

the only exception paramore chords

the only exception paramore chords have become a popular search among guitarists and music enthusiasts eager to learn one of Paramore's most heartfelt songs. This song, featured on their album "Brand New Eyes," showcases a softer, more introspective side of the band, making it a favorite for acoustic performances. Understanding the chords and chord progressions used in "The Only Exception" allows players to capture the emotional essence of the track accurately. This article will provide a detailed guide to the chords, strumming patterns, and tips for playing the song effectively on guitar. Whether a beginner or an experienced player, mastering these chords will enhance your repertoire and deepen your appreciation for Paramore's songwriting craft. The following sections will cover the chord breakdown, variations, and practice advice to help you play "The Only Exception" confidently.

- Understanding the Chord Structure of "The Only Exception"
- Basic Chords Used in "The Only Exception"
- Chord Progression and Strumming Patterns
- Tips for Playing "The Only Exception" on Guitar
- Common Variations and Alternative Chords

Understanding the Chord Structure of "The Only Exception"

The only exception paramore chords are fundamentally simple yet emotionally powerful, making the

song accessible to a wide range of guitar players. The song is structured around a few basic chords, primarily focusing on open chords that resonate well on acoustic guitar. This simplicity supports the song's lyrical themes of vulnerability and sincerity. The chord structure emphasizes smooth transitions and a gentle rhythm, which align perfectly with the song's mellow tempo and reflective mood. Understanding the underlying chord framework is essential before moving on to more detailed elements like strumming patterns and finger positioning.

Key and Tuning

The song is originally played in the key of B major, which may require a capo or alternate tuning for ease of play. Many guitarists prefer to use a capo on the 2nd fret and play simpler chord shapes in the key of A major to replicate the sound more comfortably on guitar. The standard tuning (EADGBE) is used throughout the performance, making it accessible without the need for retuning the instrument. This approach allows for a more natural finger placement and smoother chord transitions.

Chord Types and Their Role

The only exception paramore chords primarily involve major, minor, and suspended chords. Each chord is chosen to complement the lyrical tone, providing a balance between tension and resolution. This mix of chord types is designed to evoke emotional depth without complicating the playing technique. The use of suspended chords, in particular, adds a subtle tension that mirrors the song's themes of uncertainty and hope.

Basic Chords Used in "The Only Exception"

Learning the basic chords is the first step to mastering the only exception paramore chords. The song

relies on a set of fundamental chords that are common in acoustic ballads. These chords are as follows:

- **A** – A major chord, played with the index, middle, and ring fingers on the second fret of the D, G, and B strings.
- **Esus4** – A suspended chord that adds a soft tension, played by placing fingers on the second fret of the A and D strings and the third fret of the B string.
- **E** – E major chord, a classic open chord with a bright, full sound.
- **D** – D major chord, providing a softer, more melodic tone.
- **F#m** – F sharp minor chord, which adds a melancholic feel to the progression, typically played as a barre chord at the second fret.

These chords form the backbone of the song's harmonic structure, enabling players to focus on rhythm and expression once the basic fingerings are mastered.

Chord Progression and Strumming Patterns

The only exception paramore chords follow a consistent progression that drives the song's gentle rhythm and emotional flow. The chord progression is mostly repetitive, making it easier to memorize and perform. Understanding the progression and accompanying strumming pattern is key to capturing the song's mood accurately.

Typical Chord Progression

The verse and chorus sections share a similar chord progression that cycles smoothly. The most common progression used throughout the song is:

1. A
2. Esus4
3. E
4. D

This sequence repeats with slight variations in different parts of the song, maintaining a consistent harmonic foundation. The bridge introduces the F#m chord, adding emotional depth before resolving back to the main progression.

Strumming Pattern

The strumming pattern for "The Only Exception" is gentle and rhythmic, designed to complement the song's soft dynamics. A basic pattern to use is:

- Downstroke
- Downstroke

- Upstroke
- Downstroke
- Upstroke

This pattern emphasizes the natural flow of the melody and provides a steady tempo. Players should focus on keeping the strumming light and controlled, allowing the chords to ring clearly without overpowering the vocals.

Tips for Playing "The Only Exception" on Guitar

To play the only exception paramore chords effectively, several practical tips can enhance performance quality. Paying attention to finger placement, chord transitions, and dynamics will help replicate the song's emotional tone.

Finger Positioning and Transitions

Accurate finger placement is essential for clean chord sounds. Players should practice moving between A, Esus4, and E chords smoothly to maintain the song's flowing rhythm. Using minimal finger movement and anticipating chord changes will improve transition speed and reduce unwanted string noise.

Use of a Capo

Using a capo on the 2nd fret allows guitarists to play easier chord shapes while maintaining the original key of the song. This method is commonly adopted to simplify fingerings, especially for beginner players. The capo also helps replicate the tonal quality of Paramore's recorded version.

Dynamics and Expression

Since "The Only Exception" is a mellow ballad, dynamics play a crucial role. Strumming with varying intensity and incorporating subtle pauses can add emotional depth to the performance. Players should listen closely to the original recording to match the song's expressive nuances.

