

Basic Balalaika Chords

How The Balalaika Chord Charts Work



Each chord chart has three sets of numbers listed vertically. They represent the three strings of the balalaika as they would appear if you were to look at it from the angle displayed in the picture to the left. Each number represents the number of the fret on which the string is pressed down.

1	A	Strings	1	C	3	7	10
2	E		2		0	8	12
3	E		3		3	8	
					<u>F</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>F</u>
					<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>R</u>
					<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>
					<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>
					<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>

In the first column shown for the C Major chord, the 3 displayed for the first string means that the first string is pressed down on the 3rd fret. The 0 shown for the 2nd string means that no fret is pressed for that string. The 3 for the 3rd string means that the third string is pressed down on at the third fret.

The third string is quite often fretted with the thumb. Each time when the note is fretted with the thumb, we will have the number underlined. For each chord, we have 3 different ways of playing it. That's why you will find 3 columns for each chord. In the picture above, we've also shown the tuning for the prima balalaika, which is E, E, and A. the Two E strings are the nylon strings and the A string is the steel string. the E strings are actually the same pitch as the high E string of a guitar.

We only include the basic chords for each key because the basic chords are based on the triad. Since a balalaika has only three strings, you technically can't play a complete chord beyond a triad. For example, the C Major chord consists of the C Major triad, which is derived from the C, E and G notes. A C Major 7th chord would consist of a C, E, G and a B. So you obviously can't play a full C Major 7th chord on the balalaika. Technically the same is true regarding a G 7th chord. We've included a sort of implied G 7th chord in the chart above, consisting of three of the four notes necessary to play the complete chord. We feel, though, that doing that with all of the other chords that go beyond the triad would be pointless. Each major Key has a relative minor key.

Each Chord is Shown in 3 different Positions. The underlined numbers are fretted with the thumb.

C Major

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	G 7th
3 7 10	5 7 14	2 7 10	3 8 12	5 10 14	3 7 12	2 8 10
0 8 12	5 9 13	0 7 12	5 8 13	7 10 15	0 8 12	3 7 13
<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>10</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the C Major Scale. The C Major Scale is made up of: **C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C**

The relative minor key to the key of C Major is A Minor. below are chords that are based on the A Harmonic Minor Scale. The A Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **A-B-C-D-E-F-G#-A**

A Minor

Am	B dim	C Aug	Dm	E	F	E 7th
3 7 12	2 5 8	3 7 11	5 7 14	2 7 11	3 8 2	5 7 11
0 8 12	4 7 7	0 8 12	5 9 13	0 7 12	5 8 13	0 10 10
<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>

G Major

G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	D 7th
5 10 14	3 7 12	5 9 14	3 7 10	5 9 12	2 7 10	3 5 9
7 10 15	0 8 12	7 10 14	0 8 12	5 10 14	0 7 12	5 8 10
<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the G major Scale. The G Major Scale is made up of: **G-A-B-C-D-E-F#-G**

The relative minor key to the key of G Major is E Minor. below are chords that are based on the E Harmonic Minor Scale. The E Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **E-F#-G-A-B-C-D#-E**

E Minor

Em	F# dim	G Aug	Am	B	C	B 7th
2 7 10	3 6 9	6 10 14	3 7 12	7 9 14	3 7 10	2 6 6
0 7 12	5 8 11	7 11 15	0 8 12	6 11 14	0 8 12	5 5 7
<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>

F Major																				
F			Gm			Am			Bb			C			Dm			C 7th		
3	8	12	5	10	13	3	7	12	5	8	13	3	7	10	5	7	14	3	1	7
5	8	13	6	10	15	0	8	12	6	10	13	0	8	12	5	9	13	6	3	8
<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the F Major Scale. The F Major Scale is made up of: **F-G-A-Bb-C-D-E-F**

The relative minor key to the key of F Major is D Minor. below are chords that are based on the D Harmonic Minor Scale. The D Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **D-E-F-G-A-Bb-C#-D**

D Minor																				
Dm			E dim			F Aug			Gm			A			Bb			A 7th		
5	7	14	1	4	7	4	8	12	5	10	13	4	7	12	5	8	13	4	0	4
5	9	13	3	6	9	5	9	13	6	10	15	0	9	12	6	10	13	0	3	5
<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>

