



GET TO GRIPS WITH

# POWER CHORDS

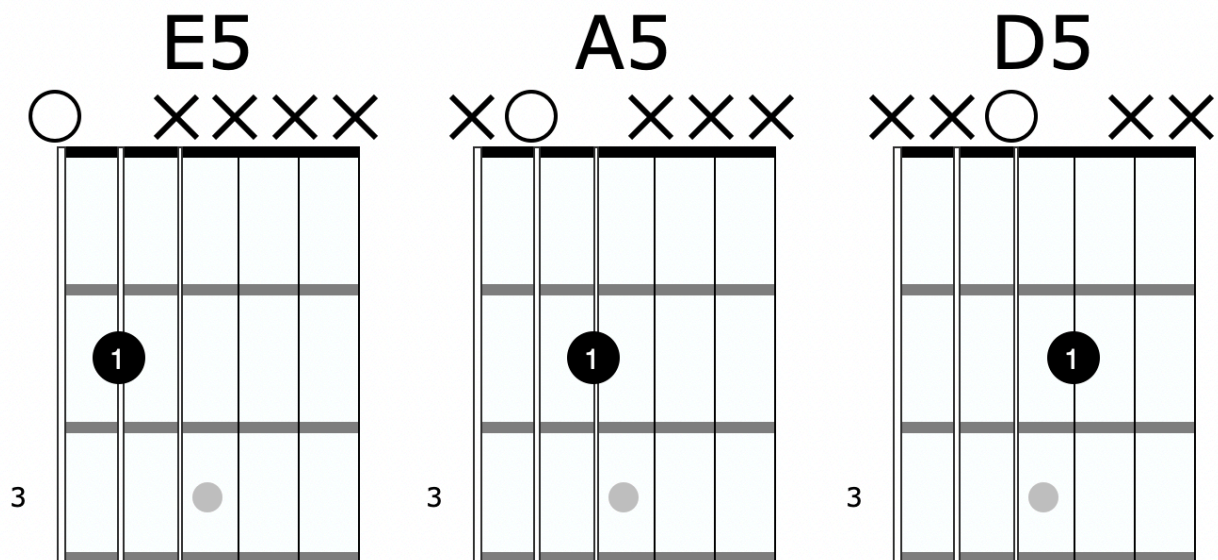
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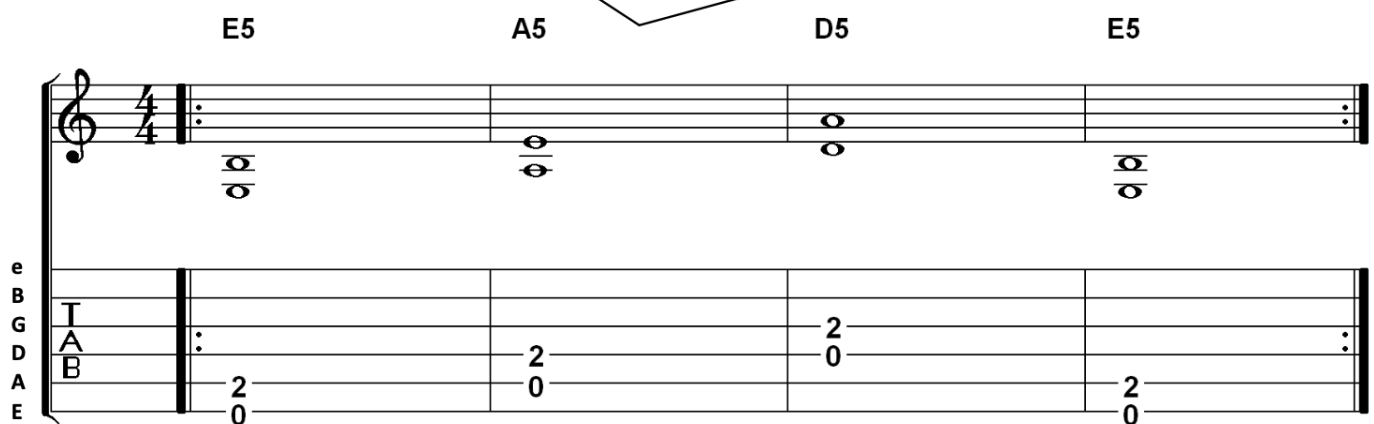
# Open Power Chords

Power chords are found extensively in rock, pop, blues and metal.

