

## Dorian chords - first steps

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Dorian chords are typically minor chords that are made up of notes from the Dorian mode. The D-Dorian mode is made up of the white keys on the piano, also known as the natural notes. The parent major scale to D-Dorian is C major. Beginning on D, this mode is made up of: D-E-F-G-A-B-C pitches. If you begin with the D note and skip every other note in this sequence you will discover the various types of chords in this mode. Here are those chords:

D-F-A = Dm  
D-F-A-C = Dm7  
D-F-A-C-E = Dm9  
D-F-A-C-E-G = Dm11  
D-F-A-C-E-G-B = Dm13

Some other minor chords don't follow the "skip every other note" rule.

D-F-A-E = Dm(add9)  
D-F-A-B = Dm6  
D-F-A-B-E = Dm6/9  
D-F-A-B-C = Dm6/7

When chords have 4 or more different pitches it is common to leave out one or more notes. Here are some examples of minor chords with omitted notes (those in parenthesis).

D-F-A = Dm	D-F-(A)-E = Dm(add9)
(D)-F-(A)-C = Dm7	D-F-(A)-B = Dm6
(D)-F-(A)-C-E = Dm9	(D)-F-(A)-B-E = Dm6/9
(D)-F-(A)-C-(E)-G = Dm11	(D)-F-(A)-B-C = Dm6/7
(D)-F-(A)-C-(E)-(G)-B = Dm13	

It is also possible to omit the root note from a chord (the D note in these chords) if there is a bass player sounding it.

The notes in these chords are not normally played in this order. It is usually impossible or very difficult to play them this way and there are better sounding "voicings" (the order you play the notes in a chord from the lowest pitch to the highest). There are voicings that avoid dissonance and there are others that create it. Here is a short list of chords that are common examples of the chords above using the "E" and "A" forms from the C-A-G-E-D system. There are many other forms possible and if you want to dig deeper into this topic you'll find my book *Guitar Theory Illustrated* very helpful. If you are just looking for lots of versions of these chords, then explore the *Ultimate Guitar Chord Big Book*. Both of these books are available as digital files and as hard copy from [GuitarOutside.com](http://GuitarOutside.com).

## Based on the "A" form.

Some aren't easy, but there are always options that are less difficult to play. To make some of these easier, leave out the solid black dot note. Even though this is the chord root, it is something that can be tossed out.

These moveable forms can be aligned at any place on the fingerboard. To use these to play different types of D minor chords, make sure the solid dot is at the 5th fret on string 5.

<p>minor triad</p>	<p>minor 7</p>	<p>minor 7</p>	<p>Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.</p>	<p>minor 9</p>	<p>minor 11</p>
<p>minor 13</p>	<p>minor add9</p>	<p>minor 6</p>	<p>Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.</p>	<p>minor 6/9</p>	<p>minor 6/7</p>

## Based on the "E" form.

Some aren't easy, but there are always options that are less difficult to play. To make some of these easier, leave out the solid black dot note. Even though this is the chord root, it is something that can be tossed out. "T" indicates a note played with the thumb.

These moveable forms can be aligned at any place on the fingerboard. To use these to play different types of D minor chords, make sure the solid dot (or the assumed root) is at the 10th fret on string 6.

<p>minor triad</p>	<p>minor triad</p> <p>X X</p>	<p>minor 7</p>	<p>minor 7</p> <p>X X X</p>	<p>minor 9</p>
<p>minor 9</p> <p>X</p>	<p>minor 11</p> <p>X</p>	<p>minor 13</p> <p>X</p>	<p>minor add9</p> <p>X</p>	<p>minor 6</p> <p>X X</p>
<p>Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.</p>	<p>minor 6</p> <p>X X</p>	<p>Don't play this note. It is where the D note would be located if using this chord form.</p>	<p>minor 6/9</p> <p>X</p>	<p>minor 6/9</p> <p>X X</p>
<p>minor 6/7</p> <p>X X</p>	<p>minor 6/7</p>			