

SOME STANDARD GYPSY JAZZ CHORDS

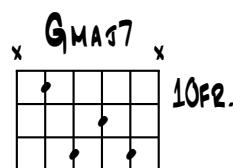
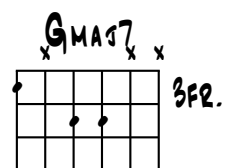
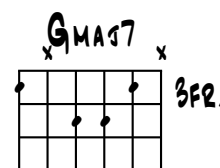
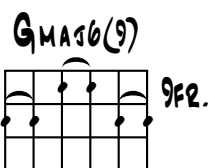
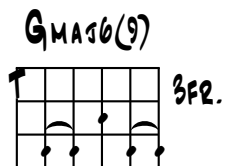
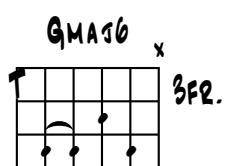
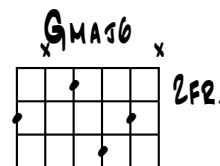
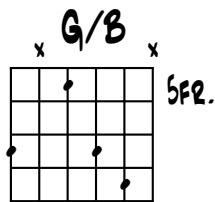
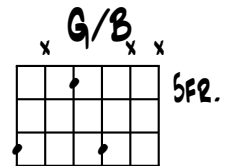
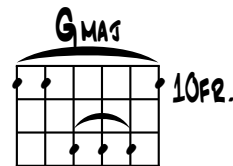
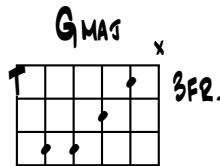
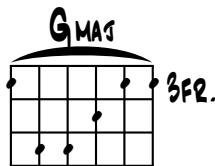
JACK SOREF

This handout is a list of chord shapes you will hopefully find helpful for playing 'La Pompe' in a Gypsy Jazz context. The list below is by no means comprehensive, there are many other shapes (aka voicings), but there are enough here to help you get going. If you are new to the style, all these shapes may feel a little daunting to get under your fingers. Don't despair, you really only need two or three of each type to begin with. A lot of the alternative shapes are the same as another, but just re-fingered to use the thumb, or altered so that you are only playing 3 or 4 notes, as opposed to 5 or 6. This is just to give you a sense of your options, and not meant to overwhelm you. For starters, just pick a couple major, minor and dominant shapes you can play easily, that you like the sound of, and then refer to this sheet when you feel like you are ready for, or need another shape.

Many times, depending on the context you're playing in and your own personal taste, you have the option of playing a maj chord, or a maj6 or maj6(9) or maj7 etc. even if the lead sheet only says: "Gmaj". To begin with, it's probably wise to stick to simpler chord sounds, but as you continue playing and listening, hopefully you will get a sense of when it feels right to use more complex chords as well.

Also, for those of you with smaller hands struggling with the 'thumb chords', be patient with them. Just ease in to playing them, don't hurt yourself, and don't give up. As a player with smaller hands I can tell you pretty much all these shapes are playable with a bit of time, gentle and gradual stretching, and good left hand technique.

Some students also struggle with the two string barres like the one in 2nd Gmaj6 chord (2nd row, 3rd column). The trick to these is just to put the tip of your finger (either your middle or ring in this case) in between both strings (A & D in this case) so it catches both. This means that the first digit of the finger will curl forward (like in a 'come here' motion), as opposed to flattening out like our digits often do when barring more strings. I hope this handout is helpful for you, if you have any questions about it, feel free to contact me at jack@jacksoref.com. Bon courage!



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