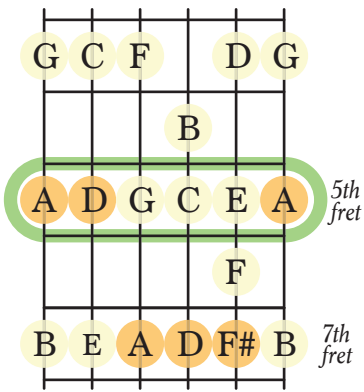


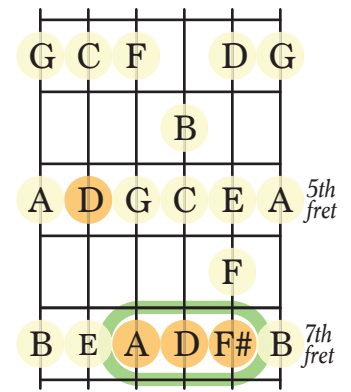
A SHAPE



This option lets you strum all strings but is difficult for most guitar players.

The A shape is one of the most common bar chords. The other most common is the E shape, which we will discuss later. The C and D shapes are awkward to play up the neck if you plan to fret more than 3 or four strings.

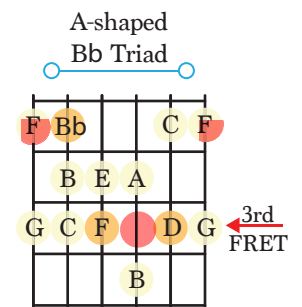
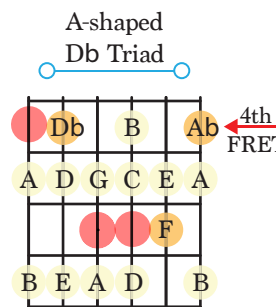
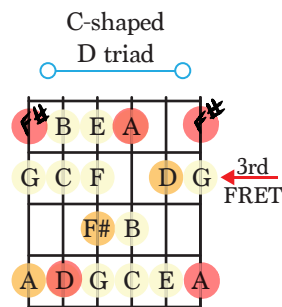
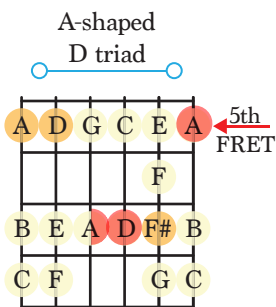
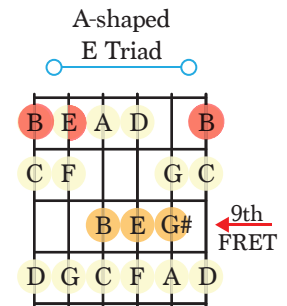
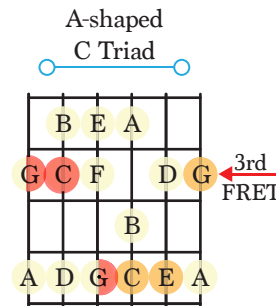
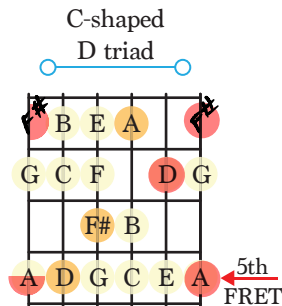
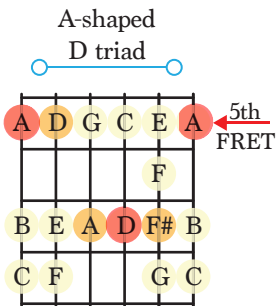
The A shape allows for easier bar chords. On the left, bar across all six strings (in green) with your index finger and fret the three notes on the 7th fret with your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th finger. The right side shows a different approach. Fret only the 5th fret with your index finger and bar the D, G, and B strings with your third finger.



This option is much easier to play, but forces you to avoid the low E string and mute the high E string.

The fingerings above are the most common ways to play A shaped chords, but there are a few more voicings. Try playing these other options below while filling out the homework!

HOMEWORK 1: Each shape below is labeled either "A shape" or "C shape." For each triad, circle the missing notes to complete the shape.



Some of these triads may require fingerpicking to perform (not strumming)

HOMEWORK 2

Using the provided root note, create an A Shaped triad.

F Major Triad
R F 3 A 5 C

C Major Triad
R C 3 E 5 G

E Major Triad
R E 3 G# 5 B

B Major Triad
R B 3 D# 5 F#

b b Bb Major Triad *b*
R Bb 3 D 5 F

Db Major Triad
R Db 3 F 5 Ab

Once you've circled all the notes needed for the A shape, grab a pen with a different color and circle all the notes in the C shape where possible.