

Introduction to the Guitar 4:

Root 6 and 5 Bar Chords Using the E and A chord shapes

In the last session we looked at the E and A chord shapes and some of their variations. We will now turn these chords into Root 6 and Root 5 bar chord shapes with which we can play most of the common chords used in music on the guitar.

Looking back at the last sheet you will notice the nut of the guitar; the solid line at the top of each chord diagram. To create a bar chord we will simply use our 1st finger to replicate the role of the nut by placing it across all six strings, creating a "bar" (For the Root 5 shape we still bar our finger across all six strings but we do not play the 6th string). Then we use our 2nd 3rd and 4th fingers to make the rest of the open chord pattern. Since the open E and A chords have their root note on the open 6th and 5th string we know that the respective bar chords made from these shapes will also have their root on these strings. This root note is highlighted in the bar chord shapes below with the red ring.

To play a desired chord we need to find the required root note on either the 6th or 5th string (using the fretboard diagram at the bottom of the page), choose the matching variation of the Root 6 or the Root 5 chord shapes, and line up the root note of the shape (red ring) with the required root note on the fretboard.

Example: *Db Minor can be played using the Root 5 Minor shape in the 4th fret or it could be played using the Root 6 Minor shape in the 9th fret.*

