

LEARN BLUES FINGERPICKING

INTERMEDIATE COURSE

1.1 The CAGED System



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The CAGED System & E7 Voicings

I want to introduce a new way of thinking about the fretboard called the CAGED system.

The CAGED system has many applications. It shows us how we can move chords up the neck to get other chords.

A quick experiment

Here is a little experiment for you.

If you have a capo, put it at the third fret and play an A chord.

Now take the capo off and just play a regular C chord.

Can you hear how they sound the same?

They are both C chords.

If we then put our capo at the 5th fret and play a G chord, then we also have a C chord.

If we put our capo at the 8th fret and play an E chord, again it's a C chord.

If we put our capo at the 10th fret and play a D chord, again it's a C chord

The CAGED System

The CAGED system instructs us that we can play any chord (or any scale) at five positions in the guitar neck.

We saw this in the example above with our C chord.

We were able to play that chord by playing a C shape, A shape, G shape, E shape or D shape.

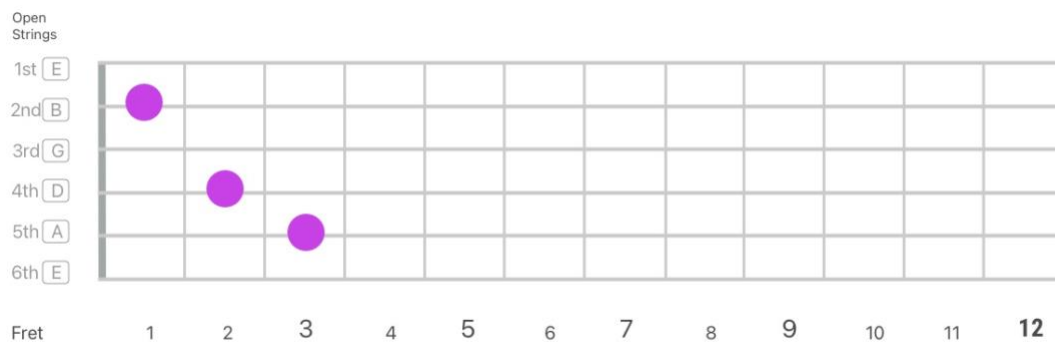
Becoming familiar with these shapes enables us to play a chord or scale not only using open strings but all the way up the neck.

Let's now look at all 5 shapes for C.

Notice how these chords look like other chords we know (other shapes) but further up the guitar neck!

Shape 1

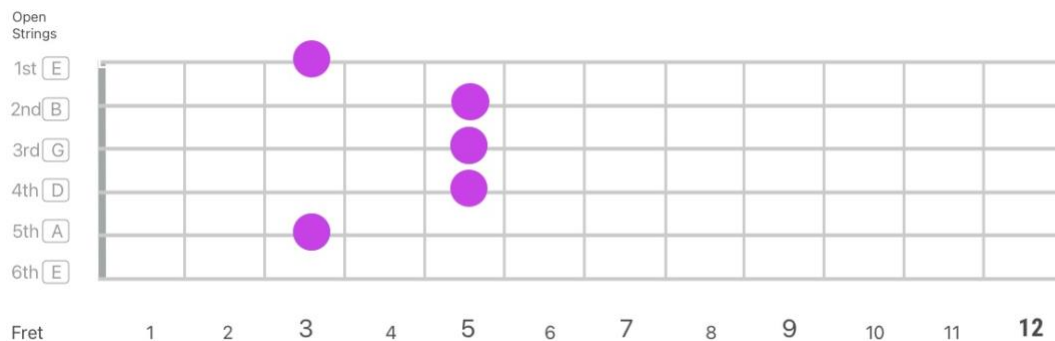
This is the regular C chord.



Shape 2

This is the A shape.

