

THE LEFT-HANDED GUITAR COMPANION

Chords & Scales

288 named chords / 576 voicings / 156 key-and-scale combinations

A clear, friendly reference made for left-handed players.

REVIEW DRAFT / COMING SOON

PART 01

Getting started

Read the diagrams, understand the words and find a comfortable first step.

REVIEW DRAFT / COMING SOON

Read a left-handed diagram

Start with the strings

In a usual left-handed setup, your right hand frets the notes and your left hand picks or strums. A mirrored chart helps the picture match that instrument. Our vertical chord diagrams put high e on the left and the nut at the top. Read the string labels rather than relying on the position you remember from another website.

Understand the marks

O means play that string open, without holding a fret. X means leave the string silent. A dot shows a fretted note, and its number is a finger: 1 index, 2 middle, 3 ring, 4 little. A thick line joining fretted dots means one finger holds a barre. A number beside a diagram tells you its starting fret; it is not another finger number.

Keep codes in their usual order

A fret code always runs from low E to high e. For Em, 0 2 2 0 0 0 means open low E, fret 2 on A, fret 2 on D, then open G, B and high e. An x in a code means that string stays silent. The code order does not reverse when you turn a diagram sideways.

Scales and TAB use different views

Our horizontal scale maps put high e at the top and the nut on the right. Read their fret numbers below the strings. Ordinary written guitar tablature also puts high e on the top line, but time still runs from left to right. Left-handed players do not reverse ordinary TAB. A scale window shows available notes in an area, not a command to hold every note at once.

A small thing to try

Try Em slowly. Pick each allowed string once, then release your fretting-hand pressure. Look at the chart again and check one mark you now understand.

Explore online: guitarlefty.com/articles/read-guitar-tabs-left-handed

PART 02

The chord library

Twenty-four chord families across all twelve roots, with two playable voicings for every named chord.



REVIEW DRAFT / COMING SOON

Major chord shapes

Full formula: 1 - 3 - 5

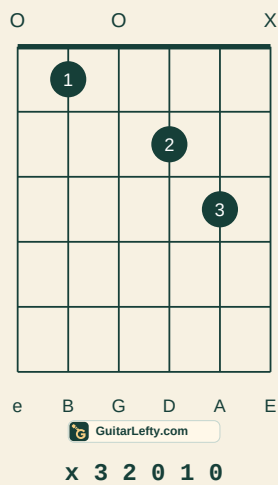
A major triad contains a root, major third and perfect fifth.

