



Introducing the A Minor Chord

By Christopher Schlegel

In this lesson we are going to play an A minor chord.

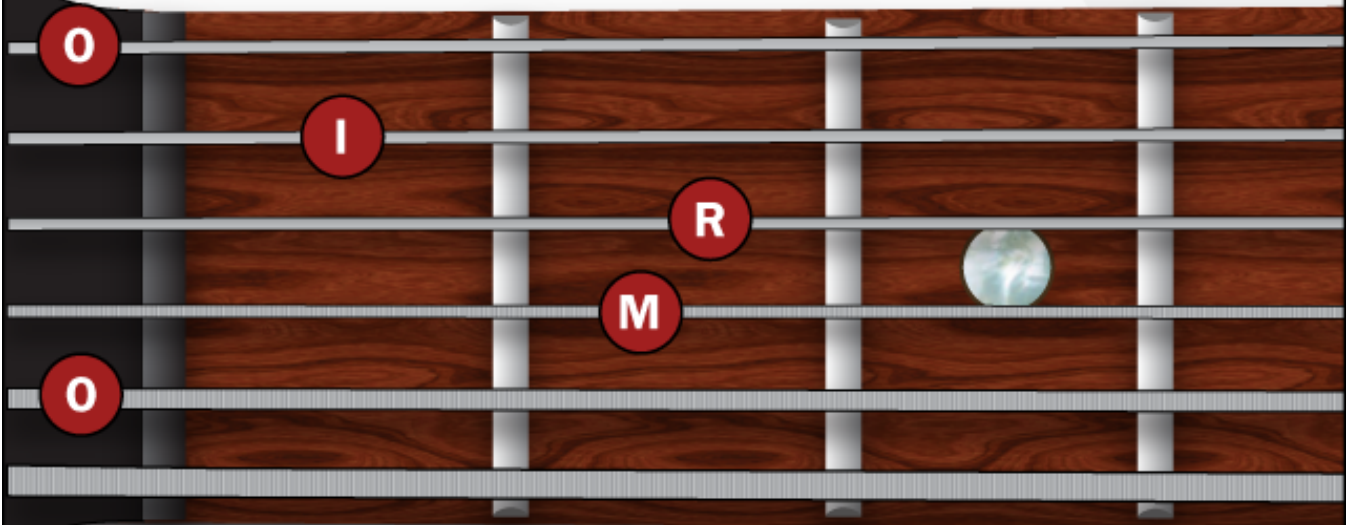
As with all chords in this tutorial series, place your index finger first. For this chord, put your index finger on the first fret of the B string. Then, reach your middle finger over to the second fret of the D string. Then place your ring finger in between on the second fret of the G string.

Remember that from the last knuckle of your finger to the fingertip your fingers should be arched so they are pointing straight down into the string & fretboard. Remember that your fingertip should be right behind the fret you are playing. Not on top of the fret. Remember to keep your fingers clear of strings around the one it is holding down. You don't want to mute strings that should be ringing clearly. Make sure your hand and fingers are "hovering" or "arched" slightly over any string that is supposed to make sound.

Strum the chord one string at a time very slowly to make sure that each note is sounding as clearly as possible. Then you can go ahead and strum the chord, lightly grazing the pick over each string quickly right after one another. Practice strumming a lot. It will come in handy. Once you can strum down, then try to strum back and forth.

Remember to keep your thumb directly opposite your fingers on the back of the neck. Your thumb should provide just enough pressure to keep your hand firmly in place on the neck and opposing pressure to help your fingers hold down any fretted notes. Remember that you want just enough pressure to get the job done. Not enough will, of course, result in a poor sounding chord. But too much will be wasted effort and can over time actually hinder your ability to move quickly and effectively to the next chord or hand position.

A Minor Chord Shape "Open Position"



Finger Legend:
I = Index
M = Middle
R = Ring
P = Pinky
O = Open String



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The image shows musical notation for the A Minor Chord. The top staff is a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a red '1' above the first measure. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4 (open), a quarter note on A4 (2nd fret), and a quarter note on B4 (3rd fret). The second measure contains a quarter note on A4 (2nd fret), a quarter note on G4 (open), and a quarter note on F4 (1st fret). The third measure contains a quarter note on G4 (open), a quarter note on A4 (2nd fret), and a quarter note on B4 (3rd fret). The fourth measure contains a quarter note on G4 (open), a quarter note on A4 (2nd fret), and a quarter note on B4 (3rd fret). A red '2' is above the second measure of the second staff. The second staff is a guitar TAB staff with the letters 'T', 'A', and 'B' stacked vertically on the left. The first measure contains fret numbers 0, 2, and 2. The second measure contains fret numbers 2, 1, and 0. The third measure contains fret numbers 0, 1, and 2. The fourth measure contains fret numbers 0, 1, and 2.