

## QUICK LESSON

13<sup>th</sup> November 20

### Using 7<sup>th</sup> Chord Patterns to learn Bar Chords

In this Quick Lesson, we will look at how learning to bar the strings can help us easily play other chords simply by using a pattern.

Lets take our C7 Chord first of all, now using the pattern for C7 we can play C#7, D7 and Eb7 chords. For our purposes it will be the D7 that is most relevant.

*(If you are not familiar with playing barred chords then this is an opportunity to experience how useful they are. I hope you will keep an open mind and commit to practicing this very versatile skill).*

To start, make a C7 chord BUT! We are going to use our 2<sup>nd</sup> finger this time (remember I have been encouraging you to not be too slavish as to which finger you use to make chords). This is to free up fingers to bar strings in this case as well as the other reasons covered in previous lessons.

Now we are going to place our 1<sup>st</sup> finger on top of the nut across all 4 strings. Why? Well this is in readiness for us to play the pattern by sliding our fingers one fret at a time up the neck (remember up means going towards the soundhole because we mean raising the pitch of the notes).

So even though we appear to be making a normal C7 just with a different finger, we are actually always playing the pattern its just that the nut is acting like our finger in our normal C7 chord so we don't actually need to bar across the strings. We are simply putting our barring 1<sup>st</sup> finger in position ready to slide the shape up the neck. (ensure it is not actually affecting the sound though!)

Each time we slide the pattern using the bar across all strings going up the neck we make a new chord. First new chord will be a C#7, slide the shape again and we make a D7 chord. Now this is useful for us as it will be a chord we use often.

If you normally play D7 using two fingers then you are now playing a D7 with no open strings.

*Something for you to discover, if you slide the pattern two more frets what chord do you get?*

**If barring chords is new for you then it is likely you will need to practice, firstly using different fingers and secondly perhaps more frustratingly, how much pressure the 1<sup>st</sup> finger which is barring all 4 strings needs to get a clean sound. Your thumb pressure will be vital.**

**It is unlikely to be clean to start off with but I urge you not to get disheartened and give up. Its a skill and as you have found, to learn a skill takes time and practice until it becomes second nature.**

*Note: We can of course use the pattern going down the neck, say from D7 to C7.*

**Please do not give up if all of this does not immediately make sense to you, it will become clearer when demonstrated in the lesson and future video.**