C / Full notes: C - E - G

C

Standard shape / Beginner

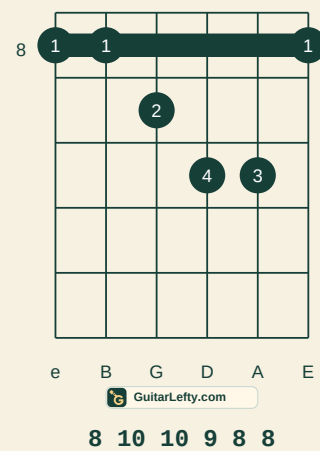
Omits: none



C

Six-string shape / fret 8 / Intermediate

Omits: none

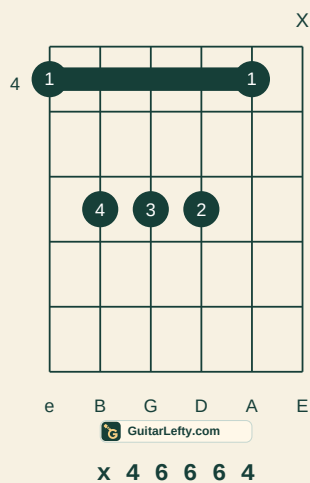


C# / Full notes: C# - E# - G#

C#

Standard shape / Intermediate

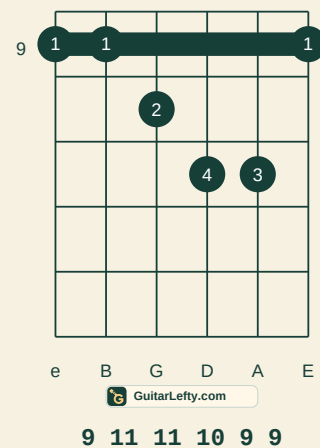
Omits: none



C#

Six-string shape / fret 9 / Intermediate

Omits: none



Dominant eleventh chord shapes

Full formula: 1 - 3 - 5 - b7 - 9 - 11

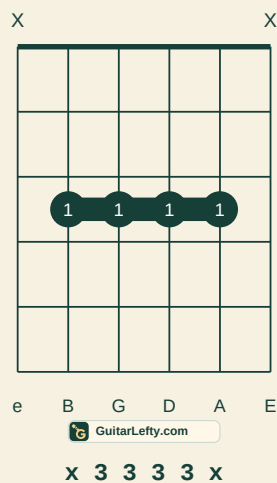
Both grips omit the third and fifth and sound as 9sus4 chords. The major third belongs to the full formula, not these voicings.

C11 / Full notes: C - E - G - Bb - D - F

C11

Movable reference shape / Advanced

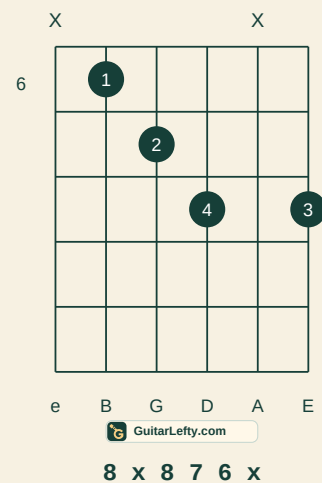
Omits: 3, 5



C11

Alternative reference shape / Advanced

Omits: 3, 5

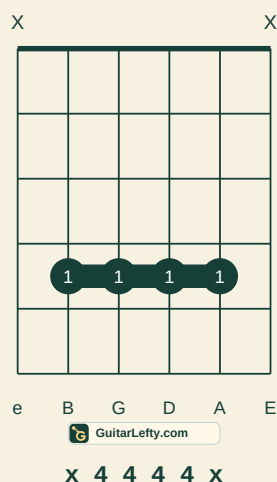


Db11 / Full notes: Db - F - Ab - Cb - Eb - Gb

Db11

Movable reference shape / Advanced

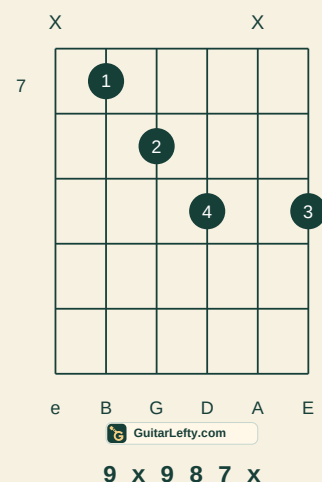
Omits: 3, 5



Db11

Alternative reference shape / Advanced

Omits: 3, 5



PART 03

The scale library

Thirteen scale families, clear note names and five connected windows for every key-and-scale combination.

REVIEW DRAFT / COMING SOON

C Major

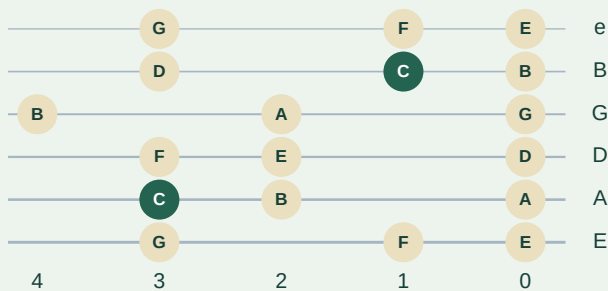
Notes: C - D - E - F - G - A - B

Intervals: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7

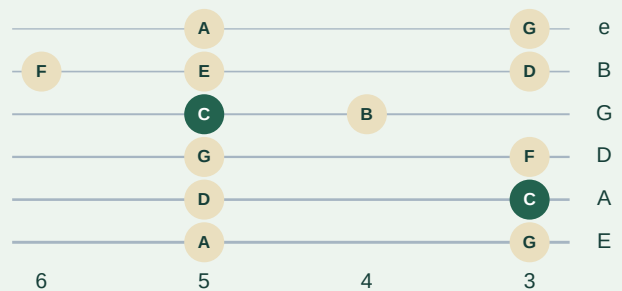
Play over a progression in the same major key. Land on the root, third or fifth when a phrase ends.

LEFT-HANDED: high e on top; nut to the RIGHT. Dark dots mark roots; numbers below are frets. A window is a map, not one prescribed fingering.

