

Related chord forms

for the Tenor Banjo

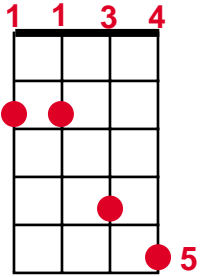
by Steve C addick

banjopa1@yahoo.com



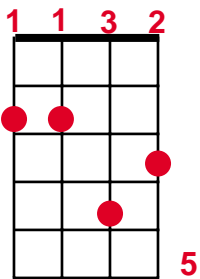
This lesson is designed so that you can understand how one chord form relates to another one. How does a “C” chord relate to a “C7” chord or a “Cm” chord? Let’s explore the idea of “Chord Patterns”. I will do this using chord diagrams, so you can see on the banjo fingerboard, how to make a 7th chord, a minor chord, a 6th, a minor 7th, and a minor 6th, from the major chord. Once you get the idea, it is really quite simple. Let me show and explain how to do this.

If you are not sure how to read my chord diagrams, go to my article on [How to read chord diagrams on the Commitment page](#).



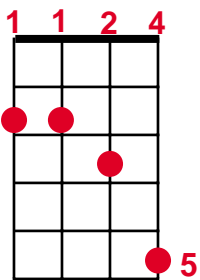
Here is the major chord we will start with. Remember, this is a movable chord form and can be used anywhere on the banjo neck. In this position it is a “D” chord.

This is the “base” form I will use to create the other forms from. They all start with this form or finger pattern. This is the form I will refer to in each description below, unless I say differently.



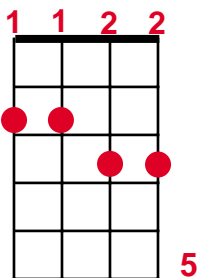
Just by lifting up your 4 finger and placing your 2 finger in this new position, we have changed a major chord into a 7th chord. Here I show a “D7” chord. Just think finger patterns.

Try this on your banjo now. Go back and forth between the 2 forms and you will see the relationship between the major and the 7th.



This pattern shows the “minor” chord form. Remember, this is derived from the first chord at the top of the column. Here I show a “D minor” chord. Try this on your banjo now.

Go back and forth between the 2 forms and you will see the relationship between the major and the minor.

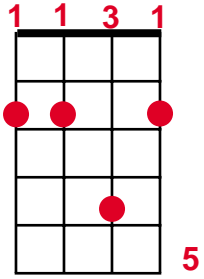


This pattern shows the “minor 7th” chord form. Remember, this is derived from the first chord at the top of the column. Here I show a “D minor 7” chord. Try this on your banjo now.

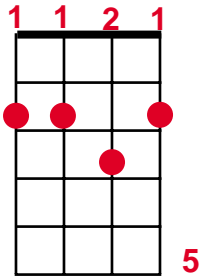
Go back and forth between the 2 forms and you will see the relationship between the major and the minor 7th. Now try going from the minor to the minor 7th. Try the 7th to the minor 7th. You should see that several notes don’t change, while others do.

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Related chord forms for the Tenor Banjo continued

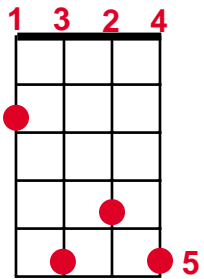


Here I show a "D6" chord. Just think finger patterns. Try this on your banjo now. Go back and forth between the 2 forms and you will see the relationship between the major and the 6th. You just lift your 4 finger and barre with your 1 finger.



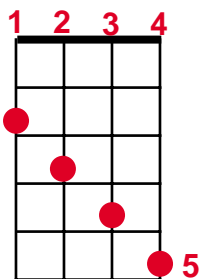
Here I show a "Dm6" chord. Try this on your banjo now. Go back and forth between the 2 forms and you will see the relationship between the major and the minor 6th. Try the minor and then the minor 6th. You just lift your 4 finger and barre with your 1 finger. What's the difference between the minor 7th and the minor 6th? Figure it out. There you go!

You are getting the idea of related chord forms.



Here is an alternate 7th form based on the same major form.

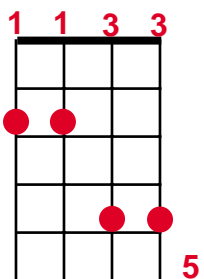
Try going from the major to this 7th form. See what fingers you have to move to get it? Try going back and forth from the major this form of the 7th.



Here is the augmented chord based on the major form.

See what fingers you have to move to get it?

You just have to place the 2 finger. What do you have to do to get back to the major form of this chord? Try it. See the relationship?



Here is the major 7th chord based on the major form.

See what fingers you have to move to get it?

You just have to lift the 4 finger and barre the 3 finger. What do you have to do to get back to the major form of this chord? Try it.

Work between all the forms and get to know the relationships from one to the others. Not too hard is it?