Common Variations and Alternative Chords

While the only exception paramore chords are generally straightforward, some players opt for variations to suit their skill level or personal style. These alternatives can add texture or simplify difficult transitions.

Chord Variations

- **F#m7** – A softer alternative to F#m, which can be easier to play and adds a gentle tonal variation.
- **Asus2** – Used in place of A major for a more open sound, often enhancing the song's emotional atmosphere.
- **Dsus2** – An alternative to the traditional D chord that provides a subtler harmonic texture.

Alternate Strumming and Fingerpicking

Some guitarists choose to fingerpick the chord progression to bring out the song's delicate qualities. Fingerpicking patterns can vary but often follow the bass note and higher strings in a gentle, rolling motion. This approach highlights the song's introspective mood and adds variety to live performances.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic chords used in 'The Only Exception' by Paramore?

The basic chords used in 'The Only Exception' are G, Cadd9, Em7, and Dsus4.

How do you play the intro chords of 'The Only Exception' by Paramore?

The intro is played using the chords G, Cadd9, Em7, and Dsus4 in a fingerpicked pattern.

Can beginners easily learn 'The Only Exception' chords?

Yes, 'The Only Exception' uses simple chords and a slow tempo, making it suitable for beginners.

What is the chord progression for the verse in 'The Only Exception'?

The verse chord progression is G - Cadd9 - Em7 - Dsus4, repeated throughout the verse.

Are there any capo instructions for playing 'The Only Exception'?

Yes, placing a capo on the 3rd fret allows you to play the song in the original key using easier chord shapes.

How do you transition smoothly between chords in 'The Only Exception'?

Practice the chord changes slowly, focusing on finger placement and using a consistent strumming or picking pattern.

Is there a specific strumming pattern for 'The Only Exception'?

The song primarily uses a fingerpicking pattern, but a gentle down-up strumming pattern can also work.

Where can I find accurate chord charts for 'The Only Exception'?

Accurate chord charts can be found on websites like Ultimate Guitar, Songsterr, and official Paramore songbooks.

What tuning is used for 'The Only Exception' by Paramore?

The song is played in standard tuning (EADGBE) with a capo on the 3rd fret.

Can I play 'The Only Exception' chords on piano?

Yes, the chords G, Cadd9, Em7, and Dsus4 can be played on piano with the corresponding chord shapes adapted for piano keyboards.

Additional Resources

1. *Mastering Guitar Chords: The Only Exception and Beyond*

This book offers a detailed breakdown of guitar chords used in popular songs, including "The Only Exception" by Paramore. It provides step-by-step instructions for beginners and intermediate players to master chord transitions smoothly. With practice exercises and tips, readers can improve their finger positioning and strumming techniques.

2. Paramore Guitar Play-Along: The Only Exception

Designed for fans of Paramore, this play-along book includes sheet music, chord charts, and tablature for "The Only Exception." It helps guitarists learn the song note-for-note while improving timing and rhythm. Additional tracks from Paramore's discography are also featured for extended practice.

3. Acoustic Guitar Essentials: Songs Like The Only Exception

Focusing on acoustic guitar arrangements, this book compiles songs similar in style and chord progression to "The Only Exception." It guides players through fingerpicking patterns and dynamics to capture the emotional tone of each song. Readers will gain confidence in playing soft rock and alternative acoustic pieces.

4. Chord Theory Made Easy: Unlocking Songs Like The Only Exception

This guide simplifies music theory concepts related to chord construction and progression, using "The Only Exception" as a key example. It teaches how to analyze songs and create your own chord arrangements. Ideal for those looking to deepen their understanding of songwriting and composition.

5. Guitar Techniques for Ballads: Playing The Only Exception

Specializing in ballad-style guitar playing, this book covers techniques such as fingerpicking, arpeggios, and gentle strumming found in "The Only Exception." It offers exercises to develop tone control and emotional expression through the instrument. Perfect for players wanting to enhance their ballad repertoire.

6. Paramore Songbook: Chords and Lyrics for The Only Exception

A comprehensive collection of Paramore's hit songs, this songbook includes chords, lyrics, and performance notes for "The Only Exception." It's a valuable resource for guitarists and vocalists aiming to perform Paramore's music authentically. The book also provides background information on the band and song meanings.

7. The Art of Covering Songs: From The Only Exception to Your Own Style

This book focuses on how to adapt and personalize covers of popular songs like "The Only Exception." It encourages creativity in arrangement, chord substitutions, and vocal delivery. Musicians

will learn how to make covers uniquely their own while respecting the original composition.

8. *Fingerstyle Guitar for Beginners: Learn Songs Including The Only Exception*

A beginner-friendly guide to fingerstyle guitar, featuring simplified arrangements of contemporary songs such as "The Only Exception." The book breaks down patterns and provides practice routines to build coordination. It is ideal for guitarists new to fingerstyle looking to expand their skill set.

9. *Emotional Expression Through Guitar: Capturing The Only Exception's Mood*

This book explores how to convey emotion through guitar playing, using "The Only Exception" as a case study. It discusses dynamics, tempo changes, and subtle techniques that enhance the mood of a song. Readers will learn to connect more deeply with their music and audience.

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