# Capo Chart.

Which chord each open shape makes with a capo on frets 1 to 7, and which capo fret suits a song's key.

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CHORDS & HARMONY

## Capo Chart

Play the shape on the left with the capo on the fret at the top: the chord that sounds is where they meet.

| CAPO FRET | Open | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C shape | C | D♭ | D | E♭ | E | F | F♯ | G |
| A shape | A | B♭ | B | C | D♭ | D | E♭ | E |
| G shape | G | A♭ | A | B♭ | B | C | D♭ | D |
| E shape | E | F | F♯ | G | A♭ | A | B♭ | B |
| D shape | D | E♭ | E | F | F♯ | G | A♭ | A |
| Am shape | Am | B♭m | Bm | Cm | C♯m | Dm | E♭m | Em |
| Em shape | Em | Fm | F♯m | Gm | G♯m | Am | B♭m | Bm |
| Dm shape | Dm | E♭m | Em | Fm | F♯m | Gm | G♯m | Am |

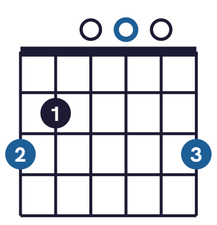
Each fret raises every chord by a semitone. Shaded: the shape played open, with no capo.

Chord charts with a capo give the shapes you play, not the sounding chords: "Capo 2: G, C, D" sounds as A, D, E.

FOUNDATIONS

## How a Capo Works

A capo clamps across all six strings and acts as a new nut, so every open chord shape moves up together.



G shape, capo 2 sounds A

- Count frets from the capo: with the capo on 2, the shape's first fret is the 3rd fret of the guitar.
- Each fret up raises the key by a semitone. Capo 2 takes a song in G up to A.
- Put the capo just behind the fret wire, not on top of it, and retune if the strings go sharp.
- Singers: if a song is too low, move the capo up a fret or two and play the same shapes.

Coloured dot: the root of the shape.

*"Music is the universal language of mankind."*

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**, Outre-Mer, 1835

CHORDS & HARMONY

## Which Capo Fret?

Find the song's key on the left, then the shapes you'd like to play: the number is the capo fret (0: no capo).

| SONG KEY | C shapes | A shapes | G shapes | E shapes | D shapes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | 0 | 3 | 5 | - | - |
| D♭ | 1 | 4 | 6 | - | - |
| D | 2 | 5 | 7 | - | 0 |
| E♭ | 3 | 6 | - | - | 1 |
| E | 4 | 7 | - | 0 | 2 |
| F | 5 | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| F♯ | 6 | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| G | 7 | - | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| A♭ | - | - | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| A | - | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| B♭ | - | 1 | 3 | 6 | - |
| B | - | 2 | 4 | 7 | - |

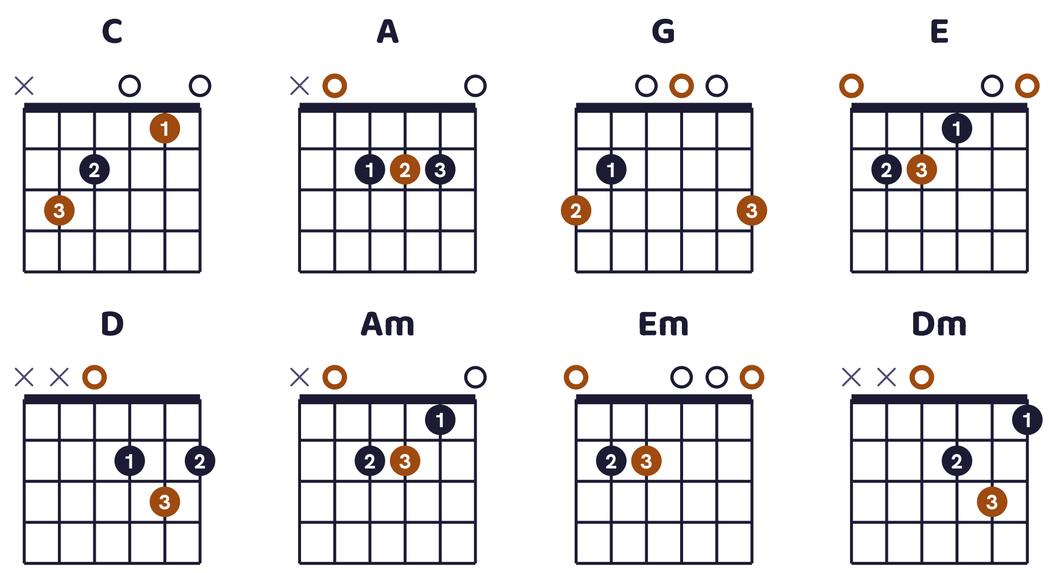
A dash: that shape needs the capo above the 7th fret.

Minor key? Use the Am, Em and Dm rows of the Capo Chart: for a song in B minor, play Am shapes with the capo on 2.

CHORDS & HARMONY

## Open Chords

The first chords most guitarists learn. Strings run top to bottom, low E on the left; the thick line at the top is the nut.




Numbers are fingers (1 = index). ○ play the open string, × don't play it. The coloured dot is the root.

PRACTICE TIP

**Practise slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.**

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