



Power Chords

Just the root and the fifth

A power chord contains only two notes: the root and the fifth. Because there is no third, it is neither major nor minor — it sounds strong, open and works in both major and minor contexts.

Common power chords

Symbol	Notes	Formula	Also called
C5	C G	1 5	C power chord
G5	G D	1 5	G power chord
F5	F C	1 5	F power chord
A5	A E	1 5	A power chord

Why they are so useful

- Extremely common in rock, punk and metal.
- Easy to move around the fretboard (same shape).
- Avoid the major/minor decision when you want a neutral, powerful sound.
- Often written as C5, G5, etc.

Optional extra note

Sometimes a power chord also includes the root an octave higher (1–5–1). The essential interval is still just the fifth.

Power chords are the simplest practical application of the 1 and 5 from the Chord Interval Chart.