They are one of the easiest chord types to play on the guitar as you only need to use one finger, as demonstrated in the exercise below.



**Tip:** To play the chords below, use the tip of your index finger pressing firmly behind the fret wire.



The image shows musical notation for four power chords: E5, A5, D5, and E5. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The chords are represented by whole notes on the treble staff and fingerings on the bass staff.

- E5:** Treble staff: whole note on E4. Bass staff: 2 on 3rd string, 0 on 4th string.
- A5:** Treble staff: whole note on A3. Bass staff: 2 on 2nd string, 0 on 3rd string.
- D5:** Treble staff: whole note on D4. Bass staff: 2 on 3rd string, 0 on 4th string.
- E5:** Treble staff: whole note on E4. Bass staff: 2 on 3rd string, 0 on 4th string.



# Led Zeppelin

1 2 D5 A5 D5 4x

TAB

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 2 0 0

Bryan Adams

The first system of the musical score for 'The Sound of Silence' is shown. It features a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth notes, with a bar line after the fourth measure. The guitar tablature below the staff shows the fret numbers for each note: 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0.

Musical score for guitar in E major, 4/4 time. The score shows a melody on a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature on a six-line staff. The melody consists of eighth notes: E4, F#4, G#4, A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5, followed by a repeat. The guitar tablature shows the fret numbers for each note: 0, 2, 2, 0, 0, 2, 2, 0, 0, followed by a repeat.

# 12 Bar Blues

**A** **D** **A**

**D** **A**

**E** **D** **A** **\* I. A E**

**2. E A**

**1 (&) (2) & (3)(&)(4)(&)**

*\*Tip: The bar marked 1 is played the first time through the piece but omitted on the repeat and replaced with the bar marked 2.*



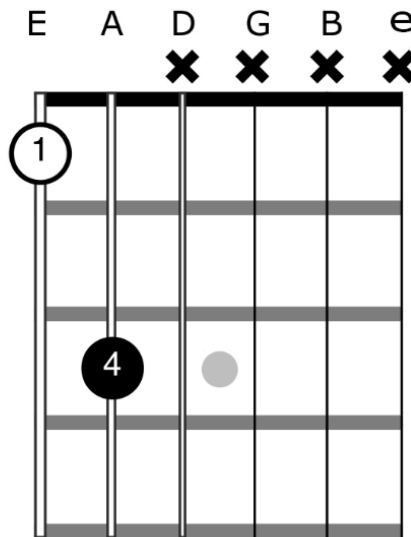
# 6th String Power Chords

Now we will begin to explore the guitar neck beyond the first three frets using movable power chords.

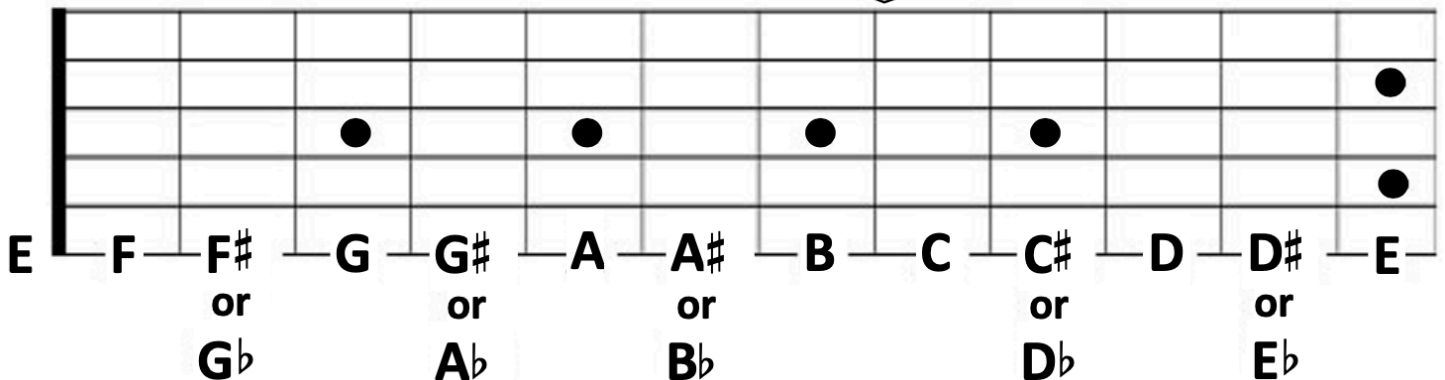
Movable Power chords can be found in many classic guitar riffs such as The Kinks' "You Really Got me", Black Sabbath's "Iron Man", Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" and Nirvana's "Smells like Teen Spirit".

