



The Long Island Guitar Festival 2021

Presents

Fretboard Navigation

with James Erickson

Naming Notes on the Fingerboard

Half Step (semitone) = distance of 1 fret

Whole Step (tone) = distance of 2 frets

Natural Notes

Whole Step

A - B

C - D

D - E

F - G

G - A

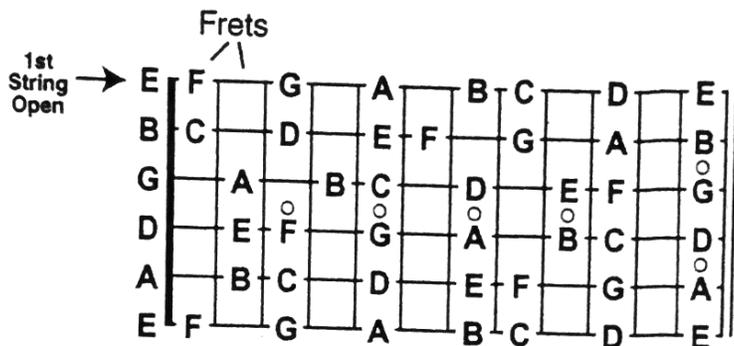
Half Step

B - C

E - F

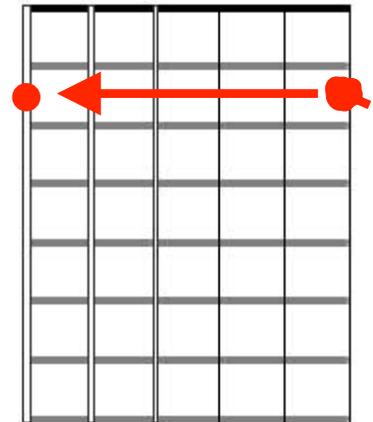
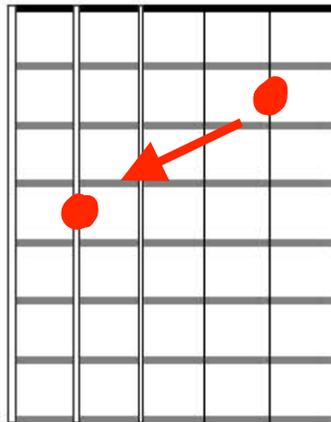
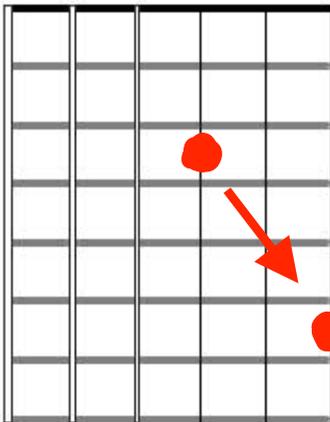
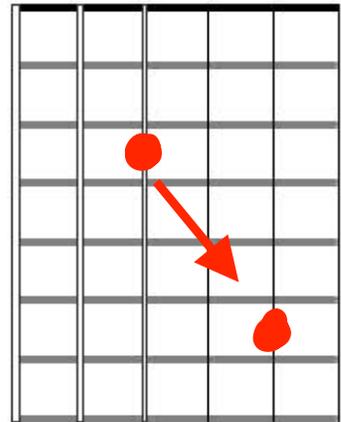
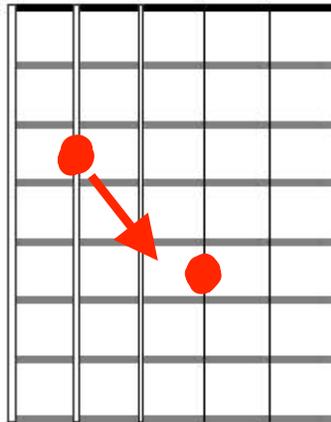
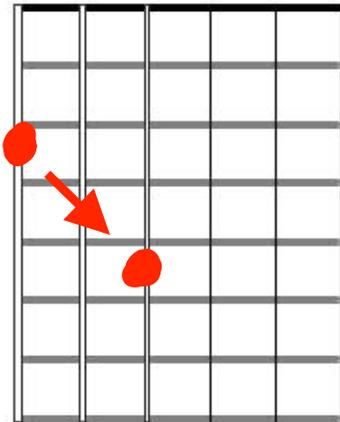
Exercise – Starting with the open string, name all the natural notes up to the 12th fret. DO this on each string and say the notes aloud.

