 2 1 3). Measure 45 contains four Em chords. Measure 46 contains four G chords.
- Row 3 (Measures 47-48):** Dm (fingering 2 3 1), A (fingering 1 2 3). Measure 47 contains four Dm chords. Measure 48 contains four A chords.
- Row 4 (Measures 49-50):** C (fingering 3 2 1), Em (fingering 2 3). Measure 49 contains four C chords. Measure 50 contains four Em chords.