

Contemporary Chords

There are a couple of particular “sounds” that identify contemporary chords and progressions. One sound is leaving out the third in the root chord of whatever key you’re in (the chord built on the first note of the scale). Another sound is the *common tones* repeated within each chord to create a drone or open sound throughout a song. A third characteristic is that the dominant chord is a “suspended 4” chord instead of a “flat 7” chord. These chords are what you hear on contemporary radio.

E-A-D-G-B-E (Standard Tuning)

C5 X 3 X 0 1 4	Dm11 X X 0 2 1 4	Em6 X X 2 0 1 4	F2 X X 3 2 1 4	G4 3 X 0 0 1 4	Am7 X 0 2 0 1 4	* C2 X 3 0 0 1 4
A2 X 0 2 1 0 0	Bm11/A X 0 3 1 2 0	C#m7/A 4 X 0 3 1 2 0	D2/A X 0 0 1 3 0	E/A X 0 2 1 0 0	F#m11/A X 0 3 1 0 0	* E/A 4 X 0 3 1 0 0
G5 2 X 0 0 3 4	Am7 X 0 2 0 1 4	G/B X 1 0 0 3 4	C2 X 2 1 0 3 4	D4 X X 0 1 3 4	Em7 0 1 2 0 3 4	* G2 2 X 0 1 3 4
E5 0 1 3 4 0 0	F#m11 2 X 3 4 0 0	G#m6 2 X 3 4 0 0	A2 X 0 3 4 0 0	B4 X 1 3 4 0 0	C#m7 4 X 1 3 4 0 0	* EM7 0 1 3 2 0 0

D-A-D-G-B-E (Dropped-D Tuning)

D5 0 0 0 1 2 4	Em11 1 X 0 0 2 4	F#m6 3 X 0 1 2 4	G5 3 X 0 0 1 4	A4 X 0 1 1 2 4	Bm13 X 1 3 0 2 4	* D/C# X 3 X 1 2 4
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