

# Creating Triads from the G Major Scale

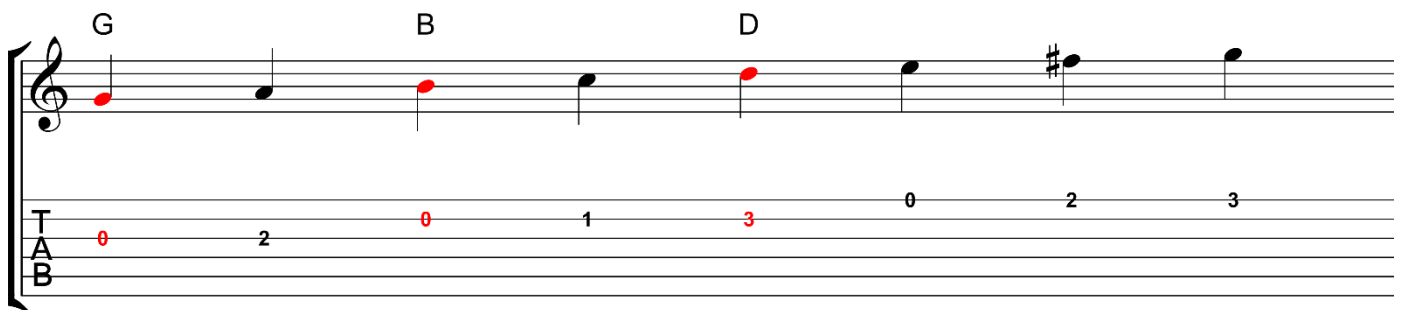
## What is a triad?

- ♪ A **triad** is the simplest type of chord.
- ♪ It has three different notes.
- ♪ When you play a chord on the guitar, it's the notes of the triad jumbled up.
- ♪ The lowest note of the triad is called the **root**.
  - ♪ If you play the triad with a different lowest note, it's called an **inversion**.
- ♪ Chords are major *unless the music says otherwise* (e.g. Am means A minor)

## How to make a G major triad from a G major scale

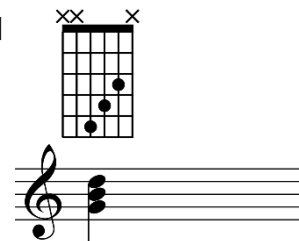
- ♪ Play the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> degrees of the scale.
- ♪ That gives you G (the root), B (the 3<sup>rd</sup>) and D (the 5<sup>th</sup>)

## Here's the scale with the triad notes highlighted in red



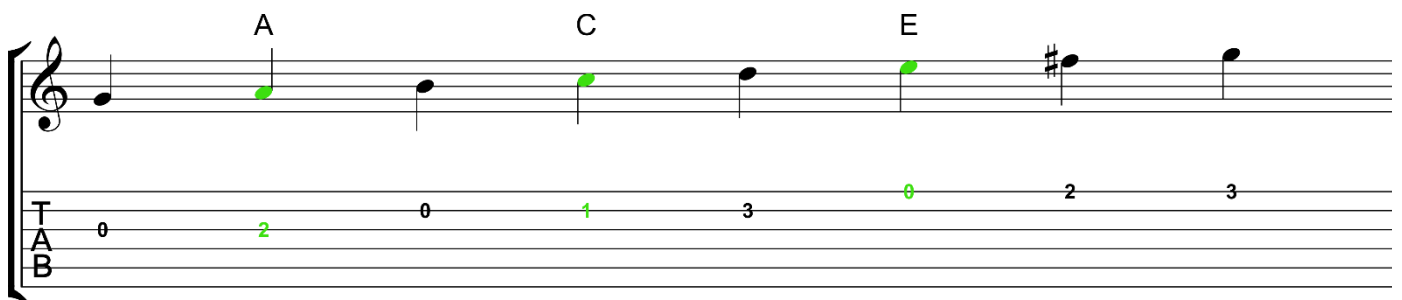
Musical notation showing the G major scale on a treble clef staff. The notes G, B, and D are highlighted in red. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings: G (0), A (2), B (0), C (1), D (3), E (0), F# (2), G (3).

## Stack the notes on top of each other to make a chord



Guitar fretboard diagram showing the G major triad (G, B, D) stacked on top of each other. Below it is a musical notation diagram showing the G major triad (G, B, D) stacked on top of each other.

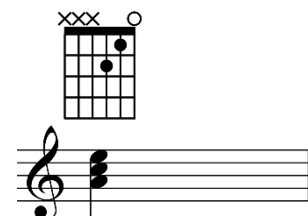
## You can follow the pattern from any note. Here it is starting on A (in green)



Musical notation showing the A major scale on a treble clef staff. The notes A, C, and E are highlighted in green. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with fingerings: A (0), B (2), C (0), D (1), E (3), F# (0), G (2), A (3).

## That gives you an A minor (Am) triad

- ♪ NB the notes are still the root, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of the chord.
- ♪ So you have A (root), C (3<sup>rd</sup>) and E (5<sup>th</sup>).



Guitar fretboard diagram showing the A minor triad (A, C, E) stacked on top of each other. Below it is a musical notation diagram showing the A minor triad (A, C, E) stacked on top of each other.