

L-SHAPES - I, IV, V CHORDS

The L-Shape pattern is a guide for finding the ROOTS of I, IV AND V Chords in any key in a closed-position fingering. The L-Shape can be moved to any fret on the fretboard. Each one of the three notes that create the "L-Shape" is either the Root of the I Chord, the Root of the IV Chord or the Root of the V Chord.

Key of D Major: Root of I Chord = D; Root of IV Chord = G; Root of V Chord = A

The L-Shape pattern moves in two directions (ascending or descending) based on the open string tuning of the mandolin.

ASCENDING L-SHAPE:

When moving from lower-pitched strings to higher-pitched strings, we move in intervals of 5th's (G to D, D to A, A to E = intervals of 5ths).

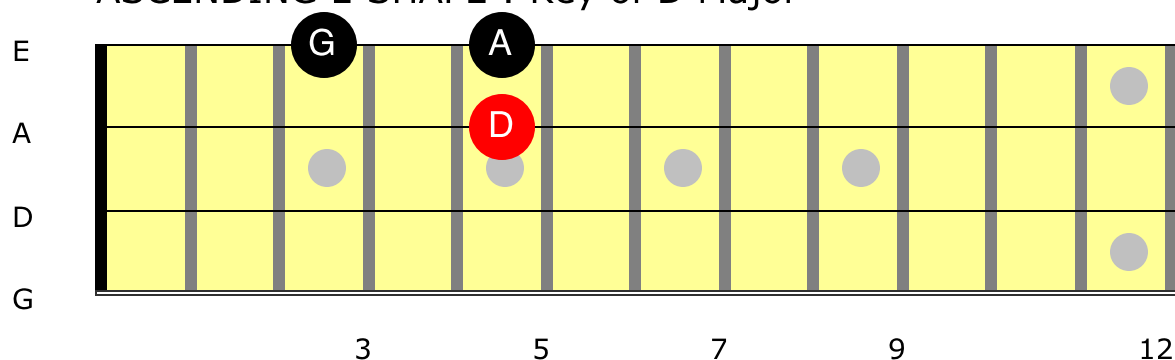
Thus, if the Root of the I Chord is on a lower-pitched string, the Root of the V chord can be found directly above it one string higher, on the same fret. Roots of IV and V Chords are one whole step apart on the same string.

DESCENDING L-SHAPE:

When moving from higher-pitched strings to lower-pitched strings, we move in intervals of 4th's (E to A, A to D, D to G = intervals of 4ths).

Thus, if the Root of the I Chord is on a higher-pitched string, the Root of the IV Chord can be found directly below it one string lower, on the same fret. Roots of the IV and V Chords are one whole step apart on the same string.

ASCENDING L-SHAPE : Key of D Major



DESCENDING L-SHAPE: Key of D Major

