What are barre chords?

They are just chords we use our index finger to fret a few string, thus transposing the key of the chord played.

For e.g. Bm = 224432

You cannot possibly play all the 6 strings with 1 finger pressing each string. Cause you have only 5 finger. So Instead we use the index finger to press the whole 6 string on the 2nd fret. Then the other finger on each respective strings and fret. This is a barre chord.

There are basically 5 different types of barre chords, E-type, A-type, G-type, C-type and D-type. It's call that way because it is derive from the normal open chords. Some people call this the C-A-G-E-D system chords.

How to effectively use barre chords?

E Shape

Barre at Fret Number

Chord

Numeric Representation

0

E

0 2 2 1 0 0

1

F

1 3 3 2 1 1

2

F# or Gb

2 4 4 3 2 2

3

G

3 5 5 4 3 3

4

G# or Ab

4 6 6 5 4 4

5

A

5 7 7 6 5 5

6

A# or Bb

6 8 8 7 6 6

7

B

7 9 9 8 7 7

8

C

8 10 10 9 8 8

9

C# or Db

9 11 11 10 9 9

10

D

10 12 12 11 10 10

11

D# or Eb

11 13 13 12 11 11

12

E

12 14 14 13 12 12

Notice that the chord

E 0 2 2 1 0 0

Em 0 2 2 0 0 0

E7 0 2 0 1 0 0 / 0 2 0 1 3 0

Em7 0 2 0 0 0 0 / 0 2 2 0 3 0

So it means that the other chords are the same as the E barre chords shown above. Just keep shifting it up the fret, and you will get the rest of the chords.

For eg….

Fm7 1 3 1 1 1 1 / 1 3 3 1 4 1

G#m 4 6 6 4 4 4

A7 5 7 5 6 5 5 / 5 7 5 6 8 5

A Shape

Barre at Fret Number

Chord

Numeric Representation

0

A

0 0 2 2 2 0

1

A# or Bb

1 1 3 3 3 1

2

B

2 2 4 4 4 2

3

C

3 3 5 5 5 3

4

C# or Db

4 4 6 6 6 4

5

D

5 5 7 7 7 5

6

D# or Eb

6 6 8 8 8 6

7

E

7 7 9 9 9 7

8

F

8 8 10 10 10 8

9

F# or Gb

9 9 11 11 11 9

10

G

10 10 12 12 12 10

11

G# or Ab

11 11 13 13 13 11

12

A

12 12 14 14 14 12

Notice that the chord

A 0 0 2 2 2 0

Am 0 0 2 2 1 0

Am7 0 0 2 0 1 0 / 0 0 2 0 1 3

A7 0 0 2 0 2 0

So for this case, it is the same as the previous example. Just shift the barre down the fret to get all the different chords.

For eg…

Bm 2 2 4 4 3 2

C#m7 4 4 6 4 5 4 / 4 4 6 4 5 7

D7 5 5 7 5 7 5

Barre chords types that are used less often

G Shape

Barre at Fret Number

Chord

Numeric Representation

0

G

3 2 0 0 0 3

1

G# or Ab

4 3 1 1 1 4

2

A

5 4 2 2 2 5

3

A# or Bb

6 5 3 3 3 6

4

B

7 6 4 4 4 7

5

C

8 7 5 5 5 8

6

C# or Db

9 8 6 6 6 9

7

D

10 9 7 7 7 10

8

D# or Eb

11 10 8 8 8 11

9

E

12 11 9 9 9 12

10

F

13 12 10 10 10 13

11

F# or Gb

14 13 11 11 11 14

12

G

15 14 12 12 12 15

Sometime it's just too difficult and not necessary to barre the whole 6 string in the case of a C-type and a D-type barre chord. So let's say we playing a D# = 365343 using the C-type barre chord, so we ignore the last bass string for it is not needed to form that chord anyway. Instead we play a X65343 using your index finger to just barre the 1st 3 string on the 3rd fret.

It's same in the case of a D-type barre chord, a F = X X 3 5 6 5. In this case, you don't even need to barre anything, just move along the fretboard with four string pressed, mute the fifth and sixth string.

I am sure you can find the all the C-type and D-type barre chords yourself.

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