

Common forms of the open chords

Key	Chords				
	major	7	m	m7	maj7
C	<p>C</p> <p>C E G C E</p>	<p>C7</p> <p>C E A# C E</p>	<p>Cm</p> <p>G C D# G</p>	<p>Cm7</p> <p>C D# A# C G</p>	<p>Cmaj7</p> <p>C G B E G</p>
A	<p>A</p> <p>A E A C# E</p>	<p>A7</p> <p>A E G C# E</p>	<p>Am</p> <p>A E A C E</p>	<p>Am7</p> <p>A E G C E</p>	<p>Amaj7</p> <p>A E G# C# E</p>
G	<p>G</p> <p>G B D G B G</p>	<p>G7</p> <p>G B D G B F</p>	<p>Gm</p> <p>A# D G D</p>	<p>Gm7</p> <p>F A# D G</p>	<p>Gmaj7</p> <p>G B D G B F#</p>
E	<p>E</p> <p>E B E G# B E</p>	<p>E7</p> <p>E B D G# B E</p>	<p>Em</p> <p>E B E G B E</p>	<p>Em7</p> <p>E B D G B E</p>	<p>Emaj7</p> <p>E B D# G# B E</p>
D	<p>D</p> <p>A D A D F#</p>	<p>D7</p> <p>D A C F#</p>	<p>Dm</p> <p>D A D F</p>	<p>Dm7</p> <p>D A C F</p>	<p>Dmaj7</p> <p>D A C# F#</p>

Chords found in common (simple) chord progressions for each of the keys C A G E D

Key	I C	ii7 Dm7	iii Em	IV F	V7 G7	vi Am
C						
A						
G						
E						
D						

Roman Numerals are used to generically refer to chords in a key. The most common three chords in many folk, blues and popular tunes are the I, IV and V or V7. Lowercase Roman numerals imply minor chords. The I chord is the chord with the name of the key. So the I, IV and V7 in the key of C are C, F and G7. To transpose a song to a different key, find the key name and substitute the chord with the same Roman numeral from the table.

Of course there are more keys than shown above, more chord names than shown and more ways to play each chord than shown.

A 12 Bar Blues Progression. Each chord gets 4 beats unless there are two chords in the same box – then each chord gets strummed for 2 beats.

I	I	I	I7
IV	IV	I	I
V7	V7	I IV	I V7

12 Bar Blues in C

C	C	C	C7
F	F	C	C
G7	G7	C F	C G7

A common chord progression and variation

Generic Roman Numeral Notation	Example in Key of C
I vi IV V7	C Am F G7
I vi7 ii7 V7 (variation of above)	C Am7 Dm7 G7