

THE EASY GUIDE TO

JAZZ CHORDS GUITAR



Step-by-step instructions with
audio & guitar tabs



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Table of Contents

Introduction	5
What Are Chords?	7
Intro to Drop Chord Shapes.....	20
Chapter 1: First Steps	28
The ii-V-I-VI Progression	28
The iim7 Chord	29
The V7 Chord	37
The Imaj7 Chord.....	48
The VI7b9 Chord.....	65
ii-V-I-VI Progression – Drop 3 Chords.....	72
ii-V-I-VI Progression – Drop 2 Chords.....	76
Chapter 1 Goal Review Questions.....	78
Chapter 2: ii-V-I-VI Comping Patterns	80
Freddie Green Comping.....	80
The Charleston Rhythm.....	86
Comping Rhythm - Bass Plus Top 3 Notes.....	97
Chapter 2 Goals Review.....	116
Chapter 3: Minor ii-V-I-bIII Overview	119
The iim7b5 Chord.....	122
The V7b9 Chord.....	126
Minor ii-V Progression	127
The Im6 Chord.....	133
Minor ii-V-I Progression.....	136
The bIIImaj7 Chord	149

Minor ii-V-I-bIII Progression	156
Chapter 3 Goals Review.....	169
Chapter 4: Autumn Leaves Studies.....	172
Autumn Leaves – Section Breakdown	172
Autumn Leaves – The A Section	174
Autumn Leaves – The B Section	176
Autumn Leaves – The C Section	178
Autumn Leaves – Section Summary	179
Rhythmic Comping for Autumn Leaves.....	180
Autumn Leaves – Drop 3 Chords -- Position 1	184
Autumn Leaves – Drop 2 Chords -- Position 1	187
Autumn Leaves – Drop 3 Chords - Position 2	190
Autumn Leaves - Drop 2 Chords – Position 2	193
Chapter 4 Goals Review.....	196
Chapter 5: Turnarounds	198
Turnarounds in Position 1.....	199
Turnarounds in Position 2.....	204
Minor Turnarounds Position 1	208
Minor Turnarounds Position 2	213
Chapter 5 Goals Review.....	218
Chapter 6: Rhythm Changes Studies	221
Rhythm Changes – Section Breakdown.....	222
Rhythmic Comping for Rhythm Changes.....	230
Chapter 6 Goals Review.....	251
Chapter 7: Must-Know Chord Shapes	253
Practice Example Exercises.....	253
Maj7 Chord Shapes.....	259

Maj7#11 Chord Shapes	261
Maj7#5 Chord Shapes	263
Maj9 Chord Shapes.....	265
Maj6 Chord Shapes.....	267
Maj6/9 Chord Shapes	269
7th Chord Shapes.....	271
7#11 Chord Shapes.....	273
7alt Chord Shapes.....	275
9th Chord Shapes.....	277
13th Chord Shapes	279
m7 Chord Shapes.....	281
m9 Chord Shapes.....	283
m6 Chord Shapes.....	285
m11 Chord Shapes.....	287
mMaj7 Chord Shapes	289
m7b5 Chord Shapes	291
Dim7 Chord Shapes	293
Appendix.....	296
Chapter 1 Review Answers.....	296
Chapter 2 Review Answers.....	308
Chapter 3 Review Answers.....	318
Chapter 4 Review Answers.....	323
Chapter 5 Review Answers.....	324
Chapter 6 Review Answers.....	325
About the Authors	326
Terence Wright	326
Matt Warnock	328

The Im6 Chord

The **m6 chord** is a completely new chord quality to add to your chord vocabulary.

The m6 chord is featured extensively in the jazz repertoire, and is commonly used as a **substitution for the m7 chord**.

The difference between a m6 and m7 chord is a **single note**. The m6 chord utilizes a **6th above the root** whereas the m7 chord has a b7th above the root.

The intervallic structure of the m6 chord: R–b3–5–6

The chart below analyzes the note composition of a number of different m6 chords to help you get a feel for the **m6 intervallic structure**.

