

# Upper Voicings

It is useful to be able to play chord voicings higher on the guitar. This will allow you to create space for other instruments by being in a different range. This is particularly useful for electric guitar, as it will allow you to play in a different place than where acoustic typically plays.

In the diagrams, the red note is the root of the chord (for instance, if the root note is G and the shape is major, the chord is a G major chord). The blue note just a note in the chord. A green note is an optional note.

The chord shapes are based off of open chords, but moved higher on the neck. This is the same concept that we use when finding barre chords. For instance, in progression one, the G chord is based off of an open D chord. The C and D shapes are based on an open A chord. The Em shape is based on an open Am chord. The Am chord is based on an open Em shape.

There are four progressions to familiarize yourself with. Each one shows five common chords in a key. These progressions are moveable just like barre chords, so they can be used in any key. To do this, move a shape until the root is on the desired chord. In progression one, the key could be changed from G to F using the following steps:

1. Move the first shape back two frets so that the root is on an F note instead of G. The chord is now an F.
2. Because you moved the first chord shape back two frets, you move the rest of them back two frets as well.
  1. G is now an F
  2. C s now a Bb
  3. D s now a C
  4. Em s now a Dm
  5. Am is now a Gm

Follow these steps when practicing:

1. Move through all of the chords starting at the top of the page and working your way to the bottom. Notice how the chords fit together.
2. Practice using the chords in a progression from a song. Then practice changing the key.

# Upper Voicings: Progression 1

Red: Root  
 Blue: Chord Note  
 Green: Optional

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	F	F#	G	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

G (I)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	F	F#	G	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

C (IV)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	F	F#	G	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

D (V)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Em (iv)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	F	F#	G	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Am (ii)

# Upper Voicings: Progression 2

Red: Root  
 Blue: Chord Note  
 Green: Optional Note

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

G (I)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

C (IV)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

D (V)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Em (iv) Note that using the optional note removes the 3rd of the chord, and makes it neither major nor minor

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Am (ii)

# Upper Voicings: Progression 3

Red: Root  
 Blue: Chord Note  
 Green: Optional Note

E	F	F#	G	G#	<b>A</b>	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	<b>E</b>	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	<b>A#</b>	B	C	<b>C#</b>	D	D#	F	F#	G	G#
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	<b>A</b>	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

A (I)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	<b>F#</b>	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	<b>A#</b>	B	C	C#	<b>D</b>	D#	F	F#	G	G#
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	<b>A</b>	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

D (IV)

E	F	F#	G	<b>G#</b>	A	A#	<b>B</b>	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	<b>E</b>	F	F#	G	<b>G#</b>	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	<b>A#</b>	<b>B</b>	C	C#	D	D#	<b>E</b>	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	<b>B</b>	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

E (V) There are two options. One is an open D shape, and the other is an open A shape.

E	F	F#	G	G#	<b>A</b>	A#	B	C	<b>C#</b>	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	<b>F#</b>	G	G#	<b>A</b>	A#	B
G	G#	A	<b>A#</b>	B	C	<b>C#</b>	D	D#	F	F#	<b>F#</b>	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	<b>C#</b>	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	<b>F#</b>	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

F#m (iv) There are two options. One is an open Dm shape. The other is from an Am type barre chord.

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	<b>B</b>	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	<b>F#</b>	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	<b>A#</b>	B	C	C#	<b>D</b>	D#	F	F#	G	G#
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	<b>B</b>	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Bm (ii)

# Upper Voicings: Progression 4

Red: Root  
 Blue: Chord Note  
 Green: Optional

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

C (I)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

F (IV)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

G (V)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Am (vi)

E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E
B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G
D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D
A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E

Dm (ii)