

# Octave Mandolin Chord Charts for Open Position

by Mickey Cochran



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## Octave Mandolin Chord Studies

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The scale length of the octave mandolin does not allow a standard approach to playing chords as originally laid down by the mandolin before it. Many of the chord positions (inversions) of a standard mandolin are not humanly possible to perform on an octave mandolin. Because of this, from a mandolin player's point of view, it's important to keep your approach focused on the octave mandolin neck as an entity unto itself as opposed of thinking of the octave as a standard mandolin.

From this vantage point, this book concentrates on the chord positions that best fit an octave mandolin. For instance, our open-position chord charts are inversions that are the most efficient to play on an octave mandolin with the least amount of effort and minimal stretch possible. All of these open-position chord inversions utilize all four choruses of strings maximizing the spectrum range (chord voicing) without omitting integral notes that make up a full chord.

All keys are represented by the following roman numeral diagrams representative of chord progression intervals:

**I      IV      V      V7      VI<sub>m</sub>**

Most all chord progressions consist of the above intervals...in other words, within most any given chord progression, you'll find these intervals to be the most common.

I represents the tonic chord (the chord that is the key of the progression)

IV represents the sub-dominant (fourth note of the scale)

V represents the dominant (fifth note of the scale)

V7 represents the dominant 7th (fifth note of the scale with 7th tone harmonized)

VI<sub>m</sub> represents the 6th minor chord (sixth note of the scale with flatted third)



**KEY OF C**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G7</b>	<b>Am</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger

**KEY OF G**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>G</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D7</b>	<b>Em</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger



### KEY OF D

### OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS

<b>D</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A7</b>	<b>Bm</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VIIm</b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger

### KEY OF A

### OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS

<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E7</b>	<b>F#m</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VIIm</b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger



**KEY OF E** **OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B7</b>	<b>C#m</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger

**KEY OF B** **OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F#</b>	<b>F#7</b>	<b>G#m</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger



**KEY OF Gb**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VIIm</b>
① =First Finger    ② =Second Finger    ③ =Third Finger    ④ =Fourth Finger				

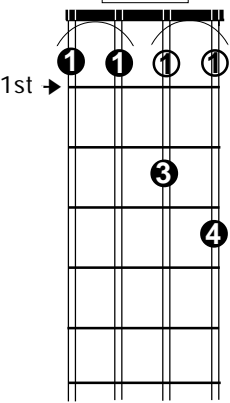
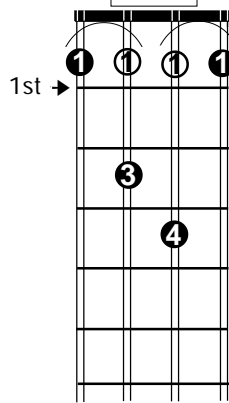
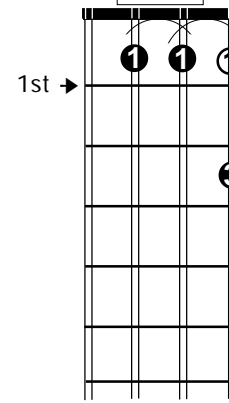
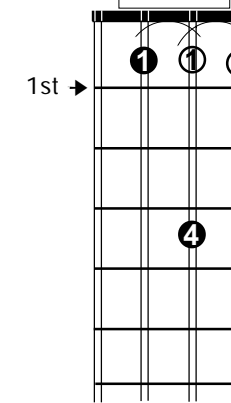
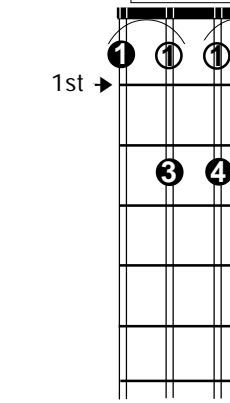
**KEY OF Db**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VIIm</b>
① =First Finger    ② =Second Finger    ③ =Third Finger    ④ =Fourth Finger				

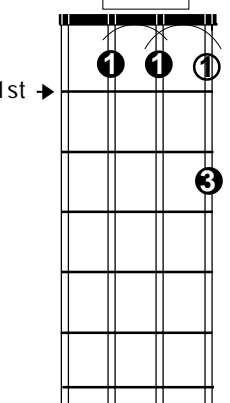
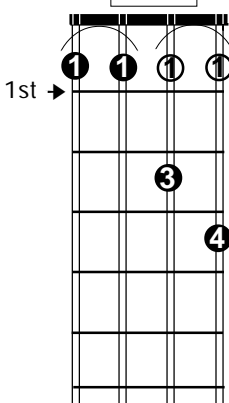
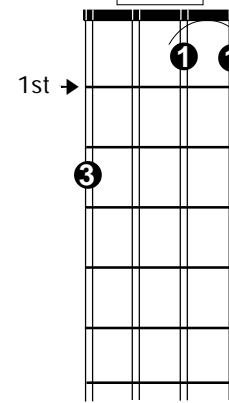
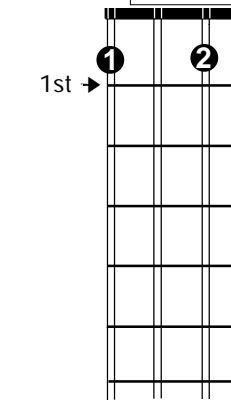
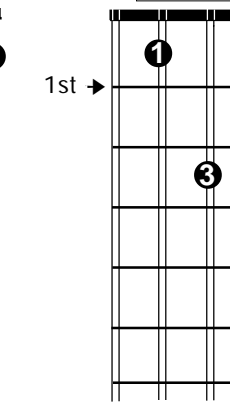


**KEY OF Ab OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>Ab</b>	<b>Db</b>	<b>Eb</b>	<b>Eb7</b>	<b>Fm</b>
				
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI m</b>

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**KEY OF Eb OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>Eb</b>	<b>Ab</b>	<b>Bb</b>	<b>Bb7</b>	<b>Cm</b>
				
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI m</b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger



**KEY OF Bb**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>Bb</b>	<b>Eb</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>F7</b>	<b>Gm</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger

**KEY OF F**

**OPEN-POSITION OCTAVE MANDOLIN CHORD POSITIONS**

<b>F</b>	<b>Bb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C7</b>	<b>Dm</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>VI<sub>m</sub></b>

① = First Finger    ② = Second Finger    ③ = Third Finger    ④ = Fourth Finger