## 6<sup>th</sup> String Root Power Chord

**Tip:** The white note within the chord is the root note. The root note is what gives the chord its name.



**Tip:** # = Sharp (raises a note by one fret)  
b = Flat (lowers a note by one fret)

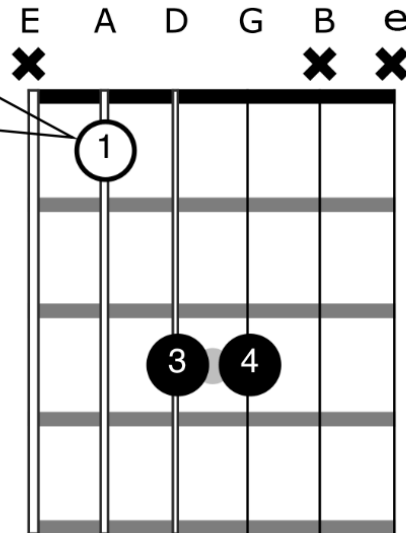




# 5th String Power Chords

## 5<sup>th</sup> String Root Power Chord

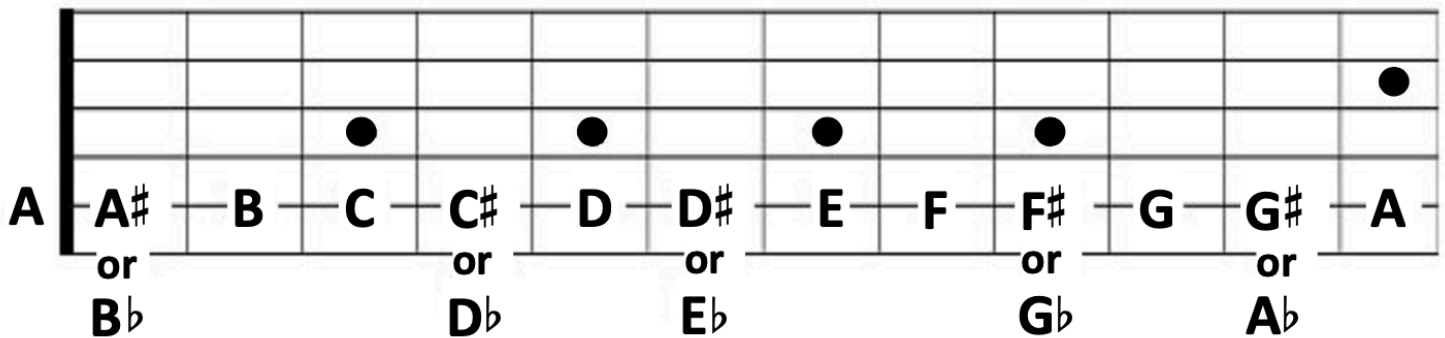
**Tip:** The white note within the chord is the root note. The root note is what gives the chord its name.



## Notes Along the A String

The diagram below shows the notes along the length of the A string.

To play a particular chord we need to ensure that the root note is in the correct fret, e.g. for a C5 power chord place the root note at the third fret.



