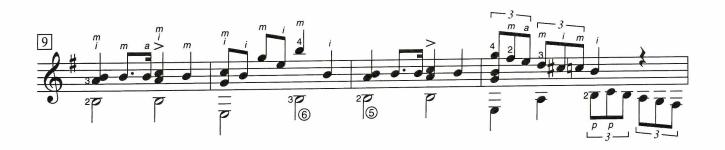
Romanze









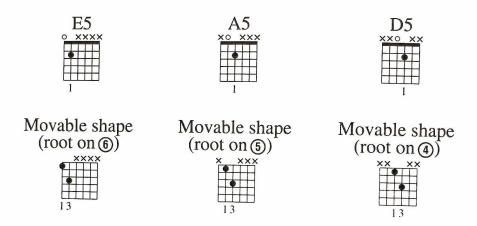


Source: Studies in Style, no. 6

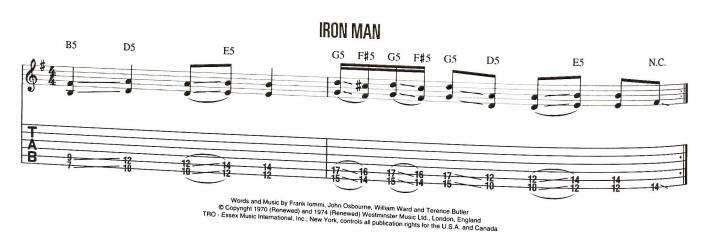
CHAPTER 2: POWER CHORDS

RHYTHM STUDY

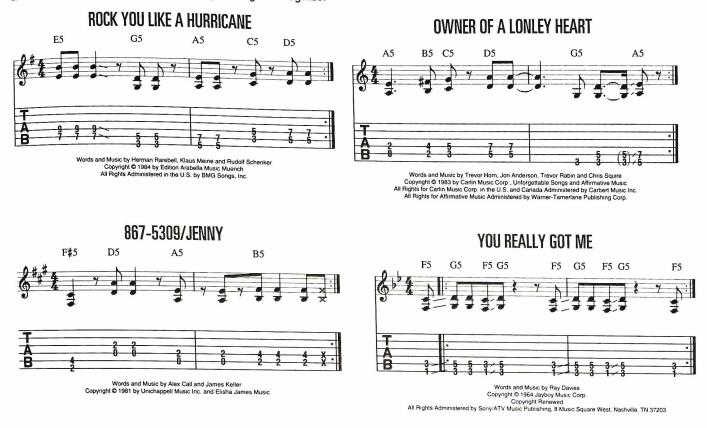
Along with open chords, the most prominent chord type found in rock music is the *power chord*. As its name implies, the power chord has a very strong, matter-of-fact sound. It is comprised of only two notes: the root and the fifth of the major scale, and as such, has no definitive major or minor tonality. One of the many cool things about power chords is that they can be played anywhere on the neck. And perhaps the most welcome thing about power chords at this stage of your learning process is that they're incredibly easy to play. Below are the fingerings for the three power chords found in open position and the most common movable shape.



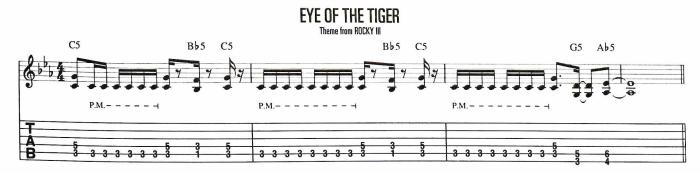
If there is one song in the annals of rock music that best represents the power chord, hands-down it's "Iron Man" by Black Sabbath. To play "Iron Man" as it sounds on the record, you'll need to take your newfound power-chord skills and combine the slides for now.



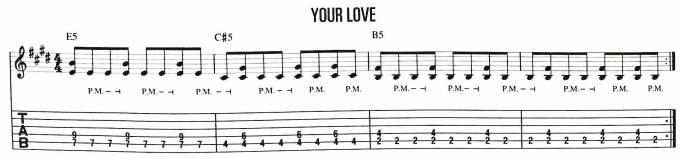
If Black Sabbath isn't exactly your cup of tea, the power chord is prevalent in countless mainstream rock songs as well. Below are a few more power-chord goodies you might recognize:



A popular guitar technique that goes hand-in-hand with power chords is *palm muting*. To perform this technique, lightly rest the palm of your picking hand just in front of your guitar's bridge. This will slightly dampen the strings, resulting in a muffled, percussive sound when you pick the strings. When used in conjunction with power chords, it is also common to chug away on the palm-muted bass note, striking the entire power chord on select beats to add rhythmic variety. Check out the excerpts below for some great examples of these techniques.



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A Major

The complete two octave A Major scale requires a shift to the 2nd position on the first string.



