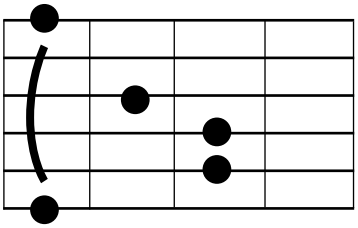
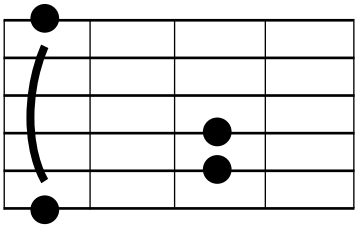
Essential Root 6 shapes

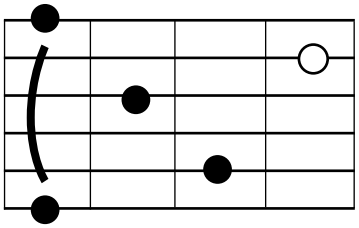
Major



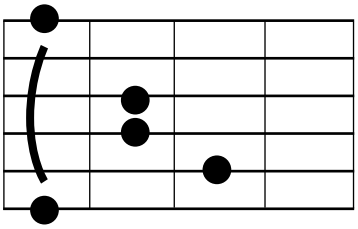
Minor



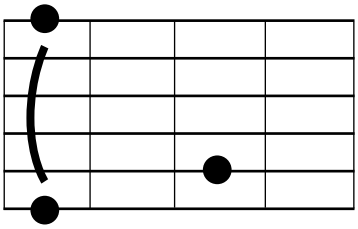
Dominant 7



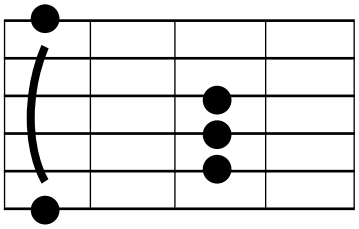
Major 7



Minor 7

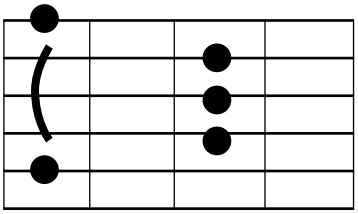


Sus 4

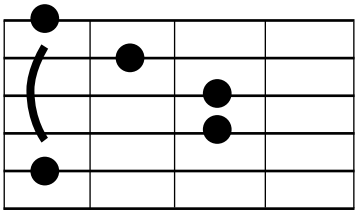


Essential Root 5 shapes

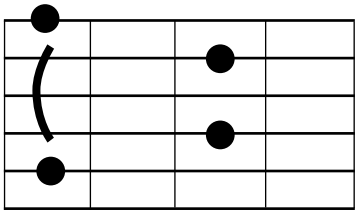
Major



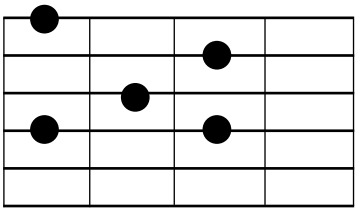
Minor



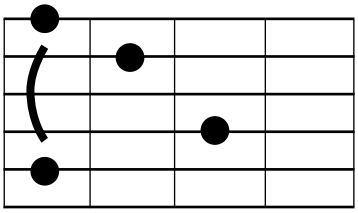
Dominant 7



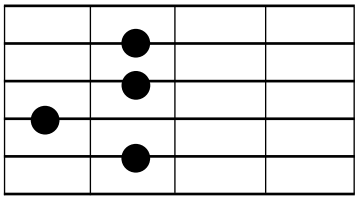
Major 7



Minor 7



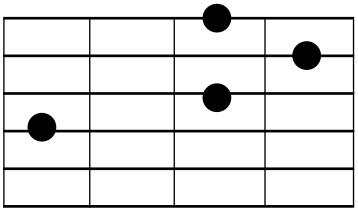
9th



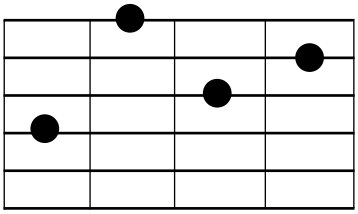
Root 4 shapes

The only one I deem essential out of these is the Major 7. The others tend to get played with the root omitted.

