
Developing our Rock Chord Library

Introducing the Chords of C and F

In this lesson we are going to:

- introduce a couple of new ideas for rock guitar playing and
- learn two new chords for our Rock Library.

Once these chords have been learnt you will be able to play the most commonly found chords in Rock music.

Lets start with the new chords of C and F and move onto the other points later in the lesson.

As usual the chord diagrams for C and F are below.

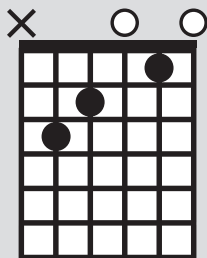
Exercise 1: Chord of C

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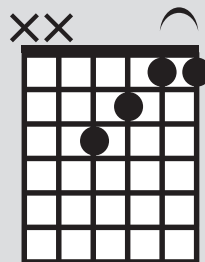
Exercise 2: Chord of F

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Chord of C



Chord of F



Lesson Objectives

- Add to our growing Library of Rock Chords by introducing and learning to play the Chords of C and F.
- Practice chord changes to a strum pattern.
- Integrate the new chords with those chords learnt so far.
- Introduce the Barre Chord and how it is played.



Learning the Chords of C and F (Focusing on Thumb Position)

Each one of these new chords have a feature which has not been in any of the previous 7 chords.

In the chord of C, you can see that three fingers are required, but each one is on a different fret.

Thumb Position in relation to Frets

To ensure that the hand will stretch wide enough, make sure that the thumb is placed behind the 2nd fret and is pointing vertically. Do not allow it to creep behind the first fret or fall sideways pointing away from the body of the guitar.

Thumb Position in relation to Height on the back of the Neck

Regarding the height of the thumb on the back of the neck, feel free to try this in a high and a low position. Lowering the thumb on the neck means that the fingers are allowed to stretch into a much wider position.

If the thumb is placed slightly higher then this can create a more secure grip and often has the effect of angling the fingers and allowing the joints to bend more easily. This means that the fingers come flush onto the fingerboard and can avoid the other strings.

Experiment! It should not be necessary for the thumb to be more than half way down the neck, but equally it may be more comfortable if the thumb is placed above the neck with the palm of the hand on the back of the neck.

Play the following exercise on a C chord ensuring that all strings ring clearly. Each finger should not touch any string other than the one it is fretting.

Exercise 3: lesson009.igsdrcl.01



Once the chord plays clearly, practice strumming on the Chord of C.

Exercise 4: lesson009.igsdrcl.02



Introducing the Barre Chord (Using the Chord of F)

The chord of F introduces a very important technique in chord playing, the **Barre**.

A Barre is when a finger (usually 1st finger) is extended across more than one string holding more than one string down at a time.

Barre chords are commonly found in all forms of guitar playing and these chords will be discussed more thoroughly from lesson 11 onwards.

The chord of F requires the 1st finger to be placed across the 1st and 2nd strings holding them both securely. Fingers 2 and 3 are then used to play the remaining two notes. F like C also has fingers on three different frets.

F undoubtedly causes more problems to guitarists in their first few months of playing than any other chord.

Once again check the position of the thumb and experiment by raising and lowering it to find the position which gives you the greatest chance of playing the chord.

Some guitarists play this chord with the thumb half way down the back of the neck and some play with the thumb hooked over the front of the neck and onto the 6th string.

Notice that the first finger which creates the barre can extend across to the third string if this feels more comfortable. As there is a finger on the 2nd fret on the 3rd string, this extension will not be heard in the chord.

As with the C chord, practise the following two exercises.

Exercise 5: lesson009.igsdrcl.03



Exercise 6: lesson009.igsdrcl.04



Practising Chord Changes to a Strum Pattern

As is always the case the key to becoming a good guitarist is the ability to move fluently and in time between different chords. Here we will develop the skill in the usual manner with the following exercises. Use the multimedia files as usual.

The following exercises practise changing from C to F. In the first two exercises we will practise the changes with Quarter Notes only.

Exercise 7: lesson009.igsdrcl.05



Exercise 8: lesson009.igsdrcl.06



Once these exercises have been executed successfully move onto the changes over the strum pattern we used in the previous two lessons.

Strumming with Quarter and Eighth Notes

Exercise 9: lesson009.igsdrcl.07



Exercise 10: lesson009.igsdrcl.08



Developing the performance of our Rock Guitar Library (Integrating C and F with those chords learnt so far)

It is essential that you can not only change between C and F but from those chords to all the other chords learnt so far.

There now follows a set of exercises which require chord changes at the beginning of each bar whilst playing the strum pattern learnt in Lesson 8.

This is quite a study so don't rush through the exercises, take your time and develop your ability to change chords as fluently as you can. Use the Guitar Xtractor as usual cycling round and round and changing tempos as you become more comfortable with the changes.

Exercise 11: lesson009.igsdrcl.09



Exercise 12: lesson009.igsdrcl.10



Exercise 13: lesson009.igsdrcl.11



Exercise 14: lesson009.igsdrcl.12

Am G F G