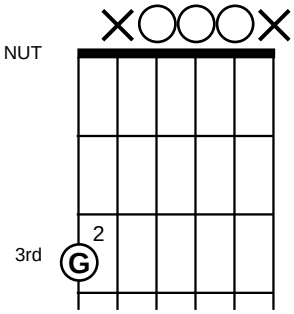
Overcoming difficulties playing chords, using the Fleetwood Mac song "Dreams" as a learning example

You can sing along to strumming the entire piece using just two chords, "Fmaj7" and "G".

You can play the easy version of the "G" chord as shown in the chord diagram below. Just make sure you block, or muff, strings 5 and 1 with your playing hand/fingers.



The 4-string version of the Fmaj7 chord is a good example of a chord which will help you get used to putting your fingers properly down on the frets.

Following the Fmaj7 chord diagrams shown on the right, start by placing your 1st finger of your left hand (right hand if you are left-handed) on the 2nd string just behind the 1st fret (**Fig. 1**). As with all the fingers you use to play this chord, and many others, use your fingertips in each case. Do not let your finger to flatten out at all.

Now play the 2nd string with your thumb or plectrum, or that of your preferred choice, until it sounds perfectly clear, then play it 6 times.

Next, remove your 1st finger from the 2nd string and place your 2nd finger on the 3rd string just behind the 2nd fret (**Fig. 2**). Play it, and when it sounds perfectly clear, play it 6 times.

Now, remove your 2nd finger from the 3rd string and place your 3rd finger on the 4th string just behind the 3rd fret (**Fig. 3**). Play it, and when it sounds perfectly clear, play it 6 times.

Now remove your 3rd finger and place your 1st finger back on the 2nd string close to the 1st fret, and play it along with the open1st string. 6 times (**Fig. 4**). Then add your 2nd finger close to the fret of the 3rd string and play the 1st, 2nd and 3rd string together 6 times (**Fig. 5**).

Finally add your 3rd finger on the 4th string close to the 3rd fret and play the complete 4-string Fmaj7 chord 6 times (**Fig. 6**). If it doesn't sound clear play each string in turn until you can identify the problem, then either start the procedure all over again or lift and replace your fingers and repeat playing the chord until it sounds clear.

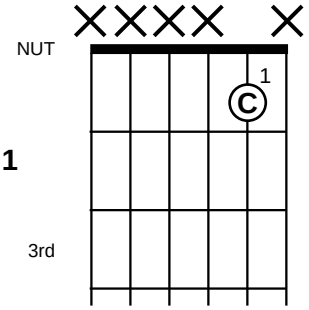


Fig. 1

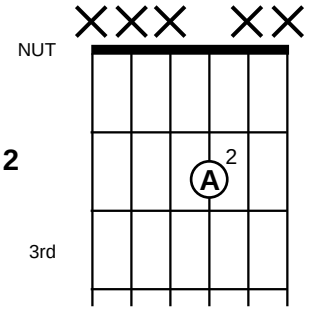


Fig. 2

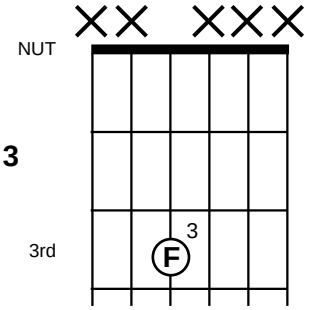


Fig. 3

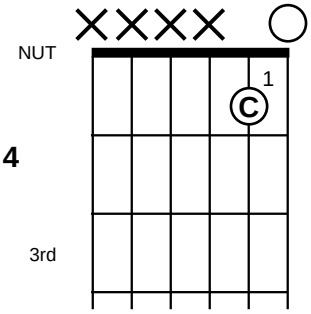


Fig. 4

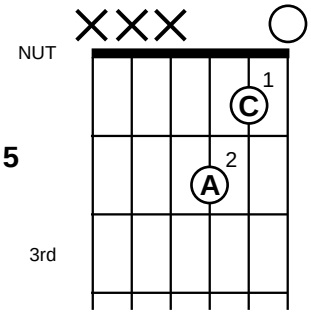


Fig. 5

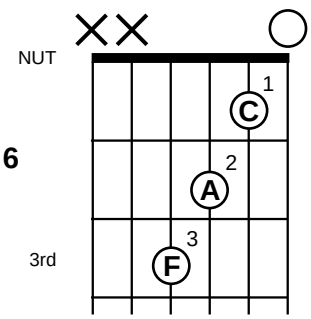


Fig. 6