D Major																				
D			Em			F#m			G			A			Bm			A 7th		
5	9	12	2	7	10	4	9	12	5	10	14	4	7	12	5	9	14	4	0	4
5	10	14	0	7	12	5	9	14	7	10	15	0	9	12	7	10	14	0	3	5
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the D Major Scale. The D Major Scale is made up of: **D-E-F#-G-A-B-C#-D**

The relative minor key to the key of D Major is B Minor. below are chords that are based on the B Harmonic Minor Scale. The B Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **B-C#-D-E-F#-G-A#-B**

B Minor																				
Bm			C# dim			D Aug			Em			F#			G			F# 7 th		
5	9	14	1	4	7	5	9	13	2	7	10	4	9	13	5	10	14	1	4	7
7	10	14	3	6	9	6	10	14	0	7	12	6	9	14	7	10	15	2	6	9
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>

Bb Major

Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F	Gm	F 7th
5 8 13	6 10 15	5 7 14	6 10 13	3 8 12	5 10 13	6 6 8
6 10 13	8 11 15	5 9 13	6 11 15	5 8 13	6 10 15	5 8 11
<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the Bb Major Scale. The Bb Major Scale is made up of: **Bb-C-D-Eb-F-G-A-Bb**

The relative minor key to the key of Bb Major is G Minor. below are chords that are based on the G Harmonic Minor Scale. The G Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **G-A-Bb-C-D-Eb-F#-G**

G Minor

Gm	A dim	Bb Aug	Cm	D	Eb	D 7th
5 10 13	3 6 9	5 9 13	6 10 15	5 9 12	6 1 10	3 5 9
6 10 15	5 8 11	6 10 14	8 11 15	5 10 14	6 3 11	5 8 10
<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>

A Major

A Major																				
A			Bm			C#m			D			E			F#m			E 7th		
4	7	12	5	9	14	4	7	11	5	9	12	2	7	11	4	9	12	5	7	11
0	9	12	7	10	14	0	9	12	5	10	14	0	7	12	5	9	14	0	10	10
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the A Major Scale. The A Major Scale is made up of: **A-B-C#-D-E-F#-G#-A**

The relative minor key to the key of A Major is F# Minor. below are chords that are based on the F# Harmonic Minor Scale. The F# Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **F#-G#-A-B-C#-D-E#-F#**

F# Minor

F# Minor																				
F#m			G# dim			A Aug			Bm			C#			D			C# 7th		
4	9	12	2	5	8	4	8	12	5	9	14	4	8	11	5	9	12	2	4	8
5	9	14	4	7	10	5	9	13	7	10	14	4	9	13	5	10	14	4	7	9
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

Eb Major

Eb	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bb	Cm	Bb 7th
6 10 13	3 8 11	5 10 13	6 11 14	5 8 13	6 10 15	1 5 5
6 11 15	4 8 13	6 10 15	8 11 16	6 10 13	8 11 15	4 4 6
<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the Eb Major Scale. The Eb Major Scale is made up of: **Eb-F-G-Ab-Bb-C-D-Eb**

The relative minor key to the key of Eb Major is C Minor. below are chords that are based on the C Harmonic Minor Scale. The C Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **C-D-Eb-F-G-Ab-B-C**

C Minor

Cm	D dim	Eb Aug	Fm	G	Ab	G 7th
6 10 15	2 5 8	6 10 15	3 8 11	5 10 14	6 11 14	2 8 10
8 11 15	4 7 10	7 11 16	4 8 13	7 10 15	8 11 16	3 7 13
<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>10</u>

E Major

E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	B 7th
2 7 11	4 9 12	6 11 14	4 7 12	7 9 14	4 7 11	2 6 6
0 7 12	5 9 14	7 11 16	0 9 12	6 11 14	0 9 12	5 5 7
<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	2 7 11	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the E Major Scale. The E Major Scale is made up of: **E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D#-E**

The relative minor key to the key of E Major is C# Minor. below are chords that are based on the C# Harmonic Minor Scale. The C# Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **C#-D#-E-F#-A-B#-C#**

C# Minor

C#m	D# dim	E Aug	F#m	G#	A	G# 7th
4 7 11	3 6 9	3 7 11	4 9 12	6 11 15	4 7 12	3 9 11
0 9 12	5 8 11	0 8 12	5 9 14	8 11 16	0 9 12	4 8 14
<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>11</u>

Ab Major

Each Chord is Shown in 3 different Positions. The underlined numbers are fretted with the thumb.

Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb	Fm	Eb 7th
6 11 14	4 8 13	6 10 15	4 8 11	6 10 13	3 8 11	4 6 10
8 11 16	6 9 13	8 11 15	4 9 13	6 11 15	4 8 13	6 9 11
<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the Ab Major Scale. The Ab Major Scale is made up of: **Ab-Bb-C-Db-Eb-F-G-Ab**

The relative minor key to the key of Ab Major is F Minor. below are chords that are based on the F Harmonic Minor Scale. The F Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **F-G-Ab-Bb-C-Db-E-F**

F Minor

Fm	G dim	Ab Aug	Bbm	C	Db	C 7th
3 8 11	1 4 7	3 7 11	4 8 13	3 7 10	4 8 11	3 1 7
4 8 13	3 6 9	0 8 12	6 9 13	0 8 12	4 9 13	6 3 8
<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u>

B Major

B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	F# 7th
7 9 14	4 7 11	6 9 13	2 7 11	4 9 13	6 11 14	1 4 7
6 11 14	0 9 12	6 11 14	0 7 12	6 9 14	7 11 16	2 6 9
2 7 11	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	0 0 6

The chords above are based on triads created from the B Major Scale. The B Major Scale is made up of:
B-C#-D#-E-F#-G#-A#-B

Each major Key has a relative minor key. The relative minor key to the key of B Major is G# Minor.
 below are chords that are based on the G# Harmonic Minor Scale. The G# Harmonic Minor Scale is
 made up of: **G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E-G-G#**

G# Minor

G#m			D# dim			B Aug			C#m			D#			E			D# 7th		
6	11	15	3	6	9	6	10	14	4	7	11	6	10	13	2	7	11	4	6	10
8	11	16	5	8	11	7	11	15	0	9	12	6	11	15	0	7	12	6	9	11
<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

F# Major

Each Chord is Shown in 3 different Positions. The underlined numbers are fretted with the thumb.

F#	G#m	A#m	B	C#	D#m	C# 7th
4 9 13	6 11 14	4 8 13	7 9 14	4 8 11	6 9 13	2 4 8
6 9 14	7 11 16	6 9 13	6 11 14	4 9 13	6 11 14	4 7 9
<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	2 7 11	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the F# Major Scale. The F# Major Scale is made up of: **F#-G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E#-F#** *Note: An E# is basically an F note.

The relative minor key to the key of F# Major is D# Minor. below are chords that are based on the D# Harmonic Minor Scale. The D# Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **D#-E#-F#-G#-A#-B-D-D#**

D# Minor

D#m	E# dim	F# Aug	G#m	A#	B	A# 7th
6 9 13	2 5 8	4 8 12	6 11 14	5 8 13	7 9 14	1 5 5
6 11 14	4 7 10	5 9 13	7 11 16	6 10 13	6 11 14	4 4 6
<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	2 7 11	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u>

Db Major

Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Ab	Bbm	Ab 7th
4 8 11	6 9 13	3 8 11	4 9 13	6 11 14	4 8 13	3 9 11
4 9 13	6 11 14	4 8 13	6 9 14	8 11 16	6 9 13	4 8 14
<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>11</u>

The chords above are based on triads created from the Db Major Scale. The Db Major Scale is made up of: **Db-Eb-F-Gb-Ab-Bb-C-Db**

The relative minor key to the key of Db Major is Bb Minor. below are chords that are based on the Bb Harmonic Minor Scale. The Bb Harmonic Minor Scale is made up of: **Bb-C-Db-Eb-F-Gb-A-Bb**

Bb Minor

Each Chord is Shown in 3 different Positions. The underlined numbers are fretted with the thumb.

Bbm	C dim	Db Aug	Ebm	F	Gb	F 7th
4 8 13	3 6 9	4 8 12	6 9 13	3 8 12	4 9 13	6 6 8
6 9 13	5 8 11	5 9 13	6 11 14	5 8 13	6 9 14	5 8 11
<u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>11</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u>	<u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u>