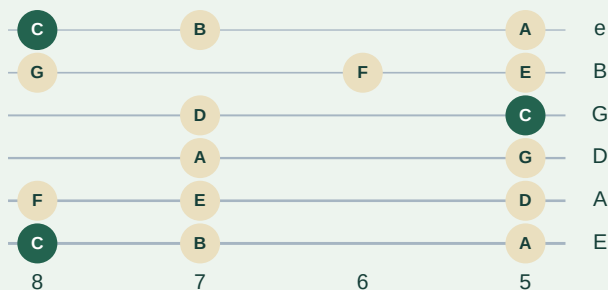
Open position



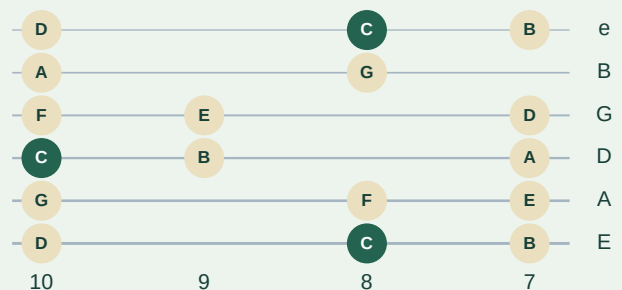
Frets 3-6



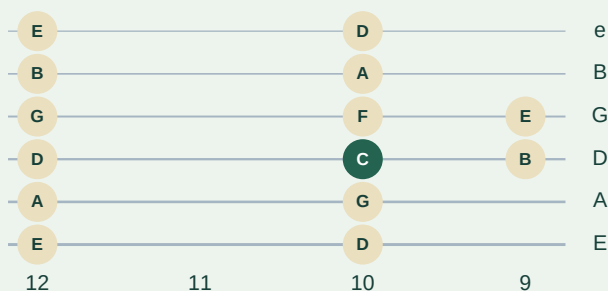
Frets 5-8



Frets 7-10



Frets 9-12



Try a little practice

Play degrees 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 3-4-5, then continue the sequence and reverse it.

Play slowly, leave space and return to the root. Shift comfortably when needed.

Hear and explore: guitarlefty.com/left-handed-guitar-scales/major/c-major

PART 04

Practice & worksheets

Put the shapes into a musical context, then make room for your own discoveries.



REVIEW DRAFT / COMING SOON

Rock: a short practice context

Original example: Em - C - G - D

Use this as an original E-minor chord loop, one slow four-beat bar per chord. E natural minor provides a shared starting collection, but the current chord still matters. Try hearing E or G over Em and G or B over G.

A chord to check

Em

Standard shape / Beginner
Omits: none

0 2 2 0 0 0

A scale window to explore

Open position

4 3 2 1 0

GuitarLefty.com

Scale notes: E - F# - G - A - B - C - D

Your ten-minute session

2 minutes: tune, find a relaxed pulse and listen to the root.

3 minutes: check the chord strings and practise the original context slowly.

3 minutes: Play the chord loop gently. Answer with three scale notes, then listen for a note that belongs to the chord currently sounding.

2 minutes: repeat the clearest part, rest and write down one useful next step. Start at 60 BPM or slower. These are original learning examples, not song transcriptions.

My practice notes

Date: _____ Today I want to work on: _____

Start small. Choose one clear task, take rests and write down a useful next step.

The shape or sound I explored

What felt comfortable

What I heard or noticed

One small thing for next time

Keep exploring, a little at a time

Hear the shapes

Compare chord voicings, rotate their view and hear the notes.

guitarlefty.com/left-handed-guitar-chords

Explore the neck

Look for roots, intervals and shared notes in the interactive fretboard.

guitarlefty.com/tools/fretboard

Choose a musical direction

Build a guide by genre, save a routine on your own device and make a custom chord sheet.

guitarlefty.com/learn-by-genre

Look up a word

Find plain-English explanations of intervals, chord symbols and practice terms.

guitarlefty.com/guitar-glossary

Find a song to work towards

Use the original warm-ups, then follow the linked teacher for the song arrangement.

guitarlefty.com/songs

About this draft

Prepared for Guitar Lefty with AI assistance. The exercises are original examples. The notes, diagrams and explanations have had a separate AI-assisted editorial review. The ebook remains in editorial preparation. It is not yet for sale. The website remains free to explore.

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