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.

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	-

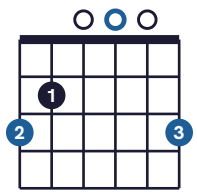
A dash: that shape needs the capo above the 7th fret.

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.

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

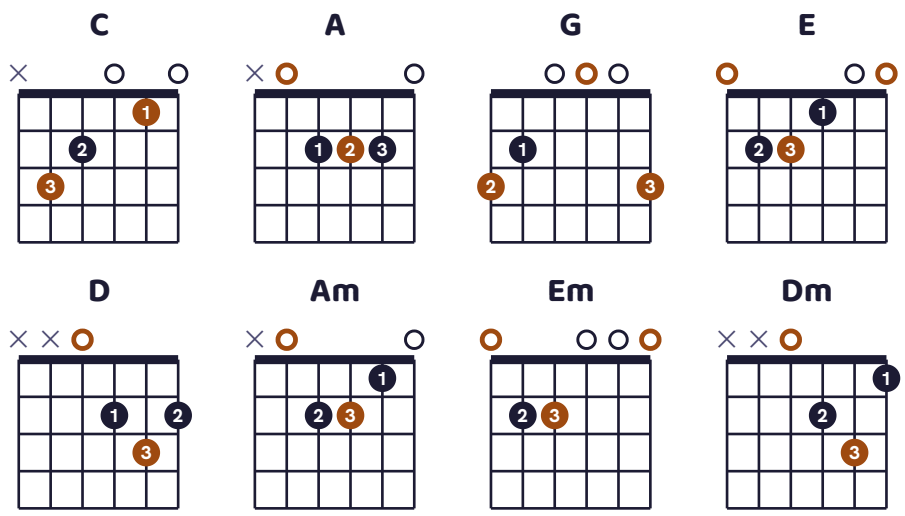
- Count frets from the capo: with the capo on 2, the shape's first fret is the 3rd fret of the guitar.
- Each fret up raises the key by a semitone. Capo 2 takes a song in G up to A.
- Put the capo just behind the fret wire, not on top of it, and retune if the strings go sharp.
- Singers: if a song is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

Coloured dot: the root of the shape.

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.

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

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