



## Practicing Simple A Minor & E Major Chords

By Christopher Schlegel

Now we have two more simple chords to put together! In this lesson we will practice strumming them and going back and forth between the A Minor and E major chords. The idea here is to get used to changing from a chord using two fingers to a slightly different position using only one finger. Notice that the index finger frets both notes that are needed on the first fret; the middle finger plays the note that is needed on the second fret. This is a finger placement principle you will see used often as you learn more about playing the guitar.

Start with the A minor chord. Get your fingers in position. Strum it three times downward. Stop the strings (mute!) from ringing. Remove your middle finger and move your index finger over to the G string for the E major chord position. Strum it three times downward. Stop the strings (mute!) from ringing. Move your index finger back over to the B string, place your middle finger back on G string to get back to the A minor chord position.

Repeat this over and again.

Congratulations! You are playing more music!

Eventually we want to focus on rhythm. This means keeping good time with our strumming. We want to make sure that each strum is evenly spaced apart in time. Notice that we are starting with a pattern:

1st Strum  
2nd Strum  
3rd Strum  
Pause (mute)

We do this as we first learn to play chords in order to have a good way to stay in time rhythmically. The Pause (mute) is useful in helping us have time to get our fingers from one chord position to the next. Gradually, we can try to practice playing chords on all four beats. But using idea of the Pause (mute) in place of a beat is a useful tool for guitarists of any level.

Keep practicing until you can get all four strums in there and switch effectively between the A minor and E major chords.

# Simple Chord Practice

## A Minor & E Major

1 A minor chord E major chord

TAB

3 A minor chord E major chord

TAB