

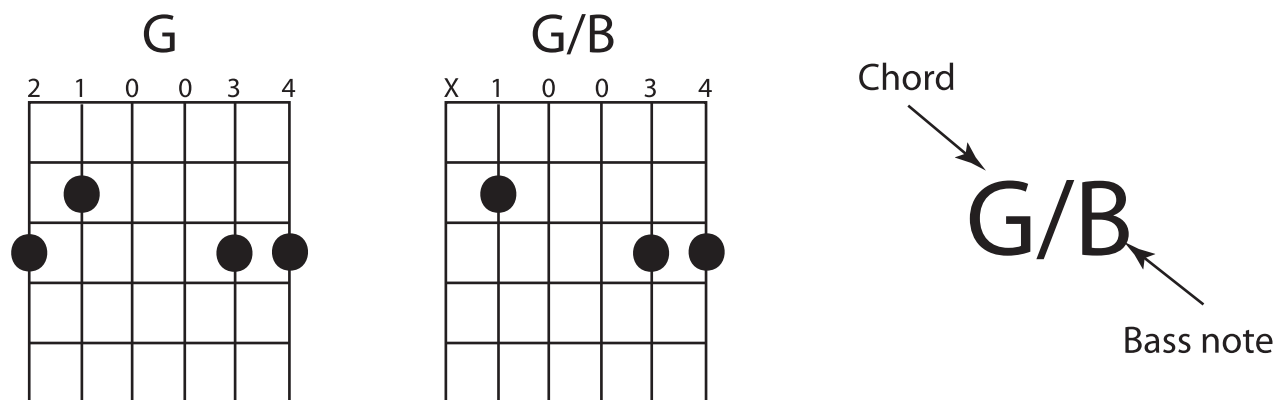
Slash Chords

In order to understand slash chords we first need to get a little vocabulary out of the way. We'll need to be able to differentiate between the root of a chord and the bass note.

Root - The root note is the note the chord is built from. For example, the root of the chord D minor is the note D. The root of the chord Ebmaj7#11 is the note Eb.

Bass - This is the lowest note heard. Whatever the lowest pitch you are playing in a chord is the bass note.

