

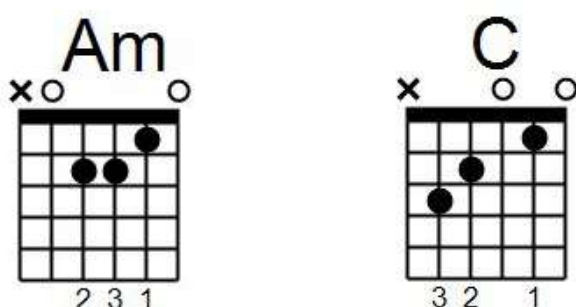
## MICKEY HOWARD BEGINNERS GUITAR GROUP HANDOUT

### A minor to C and back again exercise.

Hi there one and all, hope you are all well and safe and keeping yourselves free from the virus thingy whilst at the same time giving the NHS a hand.

Today I thought we could look at 2 chord shapes, which we can strum and change between them at regular intervals.

THE 2 CHORDS ARE: **A minor**, and **C**.



You can see in the chord shape charts above that both of our chords only require 3 fingers to play them. In both instances we use the same 3 fingers (1,2 and 3) to fret the chords but also notice they have 5 notes in them as some open strings are used in the chord formation.

So. Lets choose the **A minor** chord first of all.

Place **FINGER 1** (the one next to your thumb) on the B string at **FRET 1**.

Next is **FINGER 2** which we place on the D string at **FRET 2**.

Place our last finger in this chord shape **FINGER 3** on the G string at **FRET 2**.

OK, so having placed our fingers correctly, let's pick the individual strings and make sure that each note gives an unchoked tone and that it chimes nicely. If they do not, check that your fingers are coming down from above the fretboard onto the correct string and not brushing against other strings causing them to muffle. Remember it is the ends of your fingers used to fret, NOT the whole finger pad as you will find your fingers getting in the way of each other.

Notice on the chord charts, at the NUT there are icons which tell us which strings **not** to play, these are marked with an **X**.

Also, info here tells us which strings are supposed to be played as **open** and they are marked with an **O**.

So in this instance we do not play the **low E** string, whereas the **A string** and **high E string** are marked as open, ie played but not fretted.

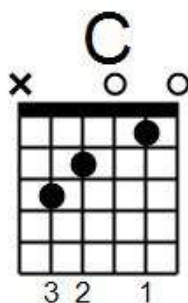
The other information on the chart is for our fingers, **which ones**, and of course **where** to place them!

So to practice... with a simple down stroke of the pick or your fingers, lets play 8 times the **A minor** chord.

Does it sound clear? Check your fingers for positioning, make sure that your they are behind the metal frets, not on top of them as this will give you a muffled tone and incorrect pitch.

You can practice this for a while to get the hang of it. Remember we are only playing 5 strings, we do not strum or pick the **low E**.

Lets go now to the the **C chord**.



Place **FINGER 1** on the **B** string at **FRET 1**.

Next is **FINGER 2** which we place on the **D** string at **FRET 2**.

So now we place **FINGER 3** on the **A** string at **FRET 3**.

OK. as we did before before, look at the chord chart and placing our fingers correctly for the **C chord**, let's pick the individual strings and make sure that each note gives an unchoked tone and that it chimes nicely.

Again be sure that your fingers are coming down onto the correct string and fret and not brushing against other strings causing them to muffle the tone.

Remember, at the NUT, there are icons telling us which strings **not** to play these are marked with an **X**.

Also, info here tells us which strings are supposed to be played **open** and they are marked with an **O**.

Now we can strum this **C chord** a few times..... lets try 8 down strokes missing out the **low E string**. Practice this until comfortable with the shape.

Right lets try changing between the 2 chords.

We will start with **8 strums** of **A minor** and then

**8 strums** of **C**,

**8 Strums** of **A minor**

**8 strums** of **C**

finishing with **1 strum** of **A minor** and leave this final chord ringing.

Like this.....

