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Bm note on bass guitar

Page 2 Page 3Page 4Page 5Page 6Page 7 Have you ever gone to learn a song, looked at the chords, seen a b minor, then with a shriek and look of horror ran off and never looked at the song again? Ok, that might be an exaggeration, but a lot of guitarists fear the B minor on guitar. Yes, it is a scary chord at first and a little difficult to play (but there are easier ways, as you'll see below), but the b minor chord is so useful and is featured in so many classic songs. There are a lot of songs that use the B minor chord, and these are a bunch of classics that use it - though there are lots more: The Commodores/Faith No More - Easy The Bee Gees - I Started a Joke The Cure - Boys Don't Cry Julie Andrews - Feed the Birds (from Mary Poppins) Cliff Richard - Silhouettes (yuck, hate this guy) David Bowie - Ziggy Stardust (now I loved this guy) The Beatles - A Hard Day's Night Brian Adams - Summer of '69 Coldplay - The Scientist The Eagles - Hotel California Below are 8 different but very useful ways to play this chord and they are ordered from hardest to easiest (from a general point of view). How To Play The B minor Chord on Guitar You'll find they all have a slightly different flavour. This is due to the number of strings played in each version, their location on the fretboard, and other factors. Shape 1 - (Must Know) This is the most common shape and the one you will want to build up to. This version is based off the A minor shape. This chord is simply an A minor chord with a barre placed in front of it and moved up two frets. This is the starting point AND probably the one I use the most. Shape 2 - (Essential for intermediate guitarists) This version can be easier or harder than shape 1. It really depends on your finger strength, your four finger independence and the action of your guitar. This one is based off the E minor chord shape and is played at the 7th fret. You won't play this one with many open chords, so it is slightly less useful than shape 1 but is still a must-know (eventually) shape. If you play this version at the first fret, it becomes an F minor, which is a very useful chord in its own right. Shape 3 This is shape 2 but simplified a fraction. It's still tough, but instead of barring across all 6 strings with the index finger, we are just barring across the G, B and high E strings. You'll still need some good finger independence between the index and ring and pinkie fingers. This makes a great substitute for shape 2 when you still need the B note on the 7th fret high E string (e.g. for picking songs), but you struggle to barre across all six strings. Shape 4 This is very similar to shape 3 but easier. Instead of using the ring and pinkie fingers, we have simplified it to use just the ring finger along with the index finger playing the mini barre. It's still tricky, so make sure the action of your guitar is at the optimal height, and keep practicing it in small doses. Just like shape 2 and 3, when played at the first fret, it is an F minor, which is a handy chord to know. Shape 5 - (Recommended for beginners) Shape 5 is based off shape 1 but simplified. Notice how for this version, you don't have to barre across string 5 through string 1. In fact, you don't have to play the barre at all. Each finger just plays 1 note. This version still sounds great and is super useful, so I recommend all beginners try to master this version. It will come in handy and is a nice way to build up to the tougher shape 1. Shape 6 (super useful) Shape 6 has to be one of the most useful. It is based off the A minor shape just like shape 1 and shape 5, but no barre is needed at all. Instead, we are playing the top four strings with our four fingers. It isn't easy but still sounds cool, and just like shape 5, which it is similar to it's also very useful. Shape 7 Shape 7 is very similar to shape 6 but a little easier. We only use three fingers of our fretting hand, and instead of playing the D string at the 4th fret with the pinkie, we play it as an open string. For some, this makes the shape much easier. For others, it just doesn't sound as good as the above shape 6. This is probably due to that fact that this is a chord inversion. If you don't know, a chord inversion is where the root note is no longer the bass note. For example, for any B minor chord, your bass note would nearly always be a B note, just like the other above shapes. But for this shape, the bass note is a D note. I love chord inversions, but they tend to sound better when picked rather than strummed, so this shape might not be as useful as the others, particularly if you are a big strummer guitarist. Shape 8 (optional extra) Just like shape 7, shape 8 is chord inversion, although a better sounding one to me. What's this? You might have noticed we are playing shape 8 right up the fretboard, hence why it is optional. This shape is a nice jangly higher-up shape, which will suit some picking or some electric noodling with a bit of delay. It will also sound cool with some Johnny Marr or The Cure type jangly strumming, particularly if