

# Swift Guitar Lessons

## Major Chord Inversions Explained



Hello friends,

Welcome back to Swiftlessons for another music theory/rhythm guitar tutorial. In today's session we will discuss the concept of chord inversions, and how you can use them to diversify your rhythm parts, avoid strenuous barre chords, and even guide your lead playing. Let's get started

### Section #1 - What is a Chord Inversion

Basic major triads are created by harmonizing the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of a given major scale. When the intervals are played in this order, we call it "root position." A chord inversion occurs when either the 3rd or 5th intervals are placed in the bass position.

	<b>G</b>	<b>G/B</b>	<b>G/D</b>
	xx x	x x	x x
	1	2	3
E			
B			
G			
D			
A			
E			
T	3	3	3
A	4	4	4
B	5	5	5

### Section #2 - 4th String Major Inversions - Key of G

The tab and diagrams below demonstrate how to play the root position, 1st inversion, and 2nd inversion forms of the G major harmony.

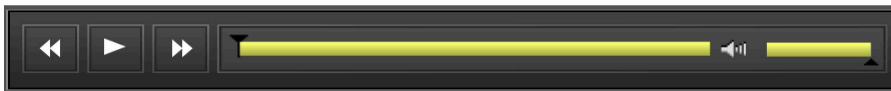
	<b>Root Position</b>	<b>1st Inversion</b>	<b>2nd Inversion</b>
	<b>G</b>	<b>G/B</b>	<b>G/D</b>
	xx x	xx x	xx x
	1	2	3
E			
B			
G			
D			
A			
E			
T	3	8	12
A	4	7	12
B	5	9	12

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## Major Chord Inversions Explained (PG.2)

### Section #3 - Rhythm Application

On the guitar, chord inversions are essentially “chord partials,” meaning they are reduced versions of more complex and therefore physically taxing shapes. While each of the inversions you have learned can be played as full root position barre chords, many guitarists opt for inversions to achieve a more eclectic sound, and easier playability. In this example, we look at how our 2nd and 3rd inversion major chord shapes can be applied to a 1.5.4 progression with a bit of Hendrix flare:



7

G/B

D/F#

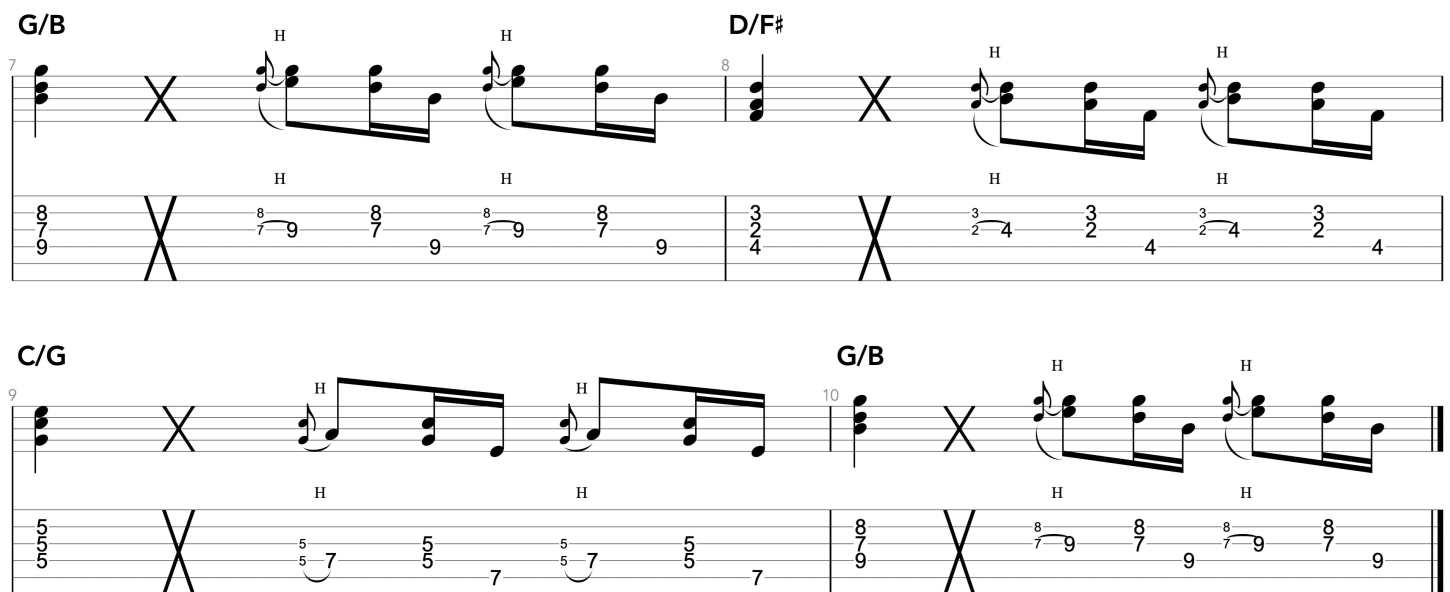
8

9

10

C/G

G/B



Detailed description of the musical notation: The image shows two systems of musical notation for a 1.5.4 progression. The first system (measures 7-8) features G/B and D/F# chords. Measure 7 has a G/B chord with an 'X' over the 6th string, followed by two measures of a 1.5.4 rhythm (quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth) with a harmonic 'H' on the 8th fret. Measure 8 has a D/F# chord with an 'X' over the 6th string, followed by two measures of a 1.5.4 rhythm with a harmonic 'H' on the 8th fret. The second system (measures 9-10) features C/G and G/B chords. Measure 9 has a C/G chord with an 'X' over the 6th string, followed by two measures of a 1.5.4 rhythm with a harmonic 'H' on the 5th fret. Measure 10 has a G/B chord with an 'X' over the 6th string, followed by two measures of a 1.5.4 rhythm with a harmonic 'H' on the 8th fret. Fret numbers are indicated below the notes, and rhythmic markings like '3 2 4' and '3 2 4' are present.

## Suggested Lessons

- How to Use the CAGED System to Play EVERY Major Chord
- The Amazing CAGED System - 1.4.5 Chords Across the Fretboard!