

Three-String G7 Chord

There are many types of chords used in music. The three most common are **major**, **minor** and **7th** chords. On page 35, you learned the **C** chord. Actually, this is a major chord, but because major chords are so common, we usually just say **C** chord rather than **C** major chord. Another very common type of chord is the **7th** chord. Every chord begins with a letter name—such as **G** and, in this case, followed by the number **7**. But we say *G seventh* not *G seven*.

On page 39, you'll learn that the **G** major chord consists of the notes **G**, **B** and **D**. In a **G7** chord, **F** is added to the basic **G** major chord. There are seven letters in the music alphabet: **A-B-C-D-E-F-G**, repeating itself over and over again. The next letter note after **G** (the last letter) is **A** (the first letter)—that's what we mean by repeating itself.

Chords are formed by a specific formula and that includes the distance between the letters. We can begin on any letter and count the notes to determine the distance between any two notes. If we start to count with **G** being one, we find that **F** is the seventh note above it: **G=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7**.

And that is why the chord is called a **G7** chord. The notes of a **G** major chord are **G-B-D**. We add an **F** to form the **G7** chord: **G-B-D-F**.

However, as you can now play only three strings, we can only play three-note chords. The version of the **G7** chord (see staff at top right of page 37), has only three notes—the **D** (5th) is omitted. Reading from the bottom up, the notes are **G** (open 3rd string), **B** (open 2nd string) and **F** (1st finger, 1st fret, 1st string). Even though the **D** is omitted, the chord still sounds like a **G7** chord. Make sure you firmly finger **F** (1st finger) just behind the 1st fret and that it doesn't interfere with the vibration of any other string. As usual, strum across the three top strings with a swift motion of the pick, thumb or index finger. Play the top two lines of music to become familiar with the fingering and sound of the three-string **G7** chord.

Two-Chord Rock

This piece makes use of several things that you've recently learned: the **C** chord (in measures 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12); the **G7** chord (in measures 4, 8 and 12); the quarter rest (also in measures 4, 8 and 12). The rests and chords are used similarly to the ones in *Rock 'n' Rhythm* on page 35.

A good way to prepare to play *Two-Chord Rock* is to repeat measure 4 several times. The **G7** chord is played first (1st finger, 1st fret, 1st string), followed by the **C** chord (1st finger, 1st fret, 2nd string). The 4th measure is repeated in measures 8 and 12. Master this measure, and you will be able to perform *Two-Chord Rock* almost at sight. Like all rock music, play this piece with a strong, steady beat, and remember to mark the quarter rests with a count or foot tap and you won't go wrong.

Love Somebody

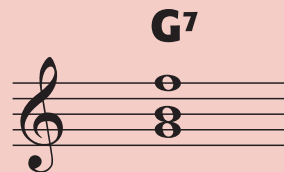
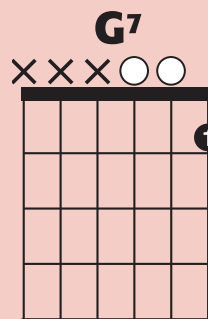
This American folk song is arranged in a new format that allows you to play it in two different ways. As a solo guitar piece, play the notes as written. Notice the extensive use of the **C** and **G7** chords. Because this is a folk song about love, modify your picking style to a softer, gentler sound (unlike the more hard-driving approach you use in rock songs).

Another way to play the song is to accompany yourself by strumming the chords as you sing the melody. The chords are the two you've learned, **C** and **G7**. Above the melody, you'll find a chord symbol, for example **C** followed by a series of slash marks [/ // /]. Play the **C** chord once for the symbol and once for each of the slash marks that follow. When playing *Love Somebody*, you'll alternate strumming **C** four times, then **G7** four times, then **C** four times, and so on. This pattern is only broken in measure 7 where you strum **C** twice followed by **G7** twice.

Singing while you strum the guitar chords is a really big step forward, but it's one of the best things about playing the guitar and well worth the extra effort. Get to know the melody by playing the notes as written. Then pick **C** on the 2nd string. This **C** is your starting note when you start to sing. Try not to look at your hands.

As you start to sing, look at the music page for the lyrics and for the chord symbols. It is a simple song, so you should be able to memorize it quickly. There is a repeat sign at the end of the song so play and sing it twice. Count evenly by tapping your foot. You may not be ready for prime-time TV, but you're a lot closer than when you started this book, 37 pages ago.

Three-String G7 Chord



5

1

(HOLD F DOWN TO THE END)

G7

C

G7

C

Two-Chord Rock



TEACHER: C

5

9

C

C

G7

C

(REST)

(REST)

F

C

G7

C

G7

C

LOVE SOMEBODY



Here is a song for you to sing while you play the accompaniment. The slanting line below or following a chord symbol (C /// G7 ///) means to play the same chord for each line. Repeat the chord until a new chord symbol appears.

PLAY: C / / / G7 / / / C / / / G7 / / /

SING: Love some - bod - y, 'deed I do. Love some - bod - y, now guess who?

5

C / / / G7 / / / C / G7 / C / / /

Love some - bod - y have you guessed? You're the one that I love best.