

LESSON 5 – CHANGING BETWEEN CHORDS SMOOTHLY

Title: Luc Taylor Music School – Lesson 5

Subtitle: Connecting Your Chords in Time

Overview

In this lesson you will:

- Learn to move between chords without breaking the rhythm
 - Use anchor fingers to make switches easier
 - Work with slow, steady loops to build muscle memory
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Anchor Fingers

An anchor finger is a finger that:

- Stays on the same string and fret between two chords, or
- Slides only a small distance and helps guide the hand.

Look at your chords and see:

- Which fingers stay on the same string?
 - Which fingers can stay close to the strings through the change?
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Common Beginner Chord Pairs

- E ↔ A
 - A ↔ D
 - Em ↔ G
 - Am ↔ C (when ready)
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4-Beat Chord Change Exercise

1. Pick a pair: E and A.
 2. Strum E: 1–2–3–4.
 3. Switch to A: 1–2–3–4.
 4. Repeat: E → A → E → A.
 5. Go slowly enough that you can stay relaxed.
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Slow-Motion Finger Practice

1. Turn off the strumming for a minute.
 2. Build chord 1 very slowly, finger by finger.
 3. Now slowly move to chord 2, keeping fingers close to the strings.
 4. Say the chord names out loud as you change: "E... A... E... A..."
 5. Repeat several times without worrying about speed.
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Adding Rhythm Back

1. Bring back a simple all-down strum (Pattern 1).
 2. Keep your strumming hand moving even if your fretting hand is late.
 3. If you miss the change, that's okay – keep the arm going.
 4. The goal is to train your body to keep time, not to be perfect right away.
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Practice Goals for Lesson 5

- Change between at least two chord pairs in time at a slow tempo.
- Keep your strumming hand moving even if your fretting hand lags.
- Start feeling less "stop and start" and more continuous motion.