Interval Structure	R	b3	5	6
Gm6	G	Bb	D	E
Cm6	C	Eb	G	A
Fm6	F	Ab	C	D
Bm6	B	D	F#	G#

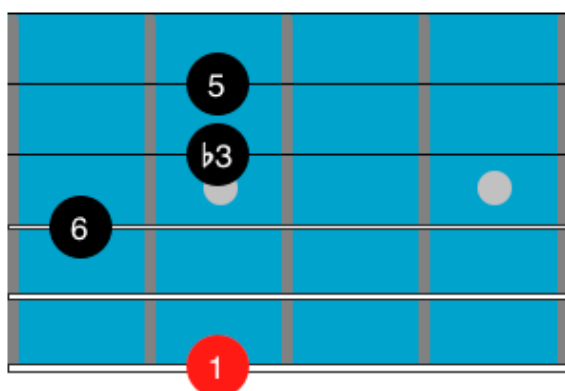
Moving on, it's time to take a look at the **chord shapes** for the m6 chord. Using Gm6 as an example, you'll play through Drop 3 and Drop 2 voicings on both the 6th and 5th string.

The first voicings of the Gm6 chord that you'll play are the **Drop 3 voicings**. Play through and memorize each Drop 3 Gm6 chord shape below.

Audio Example 81

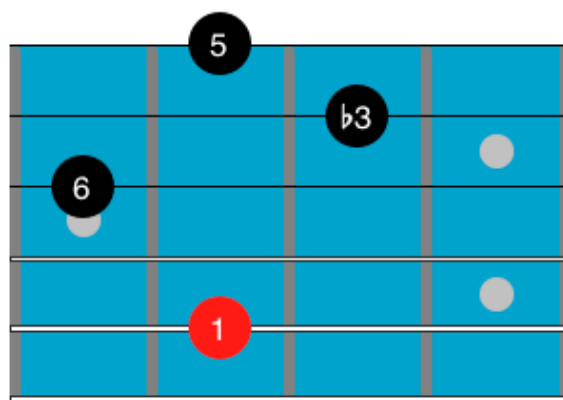
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Drop 3 Gm6 - 6th String



2

Drop 3 Gm6 - 6th String



9

A Gm6 in any voicing always has the same intervallic structure of R – b3 – 5 – 6, but the order of the individual notes in each voicing can appear in different orders (eg. R – 5 – 6 – b3).

For a Drop 3 Gm6 chord, the notes of the chord are distributed in the following order:

Gm6 Drop 3 Chord	G	E	Bb	D
		R	6	3

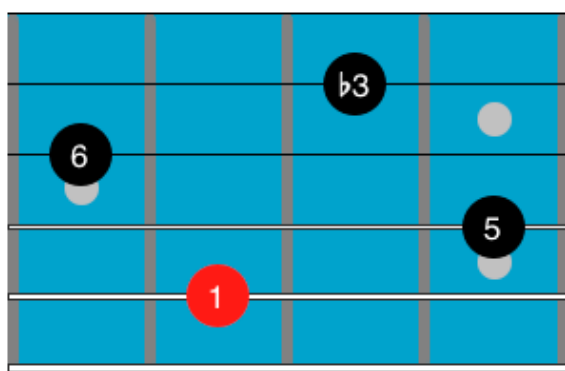
Knowing the distribution of notes within each chord voicing you play will not only strengthen your overall knowledge of the fretboard, but will also provide you with a solid foundation for pursuing advanced jazz concepts such as **voice leading and chord soloing**.

Complete your m6 chord vocabulary by playing through and memorizing the Drop 2 shapes of the Gm6 chord below. After completing the Drop 3 and 2 voicings of the Gm6, you'll be ready to dig into complete **minor ii-V-I progressions**.