# Spread Your Love

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

**D5** **F5** **G5**



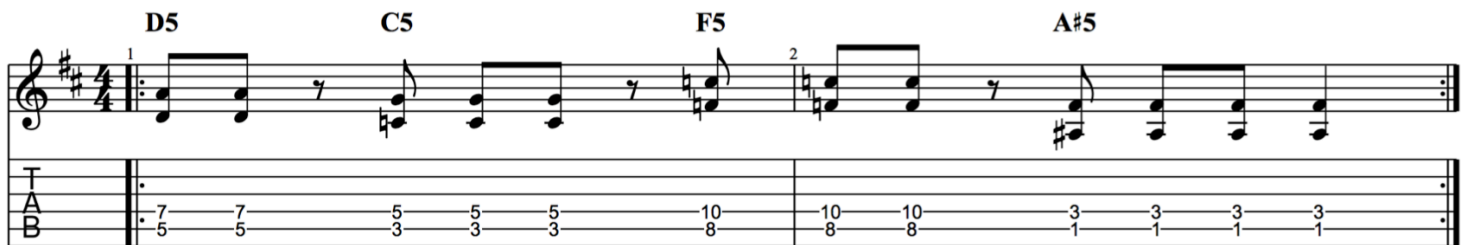
T  
A  
B

7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 10 12  
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 8 10

# Hate To Say I Told You So

The Hives

**D5** **C5** **F5** **A#5**



T  
A  
B

7 7 5 5 5 10 10 10 3 3 3 3  
5 5 3 3 3 8 8 8 1 1 1 1

# Beat It

Michael Jackson

♩ = 139

**E5** **D5** **E5** **D5**



T  
A  
B

9 9 9 7 7 7 9 9 9 7 7 7  
7 7 7 5 5 5 7 7 7 5 5 5

**C5** **D5** **E5** **D5**



T  
A  
B

5 5 5 7 7 7 9 9 9 7 7 7  
3 3 3 5 5 5 7 7 7 5 5 5

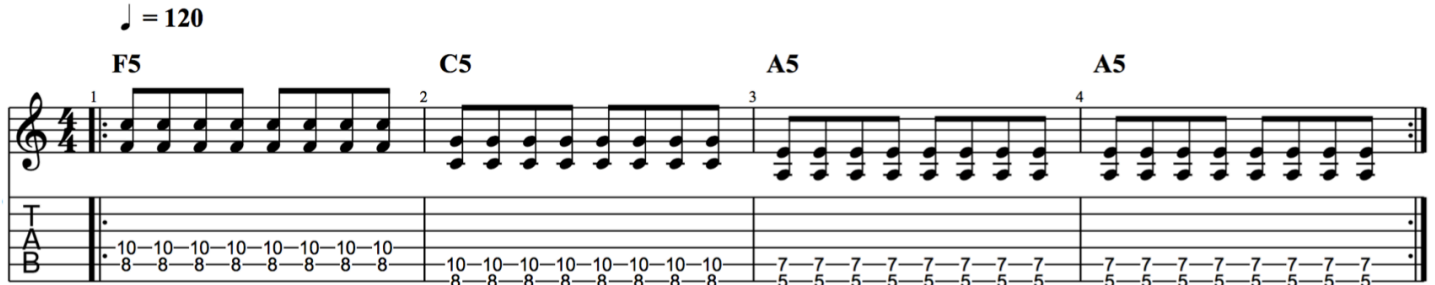


# By The Way

Red Hot Chili Peppers

♩ = 120

**F5** **C5** **A5** **A5**



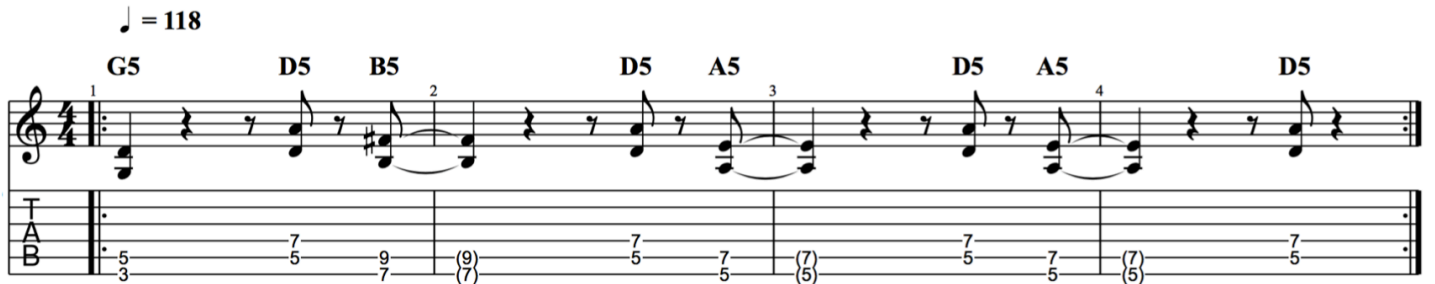
TAB: 10-8 10-8 10-8 10-8 | 10-8 10-8 10-8 10-8 | 7-5 7-5 7-5 7-5 | 7-5 7-5 7-5 7-5