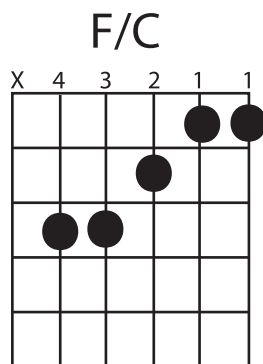
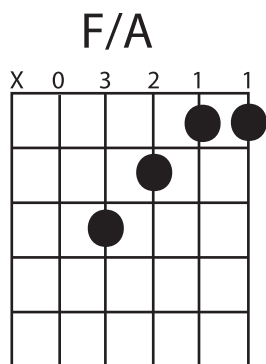
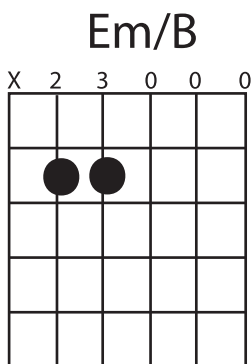
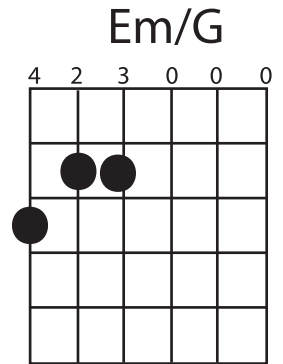
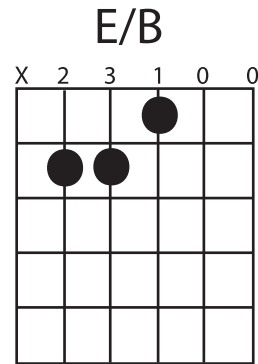
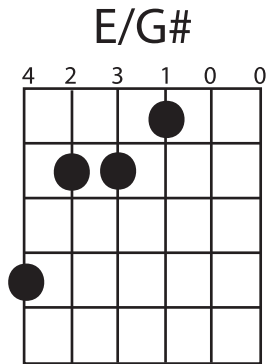
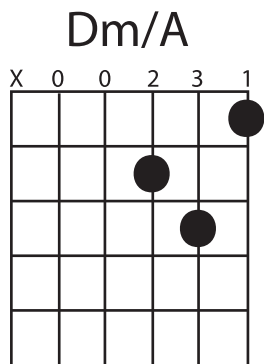
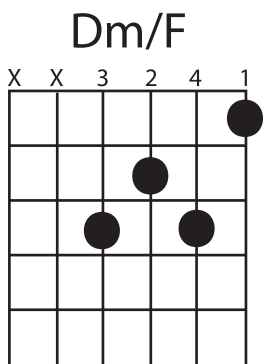
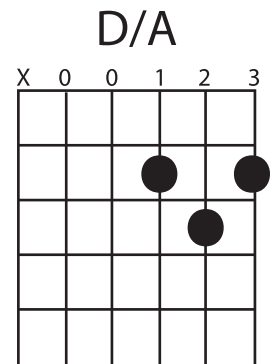
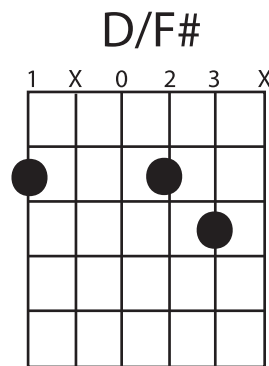
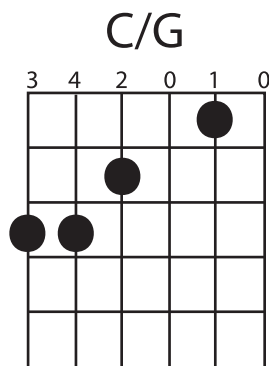
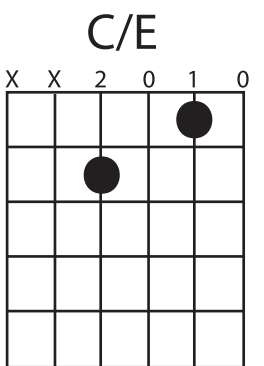
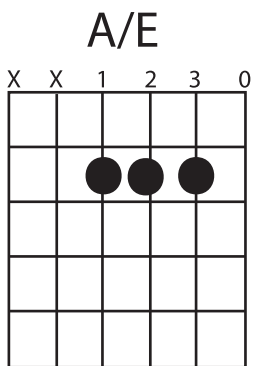
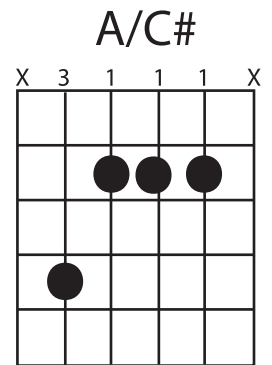
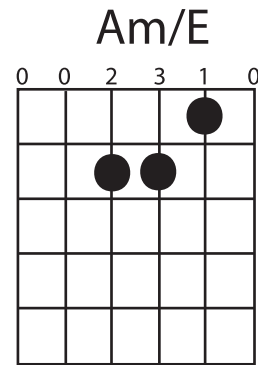
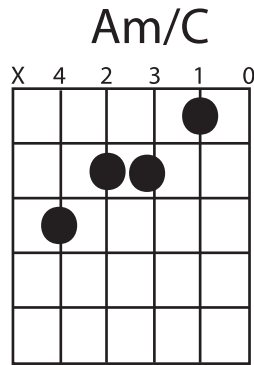
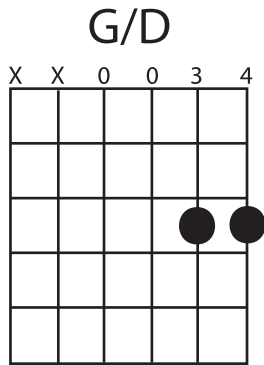
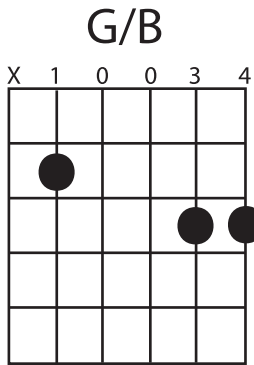
Whenever you have a chord whose bass note is a note other than the root, you have a slash chord. In the open G chord below (Ex. 1) the root (G) is in the bass. However, if we make the bass note B, then we've got ourselves a slash chord! The chord name becomes G/B (pronounced G over B).



