Guitar Theory: Minor Chords

Minor chords can be used for a variety of reasons. But for the most part, they express a feeling more intimate sounding than the major chords. I tend to gravitate towards the use of minor chords. Some of the feelings I try to get across though this type of chord are sadness, reflectiveness, mystery, longing, desire, and others.

The structure of the chord is also simple.

The minor chord formula is:

1 - b3 - 5

So the root is 1, it tells you what chord letter to assign like A, B, C, D, E, F or G.

The 3 is a minor third above that:

A = C

B = D

C = Eb

D = F

E = G

F = Ab

G = Bb

And the 5 is a perfect fifth above 1:

A = E

B = F#

C = G

D = A

E = B

F = C

G = D

So together the minor Chords are as follows:

A = A - C - E

B = B - D - F#

C = C - Eb - G

D = D - F - A

E = E - G - B

F = F - Ab - C

G = G - Bb - D