you have another guitarist playing the lower version of the chord. Either way, this is an optional extra and something a bit different to add to your repertoire of playing. This one sounds very cool, especially when jamming with others. There are of course plenty more ways of playing a B minor chord, but these are the most useful. The thing is, those songs on the above list aren't all that hard to play as long you can play one of the versions of B minor, some open chords and change between them. A while back, when I first started teaching, I had a student who really didn't want to play a B minor chord. Any time a song would come up with this chord in it, she would say 'no' to herself and learn something else instead. There seemed to be a lot of songs she liked that had the B minor in it too. I then decided she needed a push and taught her the above ways to play B minor. I made sure she practiced these in the lessons and at home, and in a few weeks, she was playing a them confidently and was no longer afraid of the B minor like it was the Freddie Krueger of chords. She in fact realised it was more like the BFG - kinda scary, but not really. Why is the B minor chord so important? Mainly because B minor features in the key of G Major and the key of D Major, which are two of the most common keys on guitar. Therefore, you are bound to come across it sooner or later. Yes, you can use a capo for certain songs to avoid a B minor. For instance, if you are trying to play a song such as 'I Started a Joke,' you wouldn't need a capo if you could play a G, Bm, C, D. If you couldn't play the Bm, you could put a capo on at fret 7 and play the chords of C, Em, F, G. This would then transpose those chord shapes into the correct key to play the song. That's all well and nice, but a capo on at the 7th fret makes the guitar sound a bit thin and weedy. Sometimes this works and is fine, but for some songs, it sounds bad. This is especially the case when you don't have other instruments around you to 'fill out' the bass. Sometimes you'll also want or need a lower note than is available with a capo. For example, if the capo is on fret 7, the lowest note now available to you is the 7th fret of the low E string. If a song had a section that needed a low G note on the 6th string for a riff or melody of some sort, this would be impossible to play. As I'm sure you can see, there are multiple reasons to expand your chord vocabulary and learn more chords. If you have the basic C, A, G, E, D chords down, then start moving forward and learn the awesome B minor chord as well as all 32 essential chords. If you haven't yet got the above chords to a decent standard, don't worry too much about the B minor - come back to it after you have learnt some simple songs and had some fun on the guitar. For everyone else, learn the B minor. It's a lovely sounding chord, and one of my favourite chord changes is from G to B minor. This sounds beautiful and stands out when I hear it on the radio. So often the G chord goes to a D, C or Em, so hearing that unique but beautiful change to the B minor is music to my ears. So take the way that is easiest for you as long as you like the sound of it, and learn one of the above songs to start with. So, now you now how to play a B minor on guitar, if you are new, try them all, stick with one and get learning some songs that use this great chord. One of the advantages of learning tricky chords is that when you go back to your bog-standard open chords, they will seem easier than before. This is just another great reason to always push your guitar playing to the next level. (Visited 51,249 times, 114 visit today) If you struggle to make up basslines in jam sessions, band practice, or when making up your own parts for a session, then you'll want to check this video lesson out. Things start off very simply by using roots, then fifths, then octaves (intervals), over a chord progression Chord ProgressionThis is the chord progression for this lesson:It is in the key of B Natural Minor.This is the scale in one octave starting from the 7th fret of the E string.All the lines from the video come from these notes (in more positions than just the above diagram). The building blocks of basslines are triads, arpeggios, and scales. Here are a couple of really handy patterns you can use:Interval PatternsOctavesModesYou can use modes over each individual chord:Check out more on modes here.Pentatonic ScalesMajor and Minor pentatonic scales sound amazing in basslines, fills, and solos. There's a lesson on pentatonic scales here. Be sure to download my free ebook which has all the pentatonic shapes in it as well as lots of other useful stuff.GrooveDon't forget that groove, timing, and feel are (probably) the most important aspects to focus on for a bass player. Work on your timing with these exercises and check out loads of other tips and lessons here. Articulations also play an important part in bringing your basslines to life.As you can see, a few key elements must come together for you to be able to make up good basslines comfortably. Keep working hard on these things. None of them is tricky