

Ultimate E Chord Hack



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Keys: E, A, B

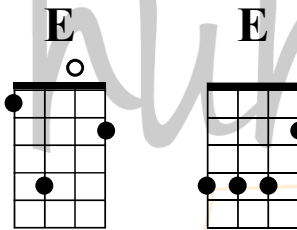
Video Tutorial:

My personal opinion about the E chord:

- In full honesty I really would prefer that you took the time to learn the E chord because in your progression through music you are going to need it, but, in the mean time, here is a tip so you can play some of your favorite songs before learning the chord.

What makes the E chord so difficult?

- There are several factors in play here, but the two most common shapes either use 4 fingers, or span 4 frets. Any chord that does either of those two things is difficult.



When do you play the E chord?

- The E chord pops up in 3 majors keys and 3 minor keys naturally.
 - o The key of E - I chord
 - o The key of B - IV chord
 - o The key of A - V chord

What is a key chart?

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
Major	Minor	Minor	Major	Major	Minor	Dim.
A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
C	D	E	F	G	A	B
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#

- A key chart is something that shows you all that chords in a given key
- The chart is organized to see the key horizontally
- Vertically you see that roman numeral.
 - o Each chord in a key has a number assigned to it
 - o This is also how you transpose music
 - o Want to learn more about the key chart? Here is a link
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OscP3rktLg>

The key of A - The easiest solution

- In the key of A we see that the V chord, verbally referred to as *the five chord*
- The V chord is the ONLY chord in the key that can be changed to a 7 chord diatonically
 - o Diatonically meaning we don't have to borrow notes from another scale
- The I and the IV chords become something known as a Major7 chord, that is why this trick doesn't work with the keys of E and B
- Examining the Stand By Me progression we have something that looks like this.

A A F#m F#m E D A A

- Each chord is one measure, meaning you can strum D DU UDU over each chord.
- When you see the A back to back that means two strum patterns
- Because the E the V chord you can simply change the E to an E7

A A F#m F#m E7 D A A

- This is by far the easiest solution

Tuning down a half step

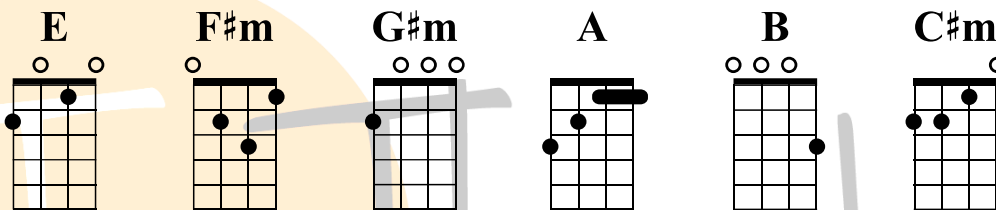
- For the next two keys we need to tune down a half step
- This means each note goes down by one note or one fret
- The tuning then looks like this
 - o A -> Ab/G#
 - o E -> Eb/D#
 - o C -> B
 - o G -> Gb/F#
- For context I have both the sharp and flat notes because different tuners display different notes.
- How does this apply to the E chord? Well, after you do it strum the F chord, listen to it. Notice that it sounds deeper? Fuller? That is because it now has the notes E, G#, B... making your F shape an E chord!

Applying these ideas to the key of E

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D#
F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E

- Now to produce the chords in the key of E you use the shape directly below it in the key of F
- That means to play the E chord you use the F shape, F#m is played by making a Gm, etc.

The new chord shapes



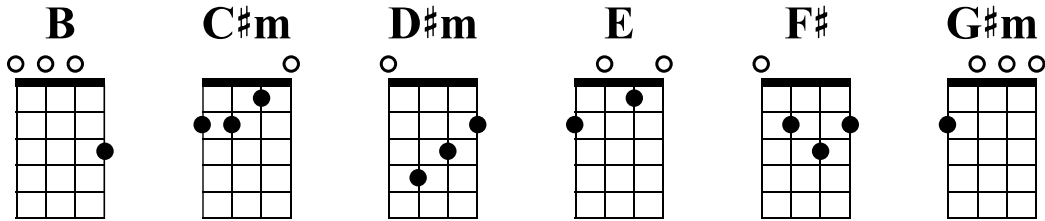
- The A chord comes from the Bb shape and will be the hardest chord now.
- Having said that it is a IV chord, so you can play the A string open and make it Amaj7

Applying these ideas to the key of B

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii
B	C#	D#	E	F#	G#	A#
C	D	E	F	G	A	B

- Here all the shapes you use in C will produce the sounds that you hear in B
- This is much more common than you already know. Bands like Gun'n'Roses, Weezer, Jimi Hendrix, Ben Harper, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Nirvana and many more tune down a half step frequently. I've even seen the soul man himself, Mr. Al Green, use this trick!
- That means anytime you look up one of these bands and you see the song is in B they were actually playing it using the chord shapes from the key of C

New Chord Shapes



- Apply these shapes to the following progression

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
B | F# | G#m | E |
D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U |

Sound familiar? Now you are playing "I'm Yours" in the studio key... without barre chords!!!

Final notes

- Relative minors,
 - You will see the same trick in
 - F#m for the E7
 - C#m and G#m for the tuning down a half step
 - The E also happens as the V chord in the harmonic minor in the key of Am, and you can use E7 there. An example of that is "House of the Rising Sun"

Remember, get that E, but enjoy some of your favorite songs in E on the way.