Chords which have the root in the bass are said to be in root position. Chords with the 3rd in the bass are in 1st inversion, and chords with the 5th in the bass are in 2nd inversion. The placement of the notes above the bass does not effect the inversion quality.

Open Chords in 1st & 2nd Inversion

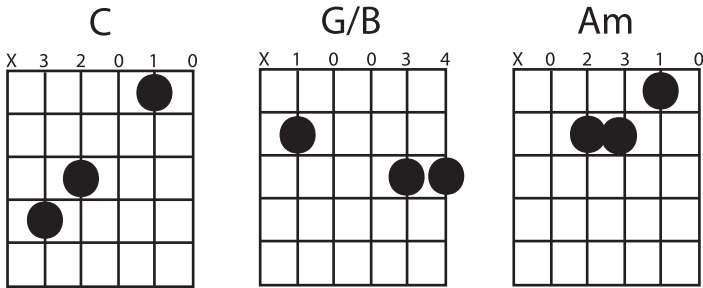
Here are a variety of commonly used slash chords in open position. Each of these chords has either the 3rd or 5th in the bass (as opposed to the root).



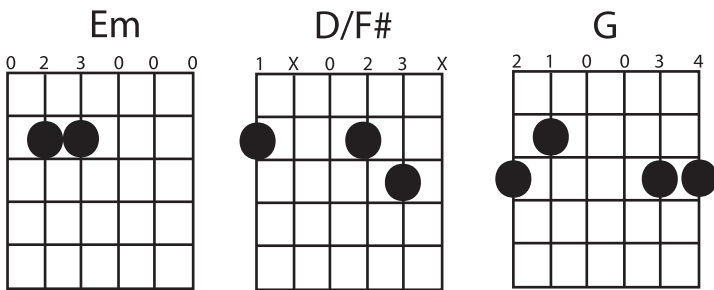
Commonly Used Open Chord Progressions

Below are some commonly used progressions that include slash chords.

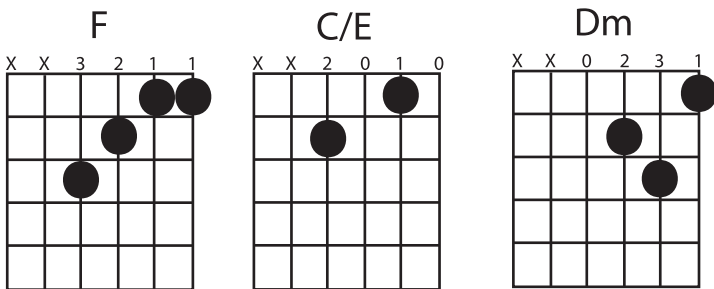
Ex. 1



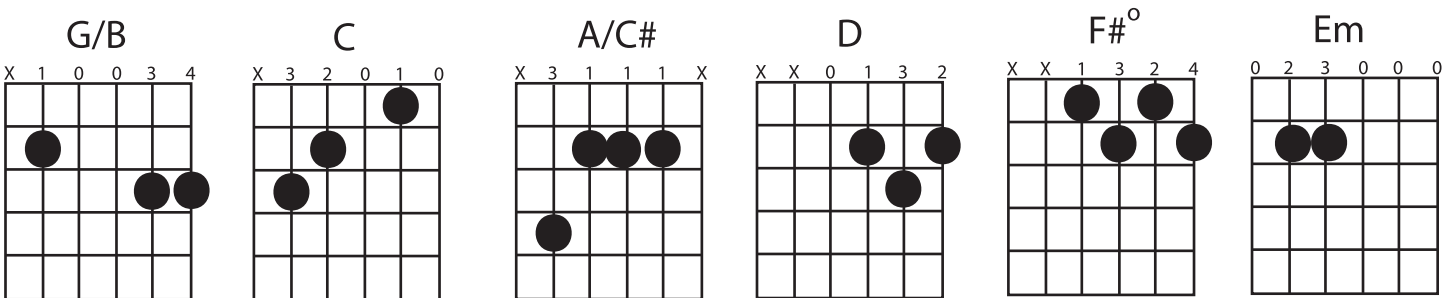
Ex. 2



Ex. 3



Ex. 4

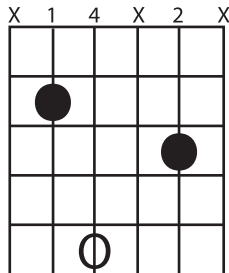
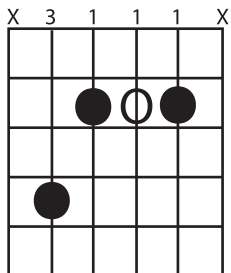


Movable Slash Chords

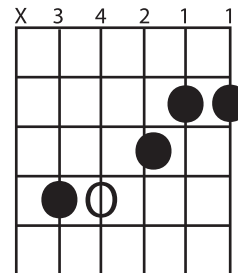
Now that we've built up our slash chord vocabulary using open chords it's time to check out some moveable shapes. There are many possibilities but these are very common. Eventually you should explore other options.