on their own. As you learn more and listen more, your ear will improve along with your experience and you'll be creating groovy, catchy basslines in no time! Learn why you should know this frequently used chord and how to play the two most commonly used versions, as well as an easy alternative.In this article we're going to look at the B minor chord, which you'll see in tab and sheet music abbreviated as "Bm." You will learn why you should know this frequently used chord and how to play the two most commonly used versions, as well as an easy alternative. Embedded content: Why the Bm Chord? The main reason you need to know how to play the Bm chord is because it shows up constantly in chord progressions that are in the key of D and G. Both of which are commonly used in guitar playing. Songs that Use the Bm Chord The other reason to learn this chord is because of how often it's used. How often, you ask? It's everywhere, from classic rock to contemporary pop and everything in between. Rock Songs The B minor chord can be heard in some of the biggest hits in rock history. Listen for it in Warrant's glam metal '80s staple, "Heaven", or in one of the biggest power ballads from the '90s, "Love Song" by Tesla. Go back a ways and hear it in "Burning Love" by Elvis Presley. What about some punk-ska? Check out "Time Bomb" by Rancid. Country Songs Several country classics use a B minor, including the Grammy-nominated "All My Ex's Live in Texas" by George Strait. "Always on My Mind" by Willie Nelson is another chart topper that heavily features this chord. For something more recent, try "Never Come Back Again" by Austin Plaine. Pop Songs Rewind to the beach anthem "California Girls" by the Beach Boys or "Daydream Believer" by the Monkees for some pop classics that use the B minor. Contemporary examples include "1,2,3,4" by Plain White T's and "Another Love" by Tom Odell. The Beginner Version Before we work our way up to the commonly used barre chord versions, let's take a look at an easier form that doesn't require laying your index finger across several frets. It's played like this: - Ring finger on the 4th fret of the G (3rd) string - Middle finger on the 3rd fret of the B (2nd) string - Index finger on the 2nd fret of the E (1st) string Strum three strings down from the G string. This version uses three fingers and is great for beginners. The Most Common Version Unlike some other commonly used minor chords (like Em or Am), the B minor chord doesn't use any open strings. For this one you must use one finger to fret multiple strings in what is called a "barre chord." Your index finger rests across every string but the low E. Here is how to play a Bm chord in the second position: - Index finger on the 2nd fret of the A (5th) string - Index finger on the 2nd fret of the E (1st) string - Middle finger on the 3rd fret of the B (2nd) string - Ring finger on the 4th fret of the A (5th) string - Pinky finger on the 4th fret of the D (4th) string Strum five strings down from the A string. When you hear about the B minor chord, this is the version players typically think of so it should be considered a must-know way to play this chord. If you know how to play an Am in the open position this shape should look familiar. It's the same shape just moved up two frets. The tricky part about playing this version is keeping the B note in the bass on the 5th string and muting the low E string. Here's how to do this: fret the chord so the tip of your index finger touches the side of the low E string just enough to mute it. That way you can strum full force without worrying about that low E string changing the sound of the chord. When learning this version you might hear some buzzing from all the strings not being fretted cleanly enough, but don't worry, that will go away with practice and increased finger and wrist strength. Barre Version Number Two It's helpful to have another form in your arsenal in case you want a slightly different sound, so here's one other barred version played in the 7th position: - Index finger on the 7th fret of the low E (6th) string - Index finger on the 7th fret of the G (3rd) string - Index finger on the 7th fret of the B (2nd) string - Index finger on the 7th fret of the E (1st) string - Ring finger on the 9th fret of the A (5th) string - Pinky finger on the 9th fret of the D (4th) string The benefit to playing this one over the other barred version is this one is far enough up the neck that the frets are a little closer together and the pressure required to press down on all the strings isn't as great, so overall it's physically easier to play. The Bm chord presents some new challenges for beginners, but it's a required building block on your guitar-playing journey. Whether you're a fan of pop, rock, folk, blues, or country, it's worth spending the time to get this chord under your fingers. If you'd like to learn how to play even more chords, browse Fender Play's chord library, learn about chord types, and find tips on how to master them. And if you're not a member yet, sign up for a free Fender Play trial!

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