

Introduction to Barre Chords: Lesson 2

By Christopher Schlegel

Now that you've got the idea behind the mechanics of barring, let's use an E major open chord as a basis for our first Barre Chord.

Instead of the normal E major chord fingering, use your middle, ring and pinky. This leaves your index free to use as a movable capo bar. If we move the E major chord shape up one fret, then we also have to raise the open strings up one fret to match. This means we will use our index finger as a bar to raise the low E string, the B string and the high E string up along with the other notes.

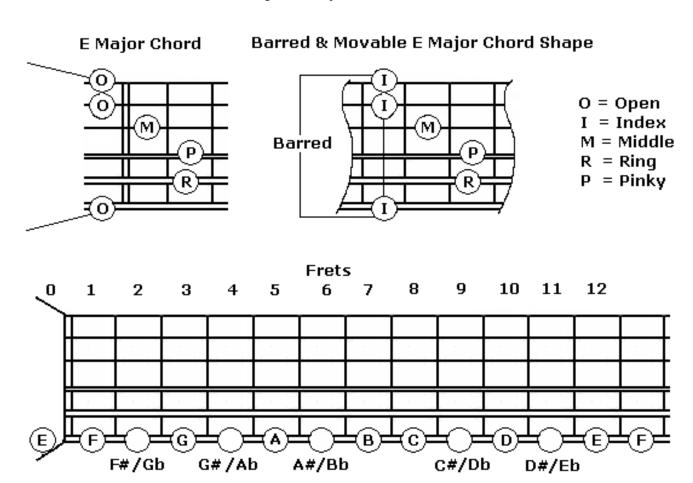
Once you understand how the musical alphabet works it is possible to grasp how barre chords are named. The low E string open is the root note of the open E major chord. So if we move up one fret we have the note F. This note F is one fret (one half step) higher than the note E. Therefore, if you move all the notes of an E major chord up one fret higher, then you will be holding all the notes of an F major chord. And so on! The score and images below show the notation tab for the chords in the video.



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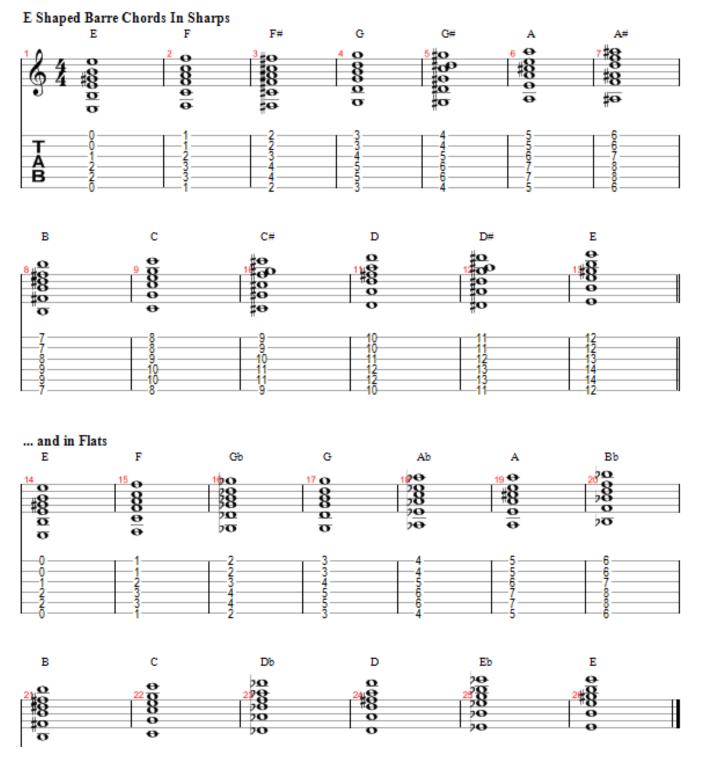
E Major Shaped Barre Chords



Notes on the Low E string indicate Root note of E Shaped Barre Chords



E Major Shaped Barre Chords





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