



Excerpt

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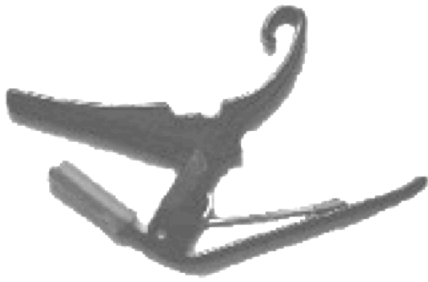
CAGED Capo

picking the chord family you want

While capos help significantly in changing from one key to another, they also help the guitar player who wants to **stay in the same key** but use a different chord family's chord shapes. For instance, if you don't like the A chord family, you can place a capo on the 2nd fret and use the G chord family chords instead.

Perhaps there are three guitar players who all want to play the same song in the same key but want different capo options so that they are not playing the exact same chord shapes. For instance, the song is in the key of E, and the first guitarist plays it using the E chord family. The next guitarist can capo 2 and use the D chord family and still be in the key of E. The third guitar player can capo 4 and use the C chord family and be in the key of E as well.

- ❖ The system of picking the chord family you want is called CAGED. "CAGED" is a memory trick for moving from one chord family to another. Each letter represents a common chord family. In order to transition from one chord family to another, place the capo either 2 or 3 frets higher than where you are. To transition *from* the C or G chord families, place the capo 3 frets higher. To transition *from* the A, E, or D chord families, place the capo 2 frets higher.
- ❖ For instance, if you start with the C chord family, you have a few options. You may place the capo on the 3rd fret and play the A chord family. Note, you will remain in the key of C; you'll just be playing different chord shapes. If you do not like the C chords or the A chords, you may progress 2 more frets (5 frets altogether) and play the G chords. Placing a capo on the 5th fret and using the G chord family is the same as no capo with the C chord family.
- ❖ In order to know exactly which chords to play, when you have placed a capo on the right fret, you must turn all of the chords into numbers via the major scale chart. For example, your old chords may be C, F, Am, G. You decided to place a capo on the 5th fret and use G chords. The C, F, Am and G, turned into numbers is: 1, 4, 6m and 5. In the G chord family, those numbers turn into G, C2, Em and D. These "new chords" with the capo are technically the same as the "old chords" since you are in the same key. They will just have higher notes than the original chords.



KEY of C =

- Capo 3 and use the A chord family
- Capo 5 and use the G chord family
- Capo 8 and use the E chord family

KEY of A =

- Capo 2 and use the G chord family
- Capo 5 and use the E chord family
- Capo 7 and use the D chord family

KEY of G =

- Capo 3 and use the E chord family
- Capo 5 and use the D chord family
- Capo 7 and use the C chord family

KEY of E =

- Capo 2 and use the D chord family
- Capo 4 and use the C chord family
- Capo 7 and use the A chord family

KEY of D =

- Capo 2 and use the C chord family
- Capo 5 and use the A chord family
- Capo 7 and use the G chord family

