Basic Chord Formulas

Major (1 3 5)

C Major (C E G)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
5 \\
5 \\
5 \\
\end{array}
\]

G Major (G B D)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
0 \\
0 \\
0 \\
12 \\
12 \\
12 \\
\end{array}
\]  

*same chord, just up one octave higher!

D Major (D F# A)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
7 \\
7 \\
7 \\
\end{array}
\]

Minor (1 b3 5)

C Minor (C Eb G)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
5 \\
4 \\
5 \\
\end{array}
\]

G Minor (G Bb D)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
12 \\
11 \\
12 \\
\end{array}
\]  

*Since we can’t flat an open string, we will use the higher chord shape.

D Minor (D F A)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
7 \\
6 \\
7 \\
\end{array}
\]

The root note for these basic chord shapes is located on the G string (for a C Major chord, the note C is located on the 5th fret of the G string). Make sure you can name all the notes for each chord, and experiment with these shapes by moving them around! Can you find an A Major chord? How about a B Minor chord?