**A minor**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**A minor**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**A minor (allow chord to ring)**

1 \* \* \* \* \*

### Cheat sheet:

If you look at these 2 chord shapes you may well notice that to change from one chord to the other we need only move **one finger**.

In both instances the **1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup>** **fingers** remain in the same place on the fretboard, (ie **finger 1** at **B string 1<sup>st</sup> fret**, and **finger 2** **D string** at **2<sup>nd</sup> fret** ).

It is just **finger number 3** which changes.

With the **A minor chord**, **finger 3** is on the **G string** at the **2<sup>nd</sup> fret** whereas for the **C chord**, **finger 3** moves to a new position, stretching over to the **A string** at the **3<sup>rd</sup> fret**.

*This is because the chords **A minor** and **C** share some common notes.*

*On the guitar, an **A minor chord** is made up of the notes **A, E, A, C and E***

*whereas the **C chord** has the notes **C, E, G, C, and E**.*

*So as you see, **C** and **E** notes are common to both chords.*

*Hope this has been useful to you and that you can get to practice this exercise which is good for stretching the hands and getting used to similar chord shapes and how to change between them.*

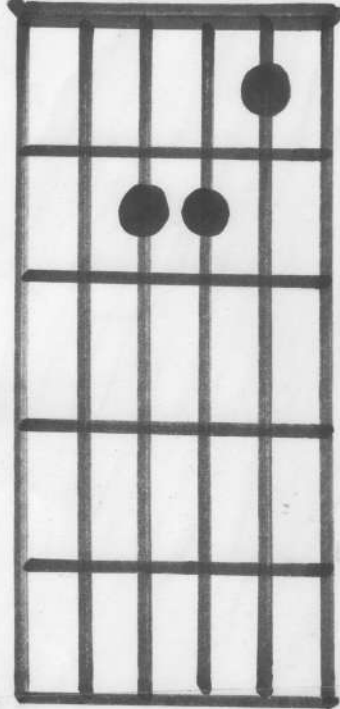
*Stay well and take care.*

*See you all soon.*

*Mickey.*

# A MINOR CHORD

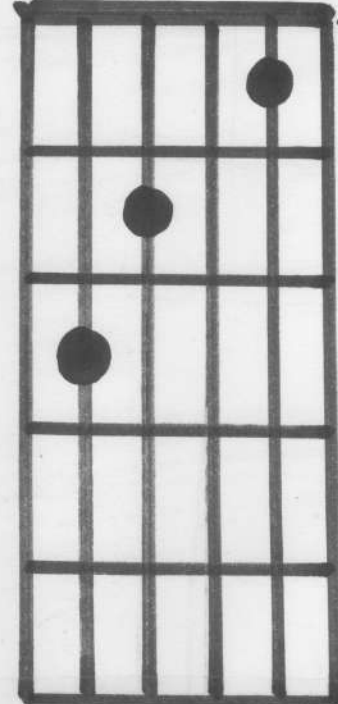
X 0 2 3 1 0



E A D G B E  
Low High

# C CHORD

X 3 2 0 1 0



NUT  
1ST FRET

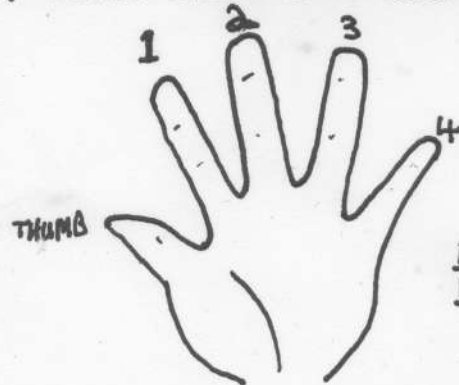
E A D G B E  
Low High

## INFO ABOVE THE NUT

X = DO NOT PLAY THESE STRINGS.

O = OPEN STRING - PLAY THESE STRINGS.

1-4 WHICH FINGERS TO USE AND WHICH POSITION. ●



FRETTING  
HAND