

QUICK LESSON 18

30th october 20

ALTERNATE CHORD POSITIONS F and A

In this Quick lesson on Alternate Chord Positions, we are going to explore 2 more (there are of course many more but they are for you to try out, if you want).

Starting with F we are going to make an F chord and then add our Pinkie to the 3rd Fret of the A string. This is still an F chord but now has a rich sound. So you have learned over the past few lessons that we can play the same chord in different positions to get a different sound to the chord. How?

Well major chords are made up of three notes, in the case of F they are - F, C, A.

Look at your fingers when making a normal F chord, they make the notes as follows - A on the G string, C with the Open C string, F on the E string, and A on the Open A string. So you see even though it is an F chord the sound is coloured by the fact that there are 2 A notes. Now by adding our Pinkie to the A string at the 3rd Fret we get an F chord but this time containing 2 C notes.

So this F chord sounds different. This allows us to add colour to the standard F chord.

Now we are going to practice changing between these 2 F chords, lets use 4 beats to the bar and change from one to the other on each bar.

Lets look at an alternative to the A chord now.

Make a normal A chord, now using the same principle as we did with F, add your Pinkie but this time at the 4th Fret of the A string. Yes, thats a bit more of a stretch but it will get easier with practice.

A normal A chord uses the notes - A, Csharp, E. with the A note being doubled.

That is A on the G string, Csharp on the C string, and the E and the A strings are played Open. Hence giving us 2 A notes.

Now when we add our Pinkie on the A string at the 4th fret we add another Csharp. So now instead of 2 A notes, we now have 2 Csharp notes. This is again why we have a different sound to the A chord. We can use this to add interest to an a chord.

Now as with F lets alternate between the 2 A chords to a 4 count.

In lesson 14 we learned another way of playing an A chord, just check out the notes used in this version of an A chord.

We have covered a variety of ways of playing basic chords, there are many more for you to discover if you want.

I do hope you are starting to integrate in to your playing some of the chord alternatives and enhancements we have covered. If you are, then well done and I feel certain that as it becomes more natural, your interpretation of songs will improve. The natural tendency is to always revert to what you feel safe and comfortable with but there is only one way to improve and that is to put in the hard practice until it becomes second nature. The end result is worth the effort.