

BAR CHORDS

When forming bar chords, the trailing fingers (usually the middle and fourth) of the left hand (fingers 2 and 3 in the illustration on p.79) come into play. These trailing fingers cover all the strings across a fret while the leading fingers play notes on other frets to complete the chord. So let's start by barring with the middle finger. Lay your middle finger across all the strings and exert an even pressure onto the first fret, making sure all the strings are depressed.



The sound you get should be very minor, like the Aeolian mode. You'll find it takes a good deal of pressure to keep all of the strings depressed to the frets so that the notes sound clean. You might even want to place your index finger on top of your middle finger to increase your downward pressure.

Now, starting on the first fret (the beginning of the Aeolian mode) bar all the frets up the scale and back.

The next fingering uses the ring finger (number 3 in our illustration) to bar, and the tip of the index finger in a position either one or two frets away from the bar. Here, the index finger stretches out to slide over these notes or to hold them. The trailing finger (3) bars the fret, sustaining the sound. The middle finger (2) is off the fretboard in this position. But if you do not want to slide the index finger back, as in position 4-B, the middle finger can come into play to depress the unisons onto the second fret.



When the index finger is two frets from the barred ring finger, the tip of the middle finger can bring the