

# Easy-Peasy Chords

Mountain Dulcimer Workshop  
with  
**Carol Walker**

## Primary and Secondary Chords

It is an amazing thing to realize that probably 90% of every song you know can be played with the three *primary chords* (D, A, and G) and they will sound terrific.

By adding the three *secondary chords*, (e, b, and f#) you up that to about 99.9%!

The chart below shows these chords, along with suggested fingerings. Try making your own set of warmup exercises with combinations of these chords, and get *very* comfortable making smooth transitions from one chord to the next.

	Primary Chords -- Major			Secondary Chords -- minor		
D	0	1 <sup>m</sup>	0	1 <sup>m</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>m</sup>
A	0 <sup>t</sup>	0 <sup>p</sup>	1 <sup>r</sup>	1 <sup>r</sup>	1 <sup>r</sup>	2 <sup>r</sup>
D	2	1	3	3	0	4
	D (I chord)	A (V chord)	G (IV chord)	Em (ii chord)	Bm (vi chord)	F#m (iii chord)

## Power Chords

Moving up the fretboard, you'll have the following power chords available in DAD tuning:

Open	DAD	D power chord	000
1 <sup>st</sup> fret	EBE	E power chord	111
1+ fret	FCF	F power chord	1+1+1+
2 <sup>nd</sup> fret	F#C#F#	F# power chord	222
3 <sup>rd</sup> fret	GDG	G power chord	333
4 <sup>th</sup> fret	AEA	A power chord	444
5 <sup>th</sup> fret	BF#B	B power chord	555
6 <sup>th</sup> fret	CGC	C power chord	666
6+ fret	C#G#C#	C# power chord	6+6+6+
7 <sup>th</sup> fret	DAD	D power chord (one octave higher)	777

A power chord is missing the one note that makes it sound either major or minor -- they are simply neutral -- sometimes called "open" or "open 5<sup>th</sup>" chords. Thus, you can use a power chord as a substitute for *either* major or minor, and it will sound perfectly fine.

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# POWER BLUES

RETABBED AND EDITED FROM AN ONLINE (AND UNSIGNED) VERSION -- BY CAROL WALKER

5 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

D -1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1 | 1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

A -1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1 | 1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

D -1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1 | 1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

5 | 4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

9 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 5 5 5

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 5 5 5

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 5 5 5

13 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

-1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1 | 1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

-1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1 | 1-0-0-1-0-0 | 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

17 | 4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

4 3 3 4 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

21 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 0 1

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 0 1

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 4 ————— | 1 0 0 1 0 0 | 1 1 0 1

## Easy Peasy Chords in DAD Tuning

Key of D	fret	Key of C	fret
D Maj	0 or 7	C Maj	6
G Maj	3	F Maj *	1+
A Maj	4	G Maj	3
e min	1	d min	0 or 7
f# min	2	e min	1
b min	5	a min	4

Key of G	fret	Key of E	fret
G Maj	3	E Maj	1
C Maj	6	A Maj	4
D Maj	0 or 7	B Maj	5
a min	4	f# min	2
b min	5	g# min **	
e min	1	c# min	6+

Key of A	fret
A Maj	4
D Maj	0 or 7
E Maj	1
b min	5
c# min	6+
f# min	2

\*F chord -- if you don't have a 1+ fret, you can play 6 0 4 instead

\*\*g# min chord is not available as a power chord, but can be simulated by playing 5 6+ 5

*I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD (Key of D) -- with Power Chords*

D (0)  
I've been working on the railroad

G (3)                    D (0)  
All the live-long day.

I've been working on the railroad

E (1)                    A (4)  
Just to pass the time away.

D (0)  
Can't you hear the whistle blowing,

G (3)                    F# (2)  
Rise up so early in the morn;

G (3)                    D (0)  
Can't you hear the captain shouting,

A (4)                    D (0)  
"Dinah, blow your horn!"

Dinah, won't you blow,

E (1)  
Dinah, won't you blow,

A (4)                    D (0)  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Dinah, won't you blow,

E (1)  
Dinah, won't you blow,

A (4)                    D (0)  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

A (4)  
Someone's in the kitchen I know

D (0)                    G  
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

A (4)                    D (0)  
Strummin' on the old banjo!

Singin' fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

A (4)  
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o-o-o-o

D (0)    G (3)  
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

A (4)                    D (0)  
Strummin' on the old banjo.

*I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD (Key of G) -- with Power Chords*

G (3)  
I've been working on the railroad

C (6)                    G (3)  
All the live-long day.

I've been working on the railroad

A (4)                    D (0)  
Just to pass the time away.

G (3)  
Can't you hear the whistle blowing,

C (6)                    B(5)  
Rise up so early in the morn;

C (6)                    G (3)  
Can't you hear the captain shouting,

D (0)                    G (3)  
"Dinah, blow your horn!"

Dinah, won't you blow,

A (4)  
Dinah, won't you blow,

D (0)                    G (3)  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Dinah, won't you blow,

A (4)  
Dinah, won't you blow,

D (0)                    G (3)  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

D (0)  
Someone's in the kitchen I know

G (3)                    C (6)  
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

D (7 or 0)                    G (3)  
Strummin' on the old banjo!

Singin' fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

D (0)  
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o-o-o-o

G (3)    C (6)  
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

D (0)                    G (3)  
Strummin' on the old banjo.

*I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD (Key of A) -- with Power Chords*

A (4)

I've been working on the railroad

D (0 or 7)

A

All the live-long day.

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

E (1)

Someone's in the kitchen I know

I've been working on the railroad

B (5)

E (1)

Just to pass the time away.

A (4)

D (0)

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah

A (4)

Can't you hear the whistle blowing,

E (1)

A (4)

Strummin' on the old banjo!

D (0 or 7)

C# (6+)

Rise up so early in the morn;

D (7 or 0)

A (4)

Can't you hear the captain shouting,

Singin' fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

E (1)

A (4)

"Dinah, blow your horn!"

E (1)

Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o-o-o-o

Dinah, won't you blow,

A (4) D (0)

Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o

B (5)

Dinah, won't you blow,

E (1)

A (4)

Strummin' on the old banjo.

E (1)

A (4)

Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Dinah, won't you blow,

B (5)

Dinah, won't you blow,

E (1)

A (4)

Dinah, won't you blow your horn?