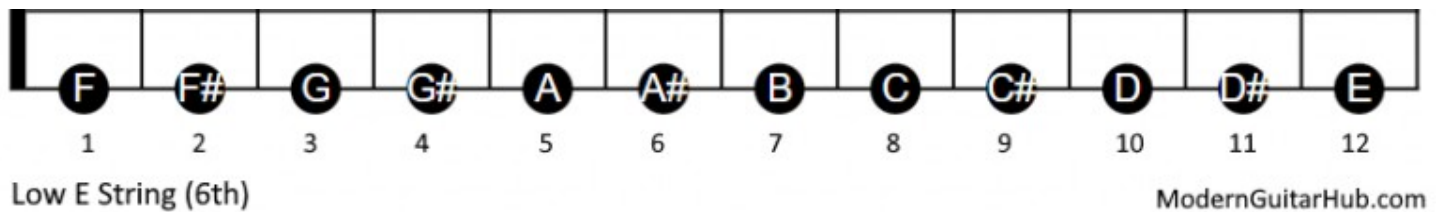


The Beauty Of Triads - Parts 1 + 2

Triads are the 3 notes that make up major and minor chords. You've learnt most major and minor chords as a beginner. These triads can be found in other areas of guitar study like barre chords and the CAGED system.

In Part 1 of Intermediate Acoustic we'll be learning about E shape triads and in Part 2 the A shape triads that are both found on the bottom thinnest strings.

For you to understand this you need to be reasonably quick at identifying the notes on the E string.

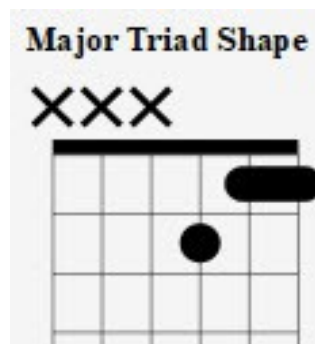


The Only 2 Shapes You Need...

Once you know the names on the E string these will then directly correspond to the chords the first player is playing. For example, if they are playing a C chord you know that C is on Fret 8! For now it doesn't matter if it's major or minor.

Major + Minor Triad Shapes

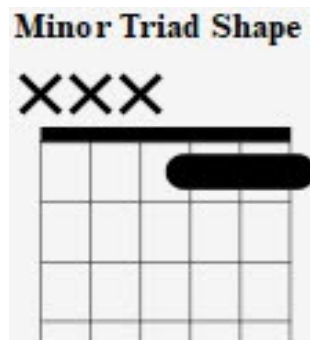
The major shape is based on the bottom 3 strings that are played in an E Shape Barre Chord. Place your index finger on the bottom 2 strings (mini barre chord) and your middle or ring finger on the G string at the next fret over.



Remember that these shapes are movable!

That means that where you place these shapes on the neck will determine their root note. So if you put the shape above on the 3rd fret it would make a G major triad.

Here is the minor shape:

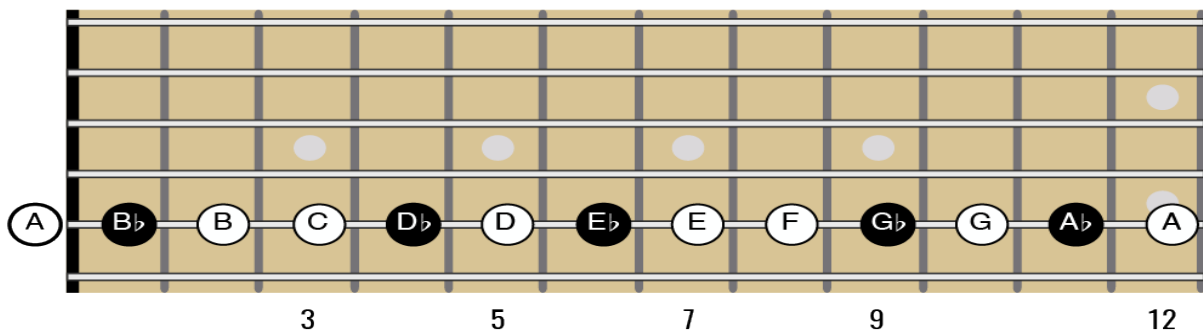


The minor shape is basically the bottom 3 thinnest strings played as another mini barre chord. It's just a one note change from the major shape but it makes all the difference in terms of sound.

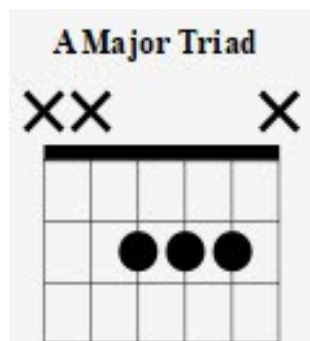
Part 2 – The A Shape Triads

Once you have familiarised yourself with the E Shape Barre Chord major and minor triads look into the A Shapes...

For this knowledge to be effective it's important you know the notes on the A string:



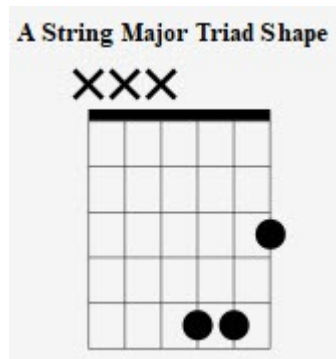
Here is the A major shape triad:



It's important with all of these triad shapes to only play the strings that you are holding down. The open strings are NOT part of the triad.

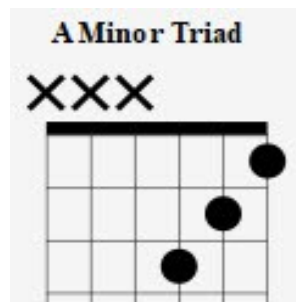
If you played the shape above on the 5th fret you would make a C major triad.

While the chord shape above is familiar to us, it's not always the best shape to use, as we could hit strings that we don't intend to. In answer to this issue there is also another way to play the A major shape triad (See the chord box below)



The chord shape above uses the bottom 3 strings of an A Shape Barre Chord, but it's not played as the full chord. Only the bottom 3 thinnest strings.

Finally here's the A minor triad shape. Remember, the chord box below isn't showing you how to play an actual A minor chord it's just showing you the movable shape you can use for A string minor triads.



You might be thinking “Why doesn't this look like an A minor open chord?” Well, if you included the third fret on the d string to make a 4 finger chord then you would have the A minor shape. Think of it like the bottom 3 strings that are played in a B Minor Barre Chord.

Rhythms To Accompany...

You might be thinking “Right Drue I understand the shapes and the positions, but what rhythms should I use to accompany the first guitarist?”

Start off by strumming the triads on the first beat of the bar (or whenever the first guitarist changes to the chord). From there you could pick the triads, use downbeat 8th strums or short staccato strums. But remember... do what's right for the song and don't overplay or distract from the first guitarists performance.