# There's Nothing Holding Me Back

Shawn Mendes

♩ = 118

**G5** **D5** **B5** **D5** **A5** **D5** **A5** **D5**

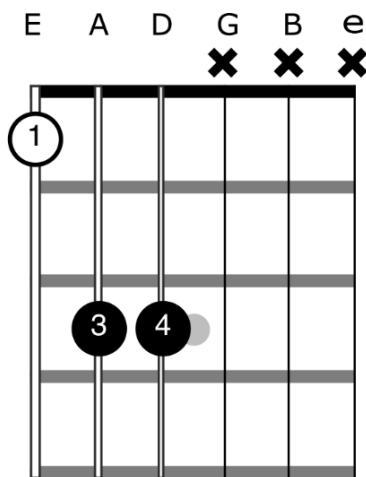


TAB: 5-3 7-5 9-7 (9) 7-5 7-5 (7) 7-5 7-5 (7) 7-5

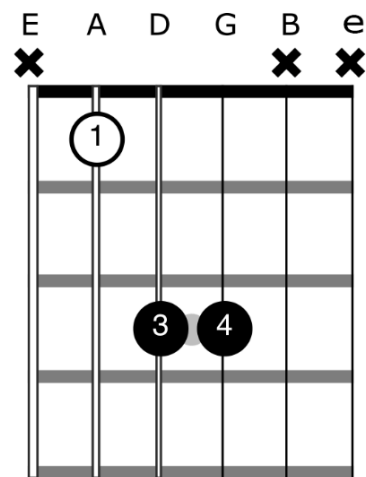
An alternative approach to playing power chords is to use three fingers, giving the chord a fuller sound.

This approach to playing power chords will also help bridge the gap from playing power chords to barre chords.

### 6<sup>th</sup> String Root Power Chord



### 5<sup>th</sup> String Root Power Chord

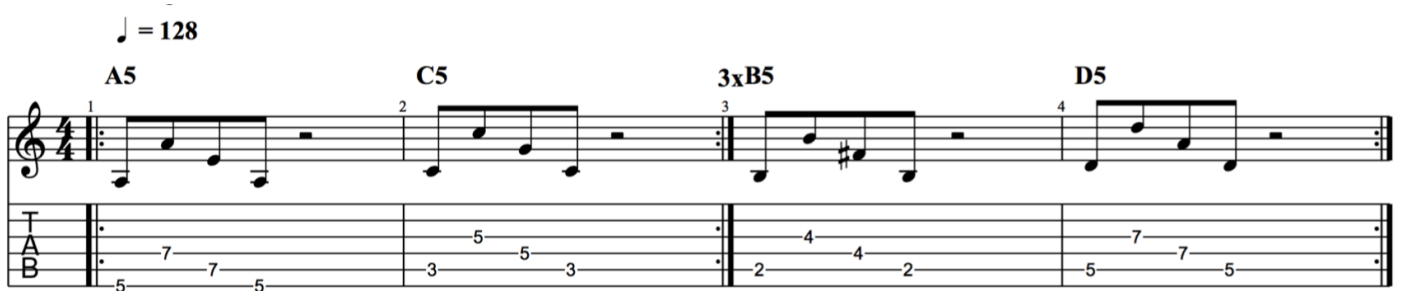


## The Hardest Button To Button

*The White Stripes*

♩ = 128

A5 C5 3xB5 D5



TAB

5 7 7 5 5 3 5 3 4 4 2 7 7 5