

## WHAT ARE POWERCHORDS

A **powerchord** is a moveable chord, known as a 5<sup>th</sup> chord. So whenever you see a number '5' after a chord name, such as A5, B5, C#5 etc, it means play as a powerchord. It is moveable because when you fret the chord, the same shape can be shifted up and down the neck.

### **THE MAJOR SCALE AND HOW THAT HELPS US WORK OUT POWERCHORDS**

Taking the A major as an example (see below) a powerchord is when you take the 1<sup>st</sup> note and the 5<sup>th</sup> note (yes that is where the name of a powerchord comes from), **from any major scale this formula works..** So with the A major scale, the note A and E, which is note 1 and 5, played together, gives you an A5 chord = an A powerchord

**A MAJOR SCALE**

Probably the easiest way to read a powerchord is using the chord chart:

**A5**

X X X X

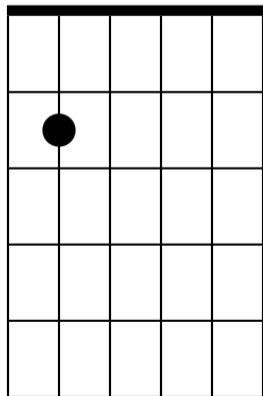
On **Tab**, they will look like this

Usually as 2 notes stacked together.

Powerchords can be played as open shapes and fretted shapes:

E5 (Open powerchord)

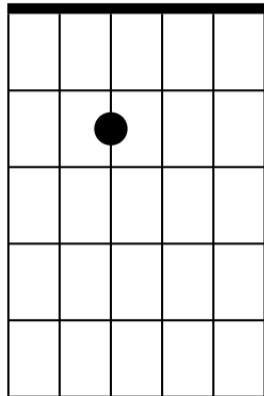
○ × × × ×



E B X X X X

A5 (Open powerchord)

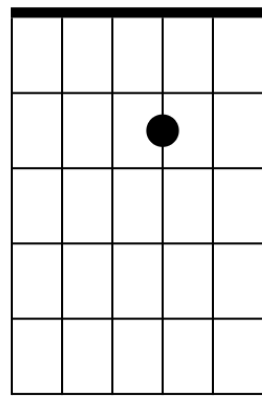
× ○ × × ×



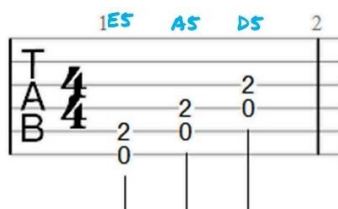
X A E X X X

D5 (Open powerchord)

× × ○ × ×



X X D A X X

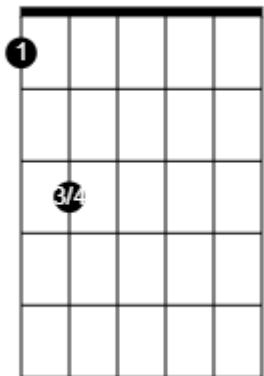


*WATCH OUT FOR THE XX'S HERE*

To make them 'moveable', they need to be played as 'closed chords' meaning all the notes are fretted, like this:

Powerchord (Root on E)

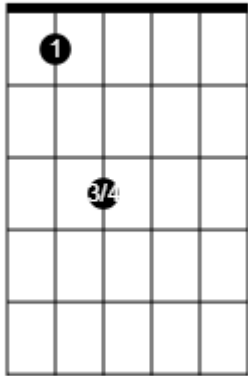
× × × ×



X X X X

Powerchord (Root on A)

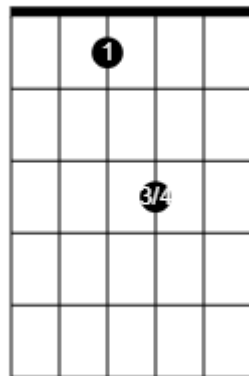
× × × ×



X X X X

Powerchord (Root on D)

× × × ×



X X X X

**THE ROOT NOTE** SIMPLY MEANS THE NOTE THAT GIVES YOU THE KEY OF THE CHORD.

When playing these shapes above, the ROOT NOTE will always be where the 1<sup>st</sup> finger is

## EYE OF THE TIGER

Use only powerchords with a root note on E, you can now use this idea of MOVEABLE shapes when you play this song

A guitar fretboard diagram for the song 'Eye of the Tiger'. It shows three measures. Measure 1 has four powerchords: B5 (9-7), B5 (9-7), A5 (7-5), and B5 (9-7). Measure 2 has four powerchords: B5 (9-7), A5 (7-5), B5 (9-7), and B5 (9-7). Measure 3 has two powerchords: A5 (7-5) and G5 (5-3). The root notes B, A, and G are indicated by vertical lines below the fret numbers.

## SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

Here you will use open and closed powerchords with a root note on E and A

A guitar fretboard diagram for the song 'Smells Like Teen Spirit'. It shows two measures. Measure 1 has four powerchords: E5 (2-0), E5 (2-0), A5 (2-0), and A5 (2-0). Measure 2 has four powerchords: G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), and C5 (5-3). The root notes E, A, G, and C are indicated by vertical lines below the fret numbers.

## ALL THE SMALL THINGS

Punk rock - what 5<sup>th</sup> chords are perfect for as you will learn playing this track

A guitar fretboard diagram for the song 'All the Small Things'. It shows four measures. Measure 1 has eight powerchords: C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), C5 (5-3), and C5 (5-3). Measure 2 has eight powerchords: F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), F5 (3-1), and F5 (3-1). Measure 3 has eight powerchords: G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), G5 (5-3), and G5 (5-3). Measure 4 has two powerchords: F5 (3-1) and F5 (3-1). The root notes C, F, G, and F are indicated by vertical lines below the fret numbers.

