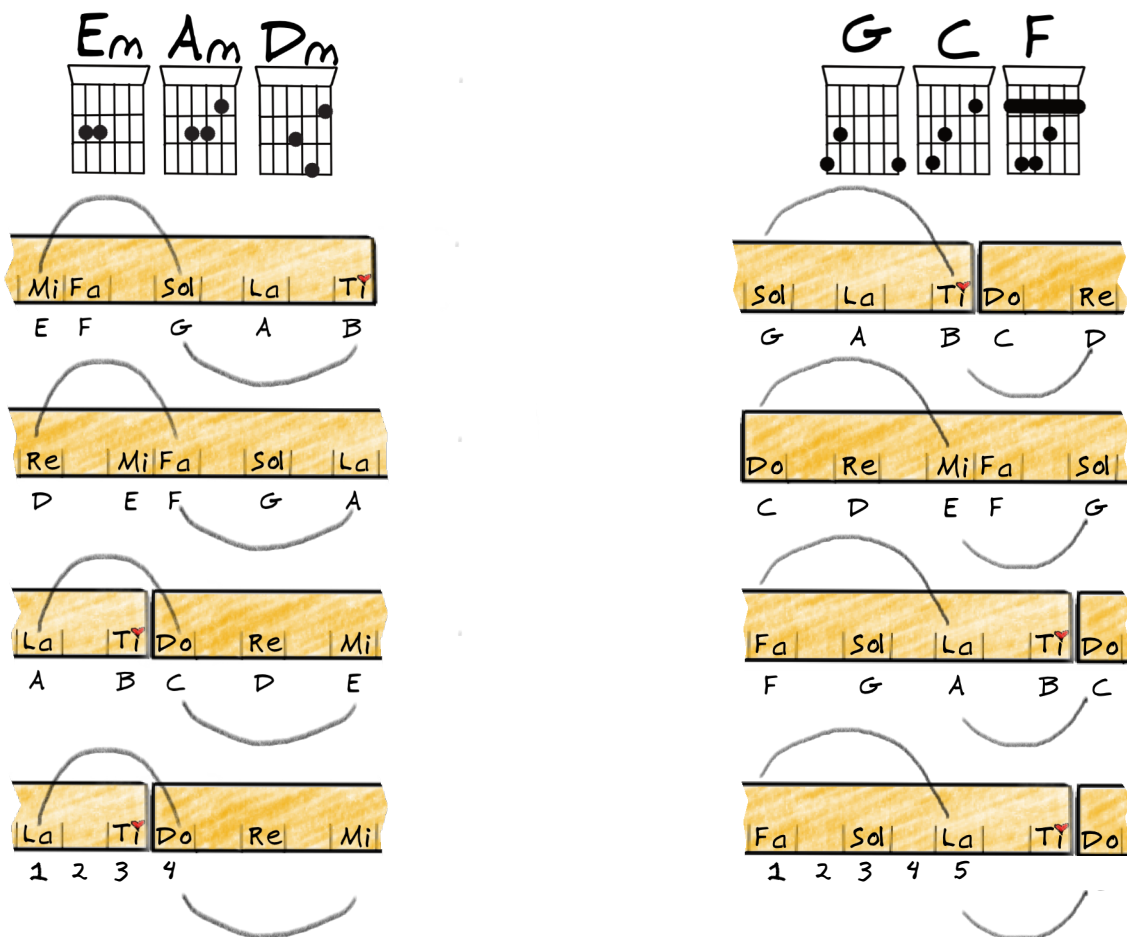


Six String Alchemy:

What makes a chord major or minor?

For simplicity, we used BEAD Guides Chord Flow, to organize the major and minor chords we've woven from the C scale. But wouldn't it be useful to know what makes a chord major or minor? All the chords are "spelled" out in front of us. What's similar? What's different? Here's a hint, it has to do with the space between the first two notes in each chord. Another hint is that in latin, major means larger, and minor means smaller.



In a minor chords the first two notes of a chord spans four frets, i.e. it's smaller.

In a major chord the first two notes of a chord spans five frets, i.e. it's larger.

That's it. A minor chord is "smaller" between the first two notes in the chord. A major chord is "larger" between the first two notes in the chord. Otherwise the way they are built is the same. This raises a lot of questions for guitar player though. For instance, Most guitar chords have five or even six notes that are being played, how is that if they are only built of three notes? Or, if minor and major chords are all built in the same way, how can they look so different? Don't worry, we'll answer these questions soon enough.