

Suspend Chords

What and How to Use Them



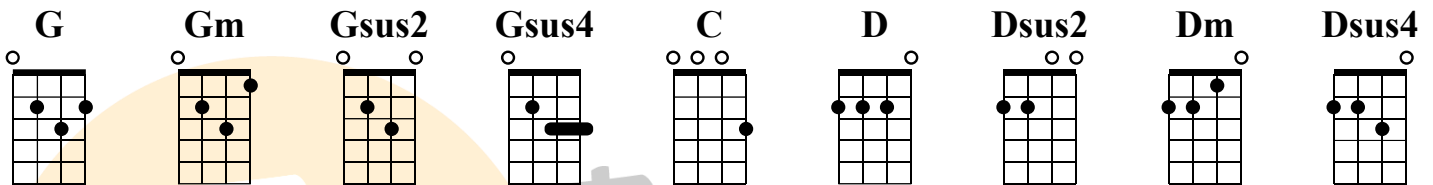
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Key: G

Harmony: G, C, D

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0SZm-hJrW0>

Chord Shapes:



What makes a suspended chord?

- Chords start with triads, three note chords.
- These triads are either major, minor or suspended
- A major chord has a Root, 3rd and 5th interval
- A minor chord has a root, b3rd and 5th interval
- Those two triads have 2 of the same 3 notes, the note in the middle is what makes chords either suspended, major or minor.
- A sus2 chord is Root, 2nd and 5th interval
- A sus4 chord is Root, 4th and 5th interval

Here are Gsus2, Gm, G, Gsus4

G - Root, 3rd (B), 5th	G m - Root, b3rd (Bb), 5th	Gsus2- Root, 2nd (A), 5th	Gsus4 - Root, 4th (C), 5th
G	Gm	Gsus2	Gsus4

Applying these ideas to a chord progression.

The key of G has these chords

- G I
- Am ii
- Bm iii
- C IV
- D. V
- Em iv

- F#dim °vii

We will apply this to a I-IV-V-I chord progression in the key of G like this

Base Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
G | **C** | **D** | **G** |
 D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U |

Let's apply some G sus chords to this progression

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |
Gsus2 G | **C** | **D** | **G Gsus4 G** |
 D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U | D D U U D U |

A couple things to note about this

- The sus chords are all from the I chord
- But you can use both the sus2 and sus4 when you want
- Note how the sus chords are used more as hits and stabs, but you can use them for full measures, just note they also work well with movement.

Suspending the IV chord

- The sus2 works
- C D G
- Note though, these are the same notes as the Gsus4, just a different order
- G C D
- You CANNOT use the IVsus4 chord
- If you examine the Csus4 it is C, F, G, the key of G has F#, not F, so that is why it doesn't work, so when you are writing a song, experimenting, having fun, remember the IV chord doesn't work as a sus4.

Suspending the V chord

- Sus2, Sus4, all good to go.

Dsus2 - D E (2nd) A	Dm - D F (b3rd) A	D - D F# (3rd) A	D - D G (4th) A
Dsus2	Dm	D	Dsus4

	9	10	11	12
G	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	2	3
B	2	2	2	2
G	2	2	2	2

We are going to apply these different suspended chords to the D in our chord progression

Chord progression: Gsus2 G C Dsus4 D Dsus2 D G Gsus4G

13 14 15 16

T 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 2 3 2 2 2 2

A 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 2 3 3 3 3 3 3

B 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0

So that is how you can modify your I-IV-V chords with some suspended chords, some other things to keep in mind.

- You can apply these to covers have fun
- Be careful of melody, if you play a sus4 chord but the melody sings the 3rd, you will get a tense, dissonant sound, so pay attention when you are modifying songs that are already written.
- You can also use these ideas for both Maj7 and 7 chords!
- These ideas also make for very cool riff ideas.

