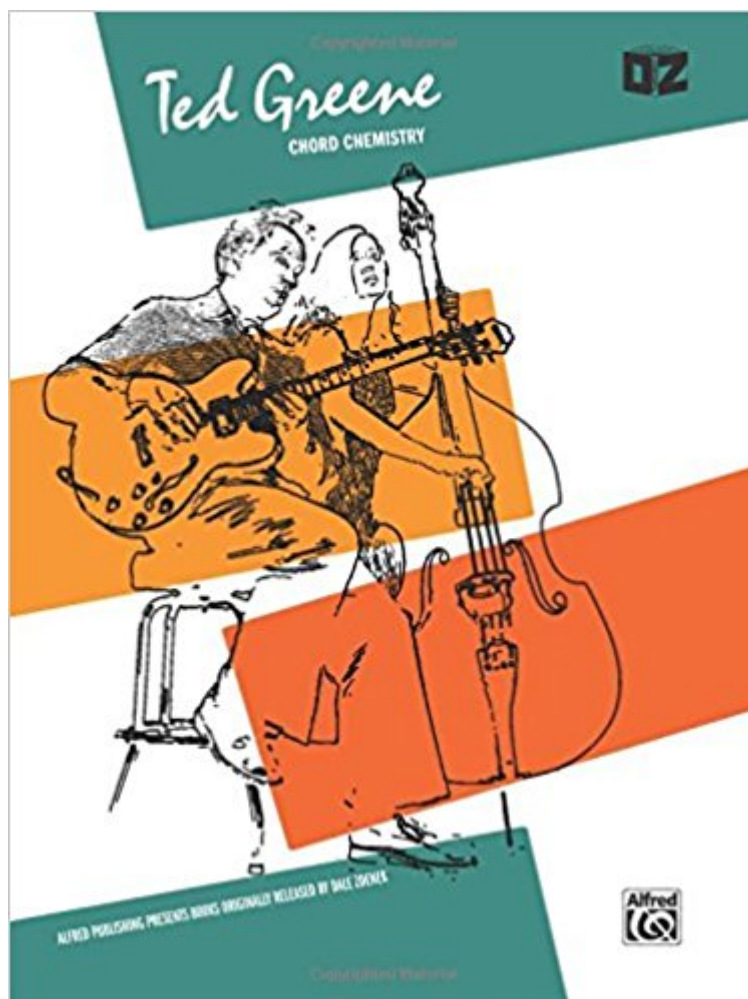


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# Ted Greene -- Chord Chemistry



## Synopsis

Ted Greenes Chord Chemistry was originally published in 1971 and has become the classic chord reference book for two generations of guitarists. Whether you are just beginning to search beyond basic barre chords or are already an advanced player looking for new sounds and ideas this is the book that will get you there. Designed to inspire creativity this book is a musical treasure chest filled with exciting new ideas and sounds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If Nicolas Slonimsky wrote a chord book akin to his "Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns," he would probably come up with "Chord Chemistry." Arguably the most famous of Ted Greene's books, "Chord Chemistry" is deep and intriguing, but also concise and clear. Much like Slonimsky's "Thesaurus," anyone who gets this book will likely spend years mastering the concepts inside. As with all of Ted's books, "Chord Chemistry" is well organized and logical. More importantly, it makes you want to practice and learn everytime you open it up. It requires self-motivation to get the best results, and those few indefatigable musicians who open it up will notice their knowledge of the guitar neck, chords, and harmony in general will greatly expand. The greatest chapters include chord substitutions, how to play chord melodies, and voice-leading. A certain ability to read music is needed as the chapter on chord melodies provides examples only in musical notation. Anyone who buys this will find the diagrams make sense and are, for the most part, easily readable. The massive "chord reference charts" in the middle of the book are worth the price alone. Here you will find most

every inversion, chord form, etc. that you will ever need. And regardless of what some people think, Greene does tell us how to apply these chords and make music with them. This is more than just an encyclopedia of chords, it is in fact a method of mastering harmony on the guitar. If it seems overwhelming at first, stick with it. "Chord Chemistry" does require a bit of knowledge on jazz and classical harmony. If you don't have a lot of background in the theory involved, get Mark Levine's "Jazz Theory Book" and go through that, and the concepts in this book will make much more sense to you.

I have owned this book since 1986 when I was just starting out on guitar. I still use this book, although it is not one that I pick up on a regular basis. The book is all about chords and chord theory for guitarists. You don't need a huge amount of theory knowledge to get started with the material presented in this book, nor do you necessarily need to be able to read music (only one part of the book requires reading skills), however the learning curve is very steep through this book and it is definitely not a book that one works through in a 'lesson one, lesson two' fashion. Rather one would attempt to "absorb a few ideas at a time," as Mr Greene suggests. On the matter of music reading, it is clear that the author has intended the book be useful to the widest audience possible by not requiring music reading on the most part. Although this is a positive thing in many respects, it also severely impedes upon what can successfully be presented. Also, if one were serious about learning this sort of material, not learning to read music would only impede one's progress. The book contains a vast library of chord diagrams in the middle section of the book, depicting numerous chord types and inversions. This part is easily the weakest part of the book. This section for the most part, could be omitted or truncated, and replaced with information on how to build one's own chords and inversions, as well as providing some sort of framework for categorizing voicings and inversions i.e. drop 2 drop 2, 4 etc and perhaps how voices can be spread.

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