GENERAL

take me to the king chords

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Take Me to the King Chords: A Complete Guide for Guitarists

Whether you're a beginner looking to add a soulful gospel track to your repertoire or an intermediate player searching for a fresh chord progression, **take me to the king chords** can become a powerful addition to your setlist. This iconic gospel anthem, originally performed by Tamela Mann, has resonated with audiences worldwide for its uplifting message and memorable melody. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through the chord structure, strumming patterns, finger positions, key changes, and practical tips for mastering the song on guitar. By the end, you'll be able to play and sing "Take Me to the King" with confidence, whether you're jamming at home or leading a worship service.

Why "Take Me to the King" Is a Must Learn Song

Gospel music has a long tradition of empowering listeners through powerful lyrics and rich harmonies. "Take Me to the King" is no exception. The song's message of faith, redemption, and divine guidance, combined with its engaging chord progression, makes it a favorite for worship teams, solo performers, and casual guitarists alike. Here's why learning this track can benefit your musical journey:

- Emotional Connection: The lyrics inspire hope and encouragement, allowing you to connect with your audience on a deeper level.
- Versatile Arrangement: The chords are simple enough for beginners yet flexible enough to accommodate advanced techniques such as capo placement and chord inversions.
- Improvisation Opportunities: Once you master the core chords, you can experiment with embellishments, syncopated strumming, and vocal harmonies.
- Worship Setting: The song's uplifting tempo and key make it ideal for church services, youth groups, and community gatherings.

Understanding the Song's Structure

Before diving into the chords, it's useful to outline the song's overall form. "Take Me to the King" follows a standard verse chorus structure with an instrumental bridge and a powerful final chorus. Here's a quick breakdown:

1. Intro – 4 bars of the main chord progression.
2. Verse 1 – Lyrics with the verse chord pattern.
3. Pre Chorus – Builds tension with a slight chord change.
4. Chorus – The emotional climax, repeated twice.
5. Verse 2 – Same chord progression as Verse 1.
6. Bridge – Instrumental section, often with a key change.
7. Final Chorus – Strong, uplifting finish with vocal harmonies.
8. Outro – Gradual fade or repeated chorus.

Key Signatures and Tempo

The original recording of "Take Me to the King" is in the key of **B&m major** and has a tempo of approximately 78 beats per minute (BPM). However, many guitarists transpose the song to **G major** or **D major** for easier chord shapes

and a more comfortable vocal range. Below we'll provide chord charts for both the original key and a common transposition.

The Core Chords: Take Me to the King Chords

Let's start with the foundational chord shapes that make up the song's harmonic backbone. In the original key of B&m major, the main chords are:

- B&m major (B&m)
- E&m major (E&m)
- F major (F)
- C&m minor (C&mm) – often played as B minor (B)
- G&m major (G&m) – sometimes replaced with F# major (F#)

For a more guitar-friendly transposition, you can play the song in **G major**, using these chord shapes:

- G major (G)
- D major (D)
- Em (E minor)
- C major (C)
- Am (A minor)
- F major (F)

Below is a concise chord chart for both keys.

Chord Chart: Original Key (B&m major)

Chord	Fretboard Diagram
B&m	1st fret, 2nd string (E)
E&m	1st fret, 4th string (D)
F	1st fret, 6th string (E)
B (as C&mm)	2nd fret, 4th string (D)
F#	2nd fret, 6th string (E)

Chord Chart: Transposed Key (G major)

Chord	Fretboard Diagram
G	3rd fret, 6th string (E)
D	2nd fret, 3rd string (G)
Em	2nd fret, 5th string (A)
C	3rd fret, 5th string (A)
Am	2nd fret, 4th string (D)
F	1st fret, 2nd string (E)

Step by Step: How to Play “Take Me to the King” Chords

Below, we’ll break down each section of the song, providing chord progressions, strumming patterns, and tips for smooth transitions. We’ll present the instructions for the G major transposition, as it’s the most common for guitarists.

Intro (4 Bars)

Strum the following pattern for each bar: **Down, Down, Up, Up, Down, Up**. Repeat twice.

1. G – 4 bars
2. D – 4 bars

Verse 1

Chord progression per line:

1. G – G – D – D
2. Em – Em – C – C
3. G – G – D – D
4. Am – Am – D – D

Strumming: **Down, Down, Up, Down, Up**. Keep the rhythm steady, emphasizing the downbeat.

Pre Chorus

Use a slightly different strum to build anticipation:

1. Am – Am – D – D
2. Em – Em – C – C

Strumming: **Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up**. Feel the lift before the chorus.

Chorus

Chords:

1. G – G – D – D
2. Em – Em – C – C
3. G – G – D – D
4. Am – Am – D – D

Strumming: **Down, Down, Up, Up, Down, Up**. Let the chords ring out, especially the final D.

Bridge (Instrumental)

Switch to a key change if desired. A common choice is to raise the key by a half step for the bridge:

1. A – A – E – E
2. F#m – F#m – D – D
3. A – A – E – E
4. Bm – Bm – E – E

Strumming: **Down, Down, Up, Down, Up**. Keep it tight and rhythmic.

Final Chorus

Repeat the chorus progression with an added vocal harmony for the last line.

Outro

Finish with a fade by strumming the G major chord once per beat, gradually lowering the volume.

Capo Placement and Key Transposition

Many guitarists prefer to use a capo to simplify fingerings or to match the vocalist's range. Here's how to use a capo for "Take Me to the King":

- Capo on 2nd Fret: Transposes the song to C major. Use the same chord shapes as G major but shift them up two frets.
- Capo on 3rd Fret: Transposes to D major. Keep the G major shapes and play them three frets higher.
- Capo on 4th Fret: Transposes to E major. Use the G major shapes shifted four frets up.

When using a capo, remember that the chord names stay the same, but the actual pitches shift. For example, a G major shape with a capo on the 2nd fret produces a C major chord.

Strumming Patterns and Rhythm Variations

While the basic strumming pattern provided earlier works well, you can add variety by incorporating syncopation, palm muting, or a light percussive element. Here are a few ideas:

- Syncopated Strum: Instead of the standard Down Down Up pattern, try Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up for a more gospel style groove.
- Palm Muting: Add a muted strum before each downstroke to create a "boom chuck" feel.
- Use a pick and strum hybrid – pick the root note on the downbeat, then strum the remaining strings.

Fingerstyle Option

For a more intimate rendition, you can play the song fingerstyle. Here's a simple pattern:

1. Pluck the bass note (root string) with your thumb.
2. Use your index finger to pluck the G or B string.
3. Use your middle finger to pluck the high E string.
4. Finish with your ring finger plucking the A or D string.

Apply this pattern to each chord, adjusting the plucking sequence to match the chord's voicing. This technique brings out the song's melodic nuances and can be a great solo performance approach.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1. Inconsistent Tempo: The song's emotional impact depends on a steady tempo. Use a metronome or backing track to maintain rhythm.
2. Chord Transition Slips: Practice the transitions slowly at first, then gradually increase speed. Focus on clean chord changes.
3. Over strumming: Keep the strumming hand relaxed and use the wrist for natural motion. Avoid excessive force.
4. Vocal Strain: If you're singing along, ensure you're comfortable in the key. If needed, use a capo or transposition to fit your vocal range.

Advanced Techniques for Experienced Players

Once you're comfortable with the basics, you can explore advanced options to elevate your performance:

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