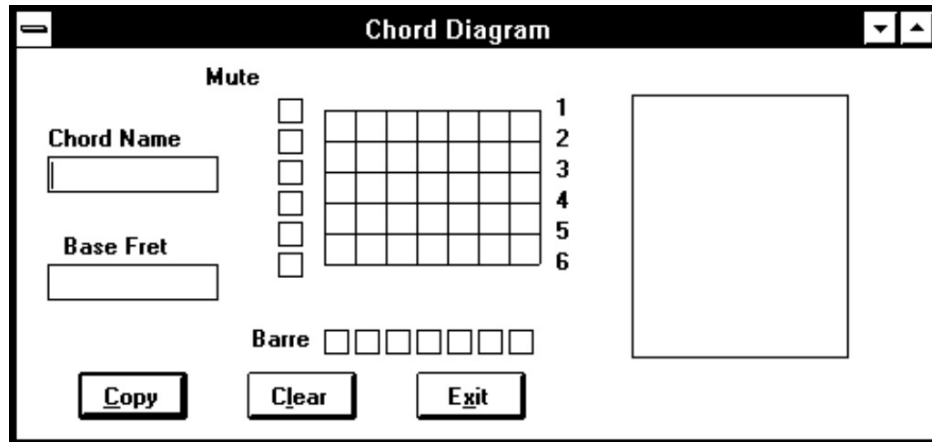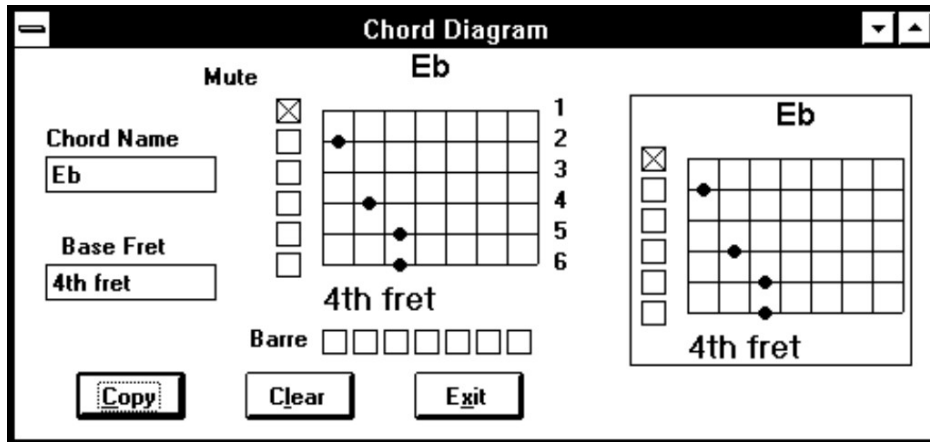This program is for all of you guitarists out there who type up song sheets using your favorite Windows word processors. Every once in a while, you run into a song which includes an obscurely fingered chord. Wouldn't it be great if you could include a chord diagram inside your file instead of hand-drawing it on your printed sheet? That way, when you reprint the sheet, the chord diagram comes right out with it.

This program, which is written in Visual Basic, requires the file VBRUN300.DLL, available elsewhere in this forum or other forums on Compuserve. It lets you create a fingering diagram and then copies it to the Windows clipboard so that you can paste it into any word processor (except, for some reason, Windows Write). When you start the program, you get a screen like this:

To create a simple chord diagram:

1) Start your word processor and enter your song lyrics.

2) When you are ready to create a chord diagram, return to Program Manager (use CTRL-ESC) and start CHORDIAG.

3) Use your mouse to place dots on the fret area. Just place the cursor the string where you want to have a fingering dot and click the left mouse button.

4) Enter the name of the chord in the "Chord Name" box. This text will appear centered above the fret area.

5) Enter any extra information in the "Base Fret" box. This text will appear underneath the fret area and aligned with the first fret.

6) Press the "Copy" button. The program will generate a chord diagram in the box on the right side of the screen. This diagram is also copied to the Windows clipboard.