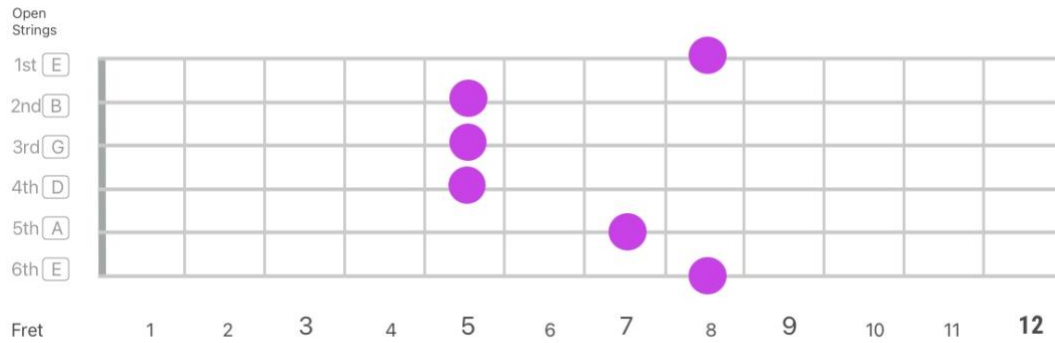
You could play A at the 3rd fret (using a capo) to get a C chord.



Shape 3

This is the G shape.

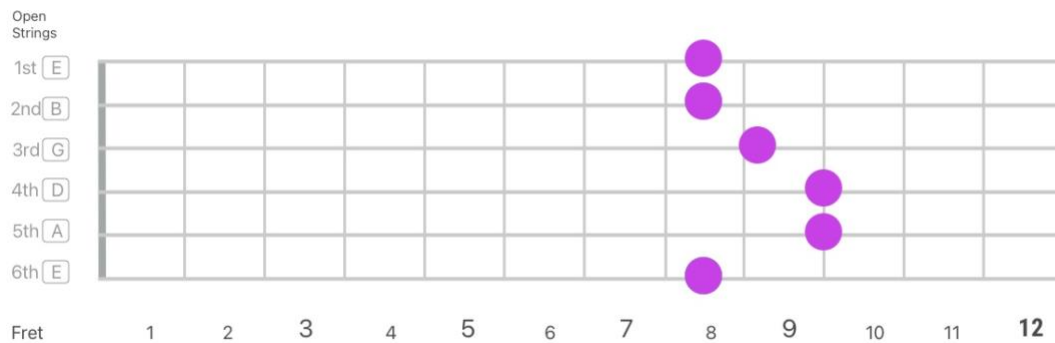
You could play G at the 5th fret (using a capo) to get a C chord.



Shape 4

This is the E shape.

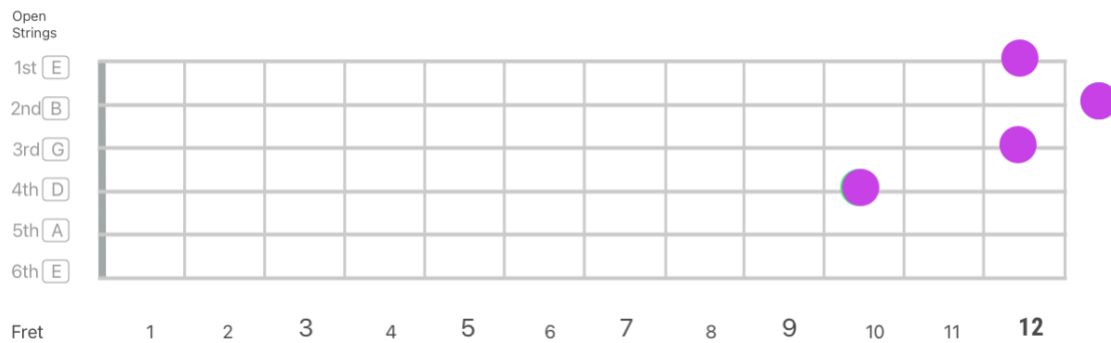
You could play E at the 8th fret (using a capo) to get a C chord.



Shape 5

This is the D shape.

You could play d at the 10th fret (using a capo) to get a C chord.



Assignment

Use a capo to “check” these chords all sound the same!