Audio Example 82

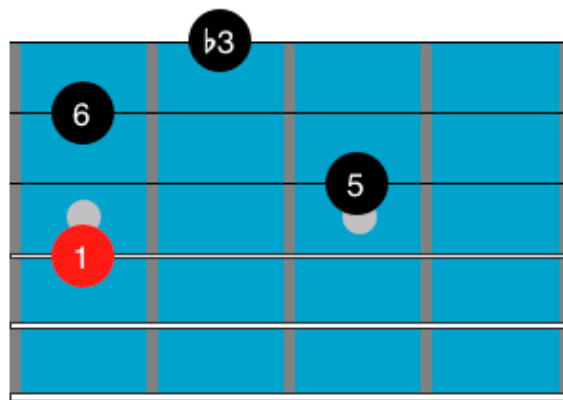
[Click here to play audio example 82](#)

Drop 2 Gm6 - 5th String



9

Drop 2 Gm6 - 4th String



5

The notes in the Drop 2 voicing are arranged differently than the those in the Drop 3 voicing. Compare the chart below to the previous Drop 3 Gm6 chart to allow yourself to see the difference between the two voicings.

Gm6 Drop 3 Chord	G	D	E	Bb
		R	5	6

Exercise: Continue to develop your ears by comparing and contrasting the sound of similar chords. Alternate between m6 and m7 chords to hear the subtle yet key difference in sound. Play through the exercises below and be sure to listen carefully.

- 6th string Drop 3 Gm7 to 6th string Drop 3 Gm6.
- 5th string Drop 3 Gm7 Drop 3 to 5th string Drop 3 Gm6.
- 5th string Drop 2 Gm7 Drop 2 to 5th string Drop 2 Gm6.
- 4th string Drop 2 Gm7 Drop 2 to 4th string Drop 2 Gm6.

Minor ii-V-I Progression

It's time now to take all three chords from this chapter and begin playing complete minor ii-V-I progressions.

To help you review positions 1 and 2, the list below provides an **overview of both positions** and indicates the chords you're currently focusing on using italics.

The list also shows which strings you'll need to build your chords from in both positions 1 and 2.

Use the Am7b5, D7b9, and Gm6 to play through complete **minor ii-V-I progression** in both positions using Drop 3 and Drop 2 chords.

Position 1 - Minor ii-V-I Progression

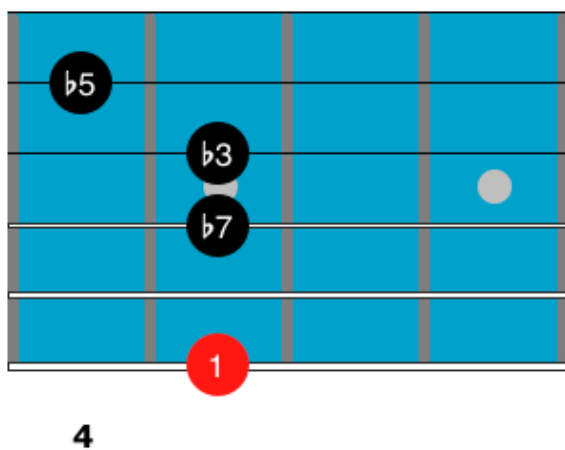
Drop 3 Chords

- iim7b5 Root on the 6th string.
- V7b9 Root on the 6th string.
- Im6 Root on the 6th string.
- bIIIImaj7 Root on the 6th string.

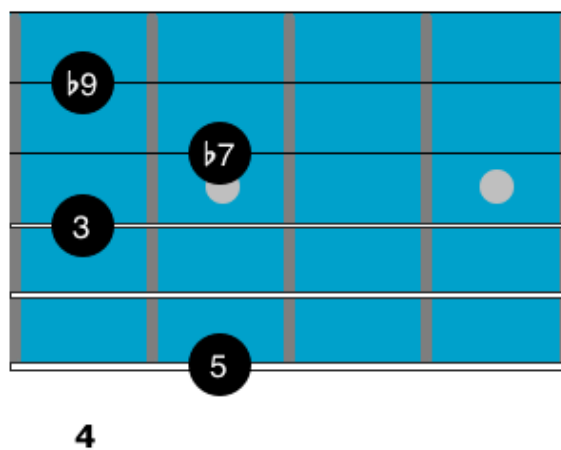
Audio Example 83

[Click here to play audio example 83](#)