5th String Bass

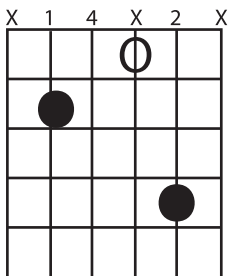
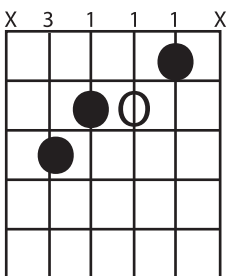
1st Inversion, Major



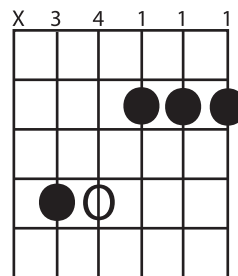
2nd Inversion, Major



1st Inversion, Minor

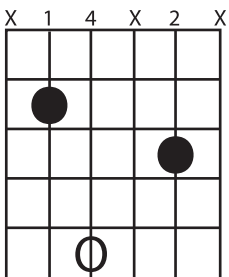
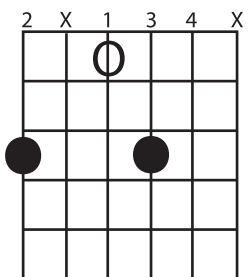


2nd Inversion, Minor

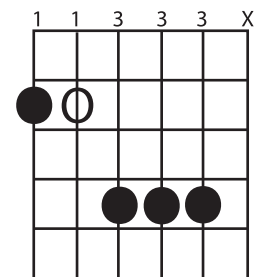


6th String Bass

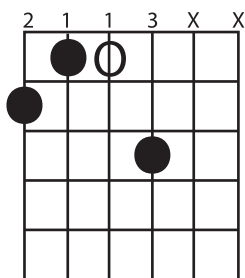
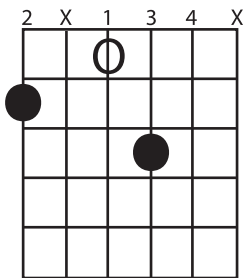
1st Inversion, Major



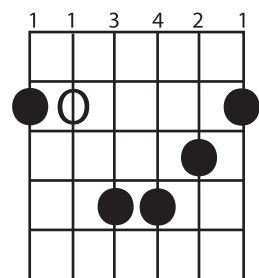
2nd Inversion, Major



1st Inversion, Minor



2nd Inversion, Minor



Chord Progressions Using Movable Slash Chords

Below are some commonly used progressions that include slash chords. Example 1 shows how slash chords can spice up an otherwise repetitive F to G progression.

Ex. 1

The image displays eight guitar chord diagrams arranged in two rows of four. Each diagram shows a six-string guitar fretboard with fingerings and barre positions indicated.

- F:** Fingering: 1 3 4 2 1 1. Notes: F2, C3, F3, A3, C4, F4.
- G:** Barre III. Fingering: 1 3 4 2 1 1. Notes: G2, C3, G3, B3, D4, G4.
- F/A:** Barre V. Fingering: 2 X 1 3 4 X. Notes: F2, A3, C4, F4.
- G/B:** Barre VII. Fingering: 2 X 1 3 4 X. Notes: G2, B3, D4, G4.
- F/C:** Barre VIII. Fingering: 1 1 3 3 3 X. Notes: F2, C3, F3, C4, F4.
- G/D:** Barre X. Fingering: 1 1 3 3 3 X. Notes: G2, D3, G3, B3, D4.
- G7:** Barre X. Fingering: 1 1 3 3 3 4. Notes: G2, B3, D4, G4, B4.
- C:** Barre VIII. Fingering: 1 3 4 2 1 1. Notes: C2, E3, G3, C4, E4, G4.