

# CHAPTER 4

## POWER CHORDS

Power chords get their name for two reasons: they sound “powerful” and they give guitar players the “power” to play almost any song. They are, by far, the easiest chords to play, consisting of only two notes—the root (which names the chord) and the fifth scale degree. For this reason, you’ll often see these chords referred to as “5” chords written like this: C5, E5, G5, etc. Start by learning three power chords in the open position. You’ll need to strum through both strings, sounding the notes together. Make sure you only strike these two strings with the pick.

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### Chord Diagrams

In addition to tablature, sometimes a *chord diagram* will be used to show finger placement for chords. A *chord diagram* is like standing your guitar up and looking straight at the neck. The 6th string (lowest in pitch) will be the line on the left, with the 1st string (highest in pitch) over to the right. The frets are the horizontal lines, with the heavy line on top representing the nut. The black dots indicate where to place your fingers. If a string is to be played open, an “O” symbol is shown above it. If the string is not to be played, an “X” is shown above it. The numbers below the diagram indicate which left-hand fingers to use.

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Now try these chords in a few exercises.

Track 17

Track 18