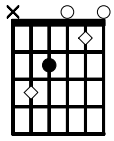


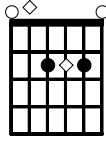
The CAGED System

The CAGED system is a common method of fingerboard organization used by many guitarists. It is a simple and effective way to visualize scales, arpeggios, and even chords over the entire fretboard. The system is based on the following five familiar chord shapes. The diamond shape indicates a root note.

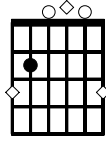
C Form



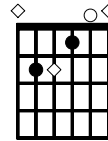
A Form



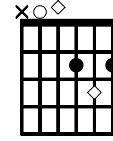
G Form



E Form

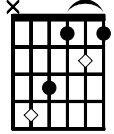


D Form

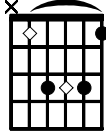


In these next set of diagrams we see each of the chords moved up the fretboard one fret, This forces the player to utilize the barre technique to complete the chord. (Notice that the actual name of the chord changes but the name of the formation stays the same.)

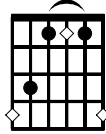
D \flat , C Form



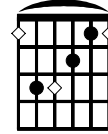
B \flat , A Form



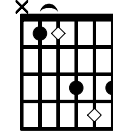
A \flat , G Form



F, E Form

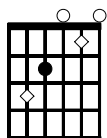


E \flat , D Form

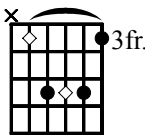


The next step is to locate each form so that the entire system conforms to a single chord (or key), thereby defining the five basic areas of the fretboard. In the next example the each form is transposed to the key of C. Observe that as you move up the fingerboard, each form connects from one to the next and that notes in common to the two successive forms are played with different fingers:

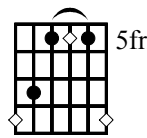
C Form



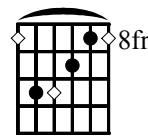
C, A Form



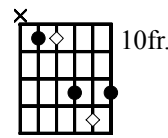
C, G Form



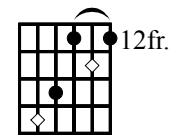
C, E Form



C, D Form

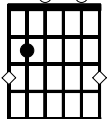


C, C Form

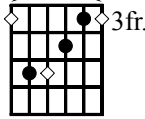


Here we see the key of G:

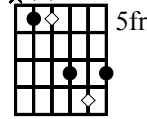
G, G Form



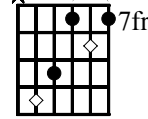
G, E Form



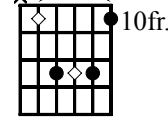
G, D Form



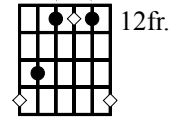
G, C Form



G, A Form



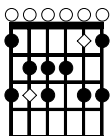
G, G Form



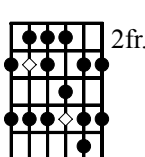
The Major Scale

The next example shows the Major Scale (A.K.A. the Ionian Mode) as it relates to the CAGED system. Each fingering is related to its corresponding chord formation. None of these fingerings are carved in stone; there is often more than one alternative, and you may treat them as a guide allowing the way your improvised lines are moving to help to dictate fingering. Practice the patterns from the lowest available root up to the highest available root. Be aware of the extra notes either below or above the root. As you practice imagine the scale pattern superimposed over its corresponding formation.

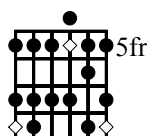
C Form



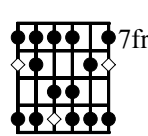
A Form



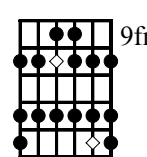
G Form



E Form



D Form



C Form