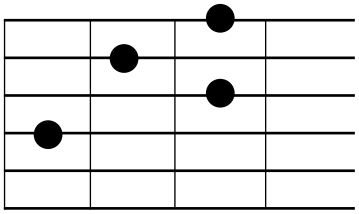
Major



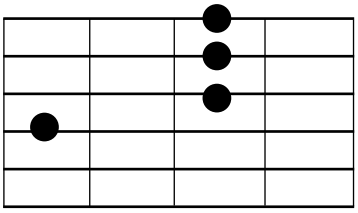
Minor



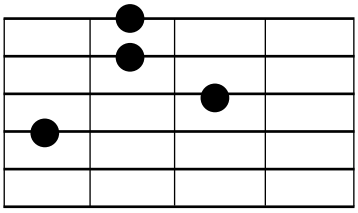
Dominant 7



Major 7



Minor 7

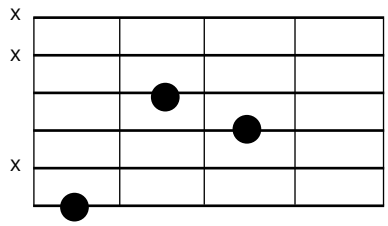


Essential Root 6 shapes - fragments/jazz fingering

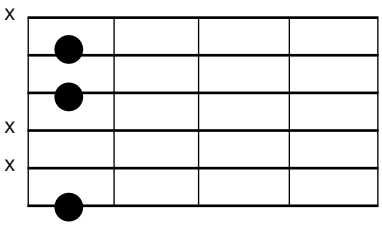
You'll recall that just because you have 6 strings, it doesn't mean you have to play all of them or indeed fret all of them.
In many instances, playing "abbreviated versions" of full chords is just as good.

Also, as other instruments tend to take care of some of these notes (e.g. a bass player typically plays mostly root notes) as a guitar player you can dispense with some of the less important notes and just play the ones that provide the colour/flavour of the chord (3rd and 7th notes). Therefore you could even play these examples without their root.

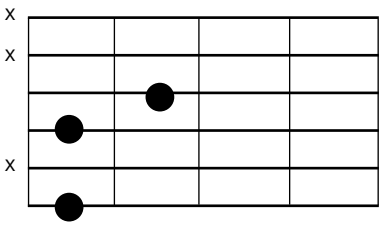
Major



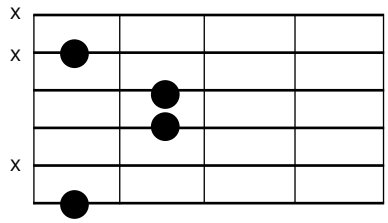
Minor



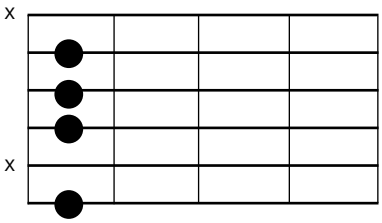
Dominant 7



Major 7



Minor 7

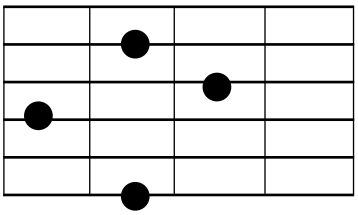


Substituting chords

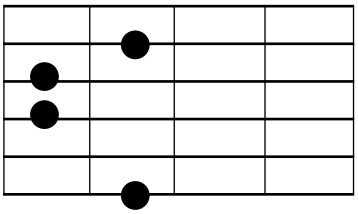
All chords can be sorted into one of 3 categories: Major, Minor or Dominant. So players often use some of the chords below instead of standard major, minor or dominant chords to create a more interesting (and less obvious/clichéd) sound.
Try swapping one or two in a chord progression you are familiar with.

Major category

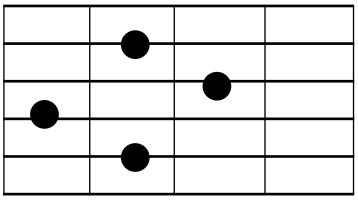
Maj 6



6/9

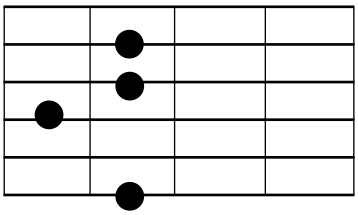


Maj 9

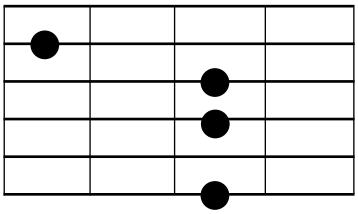


Minor category

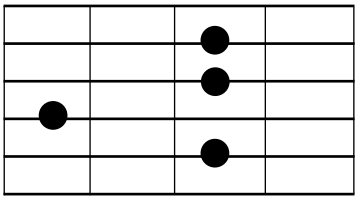
Min 6



Min 11

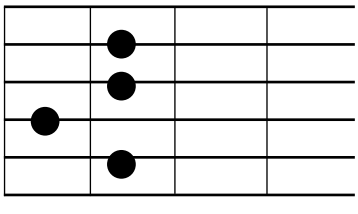


Min 9

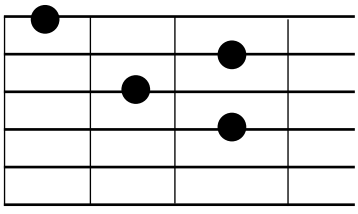
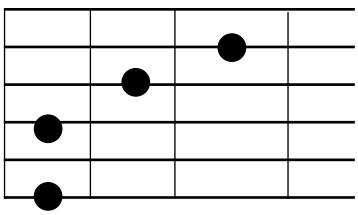


Dominant category

9



11



13th