THE EASY GUIDE TO

JAZZ CHORDS

GUITAR

Step-by-step instructions with audio & guitar tabs

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval Structure</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>b3</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gm6</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Bb</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cm6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Eb</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fm6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Ab</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bm6</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F#</td>
<td>G#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gm6 Drop 3 Chord</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>Bb</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.
**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

- iiim7b5 Root on the 6th string.
- V7b9 Root on the 6th string.
- Im6 Root on the 6th string.
- bIIImaj7 Root on the 6th string.

Audio Example 83
Click here to play audio example 83

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Am7b5 (ii)</th>
<th>D7b9 (V)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Am7b5 Chord Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="D7b9 Chord Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gm6 (I)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Gm6 Chord Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drop 2 Chords

- iim7b5 Root on the 5th string.
- V7b9 Root on the 5th string.
- Im6 Root on the 5th string.
- bIIIImaj7 Root on the 5th string.
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...](#)