

# Power Chord Intro

## What Is a Power Chord?

A power chord is a partial chord that only includes the root and 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll save the theory for another lesson. The purpose here is just to learn how to play power chords.

Power chords can be notated in two ways:

1. With the number "5." Chords such as D5 or Bb5 are power chords.
2. With an instruction in the music that simply says "Power Chords." Normally, if you saw a D or Bb chord in your music, you would play a D major or a Bb major chord. If the music says "power chords," you would play them as power chords.

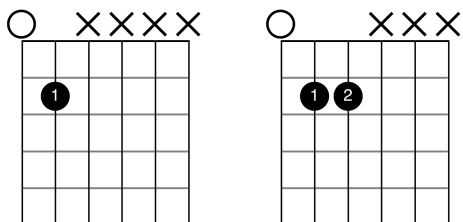
Click here to watch a free power chord video lesson:

<https://youtu.be/nkUetMhbjMk>

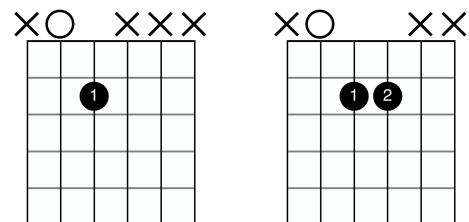
## Open Power Chords

The easiest kinds of power chords to play are open power chords. The first two examples are E power chords, and the other two are A power chords. You can play the E and A power chords on either two or three strings.

### E Power Chords



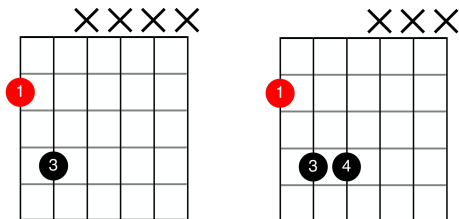
### A Power Chords



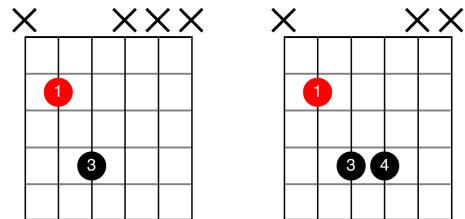
## Moveable Power Chords

You can play power chords up the neck as well.

### 6<sup>th</sup> String Power Chords



### 5<sup>th</sup> String Power Chords



To build a power chord on 6<sup>th</sup> string:

- Place your first finger on the fret corresponding with the chord you want to play – for example, if you play on the 6<sup>th</sup> fret on the 6<sup>th</sup> string, you'll be playing a B-flat power chord.
- As shown in the diagram above, place your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, two frets to the right.
- You may also add the 4<sup>th</sup> finger on the 4<sup>th</sup> string, same fret as the 5<sup>th</sup> string.

To build a power chord on 5<sup>th</sup> string:

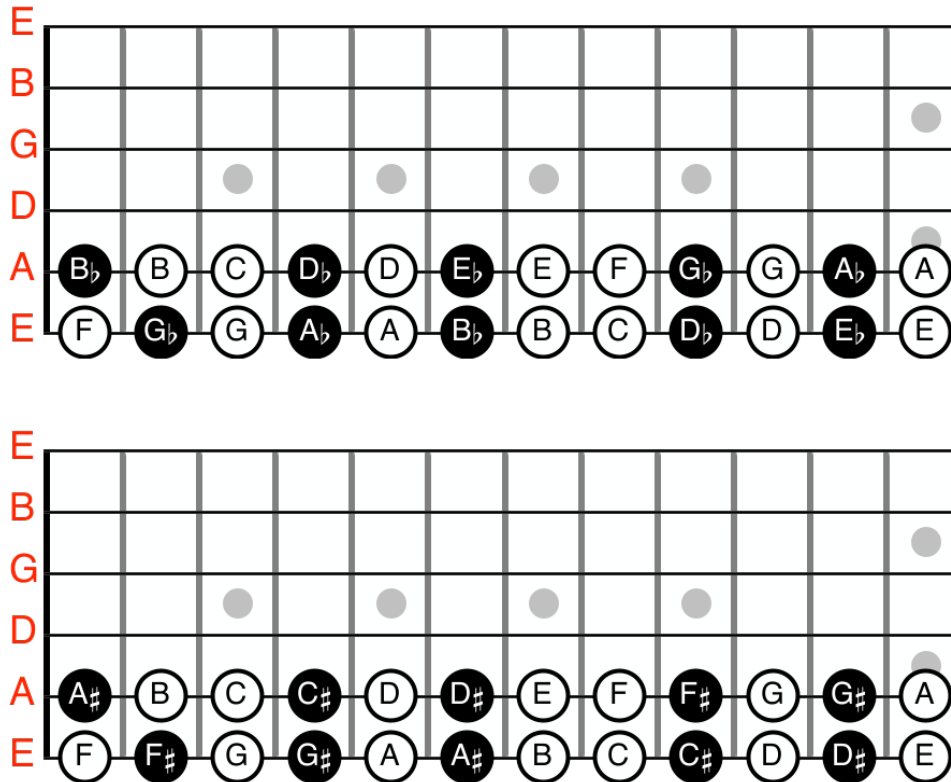
- Place your first finger on the fret corresponding with the chord you want to play – for example, if you play on the 6<sup>th</sup> fret on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, you'll be playing an E-flat power chord.
- As shown in the diagram above, place your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger on the 4<sup>th</sup> string, two frets to the right.
- You may also add the 4<sup>th</sup> finger on the 3<sup>rd</sup> string, same fret as the 4<sup>th</sup> string.

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## Know the Fretboard

You need to know the note names on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> strings, including flats and sharps, so you know where to place your 1<sup>st</sup> finger for any given power chord. Here are some fretboard diagrams showing the notes on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> strings. One diagram shows flats, and the other shows sharps.



Watch the video to find out how to put fretboard knowledge to use when playing power chords.

<https://youtu.be/nkUetMhbjMk>

Click here for a video lesson on learning the notes on the fretboard.

<https://youtu.be/RehJW0WI2yM>