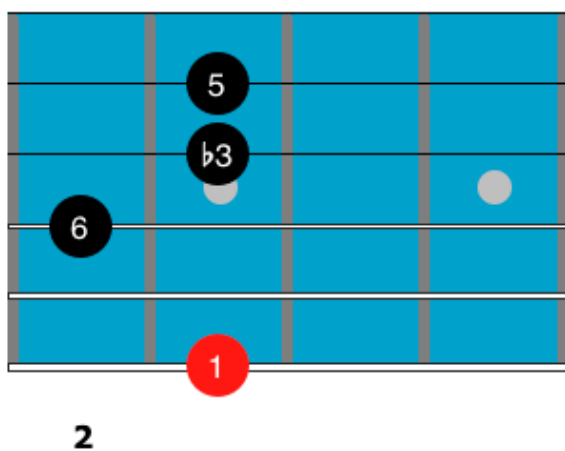
Am7b5 (ii)



D7b9 (V)



Gm6 (I)



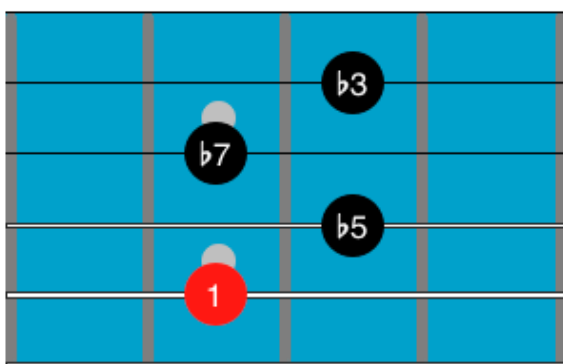
Drop 2 Chords

- iim7b5 Root on the 5th string.
- V7b9 Root on the 5th string.
- Im6 Root on the 5th string.
- bIIImaj7 Root on the 5th string.

Audio Example 84

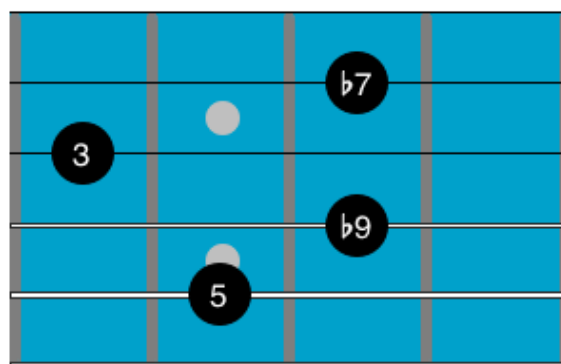
[Click here to play audio example 84](#)

Am7b5 (ii)



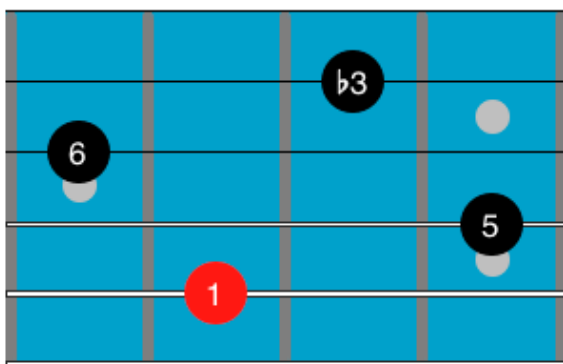
11

D7b9 (V)



11

Gm6 (I)



9

When playing through the minor ii-V-I progression, don't forget to continue **saying and playing** the tensions or note names of each note in every chord you play.

It'll be easier to identify the chord tensions with the **7b9** and **maj7** chords because you've played both of those chord qualities before, but make sure you take your time with new m6 and m7b5 chord qualities.

This PDF contains samples of our ebook *The Easy Guide to Jazz Guitar Chords*, to get the full edition of the ebook, [click here...](#)

