
Subject: Guitar fingering question...

Posted by [guitar.ottawa](#) on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 12:09:11 GMT

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I'm trying to learn finger-picking, and am working on a song where one of the chords gives me some trouble:

0 1 0 3 X 1

.... or...

```
1||---|---|---|---|---|--  
2||-O-|---|---|---|---|--  
3||---|---|---|---|---|--  
4||---|---|-O-|---|---|--  
5|X---|---|---|---|---|--  
6||-O-|---|---|---|---|--
```

I'm really not sure how to finger this. On my electric, I'd probably bend one of my usual rules, and use my thumb for the 6th string 1st fret... but the nut width and neck size of my acoustic guitar makes that very difficult for me.

I tried a number of other ways, and can get three different fingerings that can be made to work, but need a lot of setup time (or I get buzzing or dead notes). There's just no way I can smoothly switch to any of those fingerings mid-song, in a seamless fashion. Obviously I need to rehearse this...

But how would y'all approach this? Just looking for tips before I surmount my laziness and start working on this...

Thanks,
Dan

Subject: Re: Guitar fingering question...

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 13:35:05 GMT

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I'm pretty sure the chord you want is F Maj 9 (no 3rd), but I'm unfamiliar with the numbering system of the strings. Isn't the low E the 1st string?

Anywho I think you only have one good option. Use the side of the 1st finger to mute the A string.

```
> 1||---|---|---|---|---|--  
> 2||-2-|---|---|---|---|--  
> 3||---|---|---|---|---|--
```

> 4||---|---|-4-|---|---|--
> 5|X---|---|---|---|---|--
> 6||-1-|---|---|---|---|--

D.P. wrote:

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> Thanks,
> Dan

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Subject: Re: Guitar fingering question...

Posted by [Sarah](#) on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 16:47:16 GMT

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No, Bill, the high E is the 1st string, which never made any sense to me,
but that's the "way it's done."

I like that chord and use it fairly often, or variations of it. If you
really need to mute that 5th string, Bill's fingering worked best for me,
but it's more natural for me to grab the 6th string with my thumb, index on
the 2nd, and then 3 or 4 on the 4th string. I don't have that thumb rule,

and I like the sound of the chord with the A string open, especially if it's capo'd up a few frets.

My favorite version is to do it with a dropped D tuning, capo'd up to the 2nd fret or higher. Then it looks like this:

```
1||---|---|---|---|---|---|
2||-1-|---|---|---|---|---|
3||---|---|---|---|---|---|
4||---|---|-4-|---|---|---|
5||---|---|---|---|---|---|
6||---|---|-3-|---|---|---|
```

It's easy to mute that 5th string, if you must, with a tilt of the 3rd finger.

S

"Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote in message news:487b580a\$1@linux...

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> with the numbering system of the strings. Isn't the low E the 1st string?

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Subject: Re: Guitar fingering question...
Posted by [Ed](#) on Tue, 15 Jul 2008 15:22:37 GMT
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Hey Dan,

I am not too keen on the way tabs are put together these days. In fact about 20 plus years ago I learned to play guitar from song books that had normal tabs above the chord of the songs. Mainly Bob Dylan type songs.

Anyway, looking at the way it is fingered... personally I wouldn't even mess with trying to be a sharp-shooter and position my fingers the way they lay this out on their fret board. The chord is in the key of F... I would personal bar the F and then start picking up fingers to get as close as possible.

Heck afterall, Jimmi Page admits that he can't remember the true chords that he played on Stairway to Heaven. There are so many renditions out there... there are no wrong way if it sounds close...

That is the way I approach many cover songs. I mostly learn by ear... and stay away from other people's mistakes... except when you come across songs when the guitar is really fuzzed out. An example is "Where the River Flows" by Collective Soul. Back in my early teen-type days, I would go to a guitar shop and get one of the pros to show me how it is played... I don't have that anymore... But it is so easy, it is a difficult progression to figure out... and if you seen the tabs on that song.. ha!

Anyway, when you have troubling 9th and 12th chords... just bar the major, or even the minor and start pickin fingers up. You be surprised how close you can get to just about anything... use that until you perfect the finger portion...

Good Luck!

~ Ed

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