7) Return to your word processing program (use CTRL-ESC) and paste the diagram into your document (usually menu choices EDIT and PASTE). Alternatively, you could insert a MS Drawing object into your document and paste the chord diagram into that. You must use this second method if you are using MS-Write as your word processor.
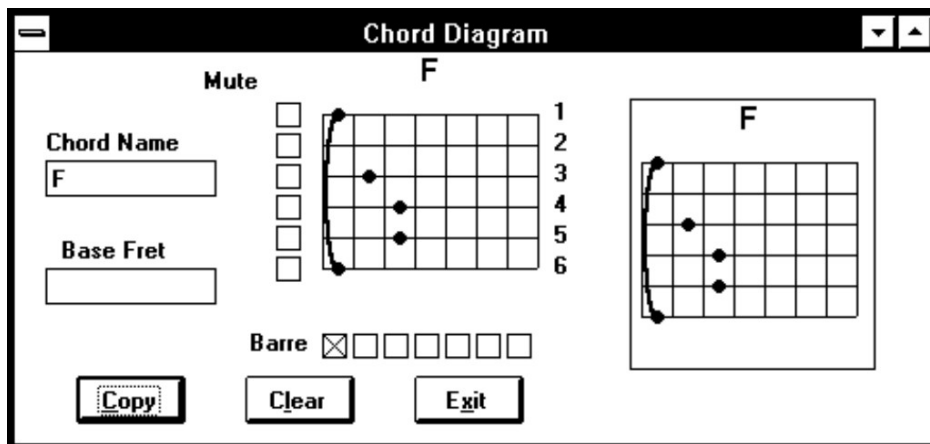
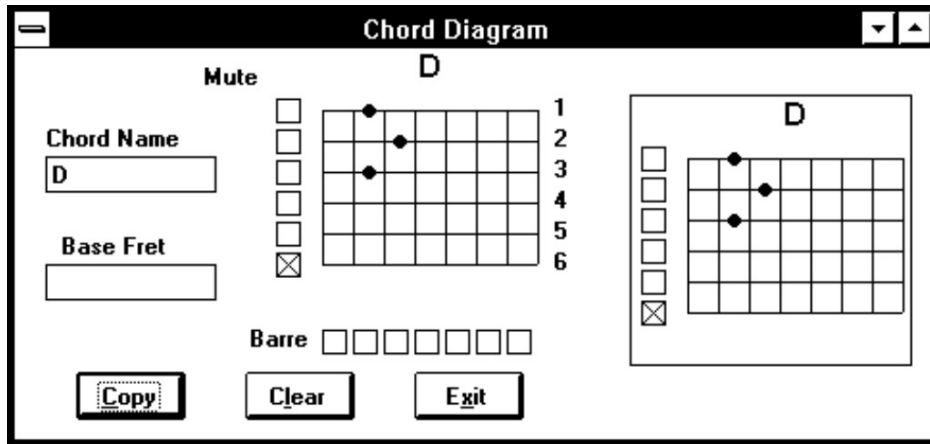Example with Base Fret text and muted string.

Additional features:

To start a new chord diagram, press the Clear button.

Barre Chords: To place a Barre mark across an entire fret, click in the box below that fret.

To place a barre mark on a partial fret, put a finger dot on the high and low strings in the proper fret first and then click the barre box. Click the box again to remove the barre.

Muted strings: Some chords require muted strings (strings that should not be played). To mark a string as muted, click in the mute box to the left of the string. If at least one string is muted, the mute boxes will be included in the final diagram.

Each string can only have one finger dot. To move a dot on any string to another fret, simply click on the new position. The old finger dot will disappear. To remove a finger dot altogther, click again on the existing dot.

Don't worry if your chord diagram appears to have missing lines when you view it in your word processing document. This is a consequence of screen resolution. The diagram will print out fine.

This program is not an OLE server. The diagram that gets pasted in your song sheet cannot be edited. To make a change, you must erase the original diagram and paste in another one. However, if I get enough response, I will consider making this program into an OLE server, so that you can embed chord diagrams and edit them later if necessary.

If you like this program, please send me a note on Compuserve. If you like it a lot, a $10 donation would be great.

Have fun.

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