



Power Intervals

By Marc a.k.a Admin

Power chords are the foundation of metal and rock music. **(We interrupt this broadcast...Listen kid's they are not chords they are intervals if anything. Look a chord is 3 or more notes played together and these so called power chords are 2 notes played together and therefore are not chords...and now we return you to your regularly scheduled program)**. They sound powerful and yet they are simple to play. Power chords are really "5" chords. A "5" chord is composed of the root note and the 5th note and that is it.

When power chords are written in sheet music or tab they are shown as E5, A5, and B5, but when talking to fellow guitarists you can just call it a power chord rather than a 5th chord.

There are different types of power chords; a two string power chord that is often used in heavy metal and the three string power chord used in rock and other types of music. As you play these concentrate more on the accuracy of the chord rather than the speed. Speed will come in time.

Two String Power Chord

The simplest power chords contain only two notes. They are based on the E, A, and D. I've included an image below of some examples. The bass note is the root note, the other note you're playing with your ring finger is the 5th note.

In Example 1 Below, play the power chords in order. I've only put in the **whole note** power chords. E, F, G, A on the E String and A, B, C, D on the A string.



Three String Power Chord

The three string power chord is an extension of the two string power chord. We are hitting the **octave** of the root note. It really adds a thicker more powerful sound to the chord. See the example below.

Just as in example 1, but we are playing the exercise with **three note** power chords.



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Example 2: Three String Power Chords

The diagram illustrates the fretboard positions for three-string power chords. The top staff shows the chord sequence: 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15. The bottom staff shows the corresponding fretboard diagrams for each chord, with dots indicating the string and fret positions.



Power Chord Exercises

In the example below I've created a few exercises to get you more comfortable with power chords. As you play these concentrate more on the accuracy of the chord rather than the speed. Speed will come in time. Play the chords carefully and make sure you are not creating any fret buzz.

Example 3 is a simple pattern where you cross strings; first playing a power chord on the E string and then moving over to the A string and then back. Example 3 is using **two note** power chords.

Example 3: Two String Power Chord Cross String

In Example 4 we are using the same simple patterns as example 3 but with the **3 note** power chords.



Example 4 Three String Powerchord String Cross

Example 5 again uses the pattern used in Example 1 and 2 but we are mixing up the two string and three string power chords. In this example you should really be able to hear the difference between the two types and how having that extra octave really makes a difference in the chord.

Example 5 Power Chord Mixer

For extra practice work, create your own patterns and work on being able to play each chord accurately without buzzing. Once you're able to do this then you can work on playing faster. I highly recommend playing with a metronome. If you do; be sure to gradually increase your speed.



Practice Songs

I've included a couple of practice songs. Playing with power chords there is a huge collection of songs that use only these chords.

Milk owed to Billy (intro)

Anthrax off Attack of the killer B's

Milk Owed to Bill (Intro)

Wild Thing

Troggs Greatest hits

Wild Thing