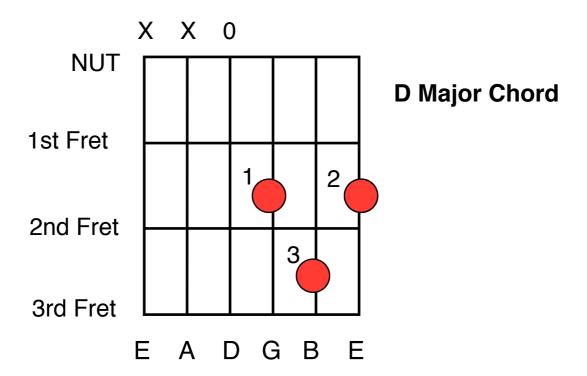
Reading Chord Diagrams

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The picture above is called a chord diagram or chord box. It represents the fingerboard of the guitar

The 6 vertical lines are the stings the one on the left being the thick E string, the string names are written underneath.

The top horizontal line represents the nut. This is the plastic thing at the top of the neck that the strings fit in to. The other 3 horizontal lines are frets 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The red dots are where you should place your fretting hand fingers. Number 1 is the index finger, number 2 is the middle finger and number 3 is the ring finger.[Finger number 4 is the little finger, but it is not required for this chord] The X at the top mean these strings are not played, the 0 means the string should be played open [not fretted].

Place the fingers as close to the frets as you can, but not on them. Make sure you use the tips of your fingers and aim for clarity with the chord.