The placement of the notes on the guitar are shown on the following horizontal diagram of the guitar neck. Notice, all the natural notes (not sharp or flat) are one whole step apart, except between B and C and between E and F. These notes are 1/2 step apart. This is true on all instruments.



Name →	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
1st String								
Fret →	open	1	3	5	7	8	10	12
B C D E F G A B								
2nd String								
	O	1	3	5	6	8	10	12
G A B C D E F G								
3rd String								
	O	2	4	5	7	9	10	12
D E F G A B C D								
4th String								
	O	2	3	5	7	9	10	12
A B C D E F G A								
5th String								
	O	2	3	5	7	8	10	12
E F G A B C D E								
6th String								
	O	1	3	5	7	8	10	12

The Six Landmark Octave Shapes



Octave Summary

6 to 4

5 to 3

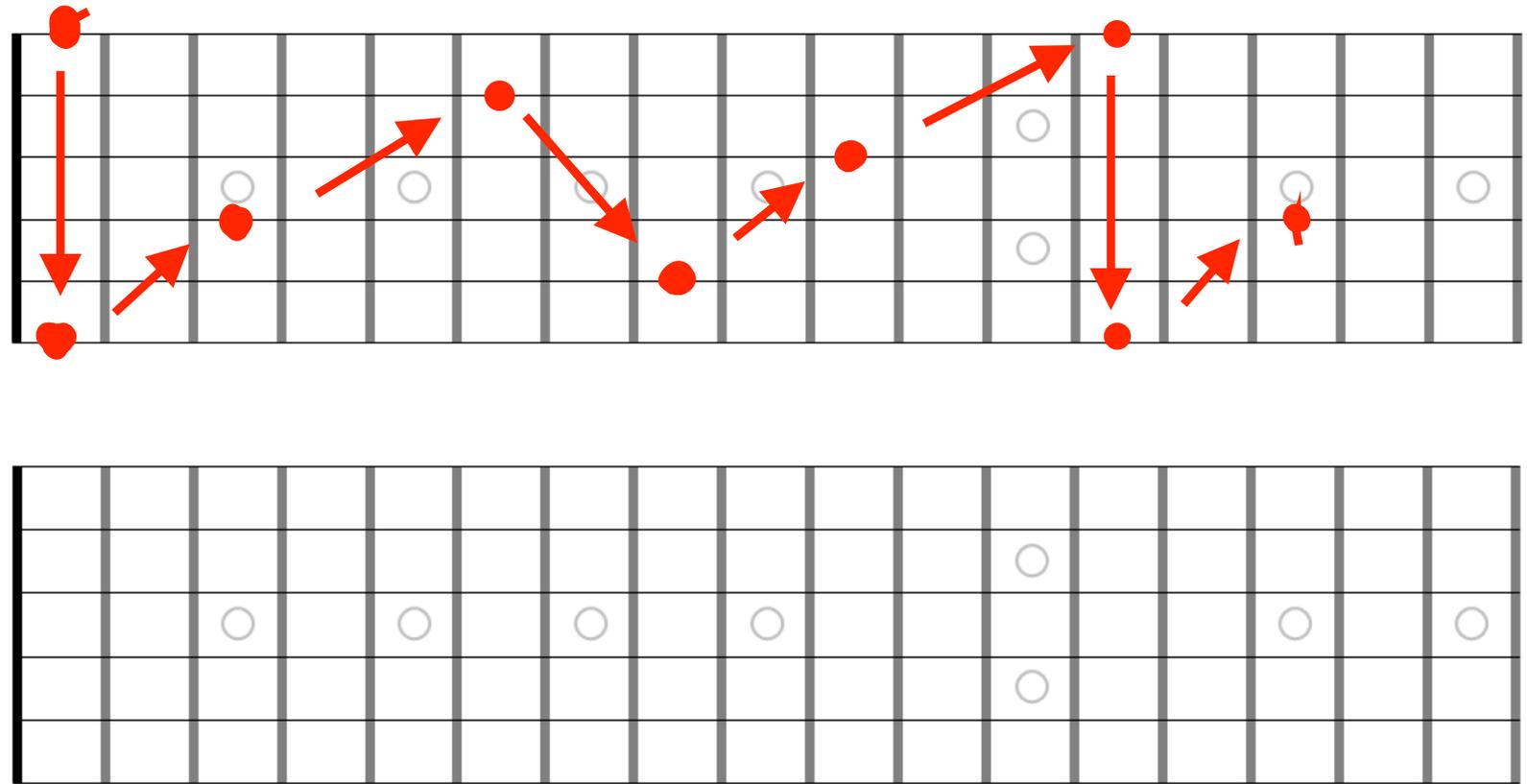
4 to 2

3 to 1

2 to 5

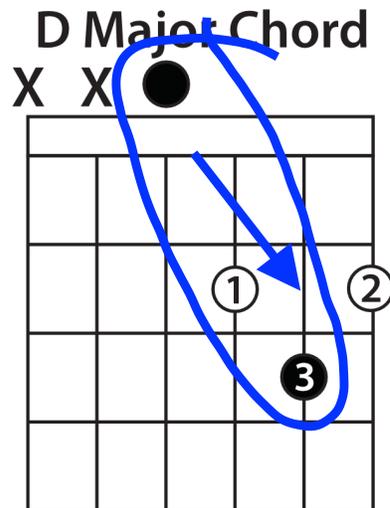
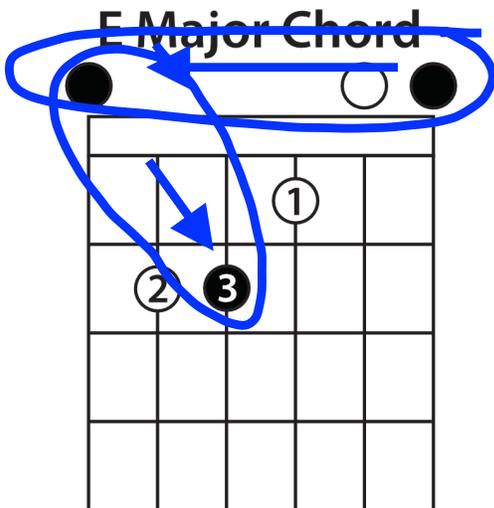
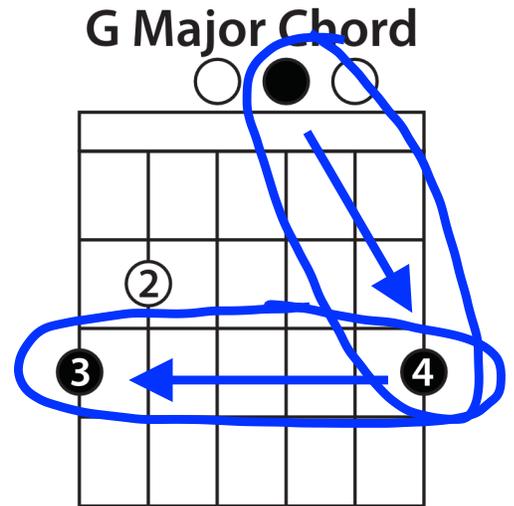
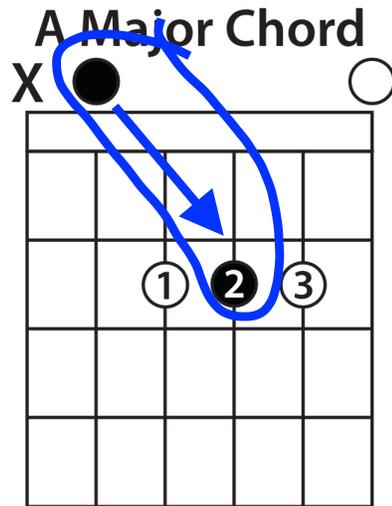
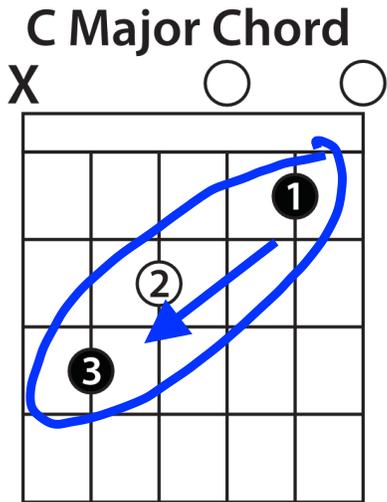
1 to 6

Putting the Pieces Together



Exercise – Pick any note on any string and connect the octave shapes.

Organizing the Fretboard - C - A - G - E - D

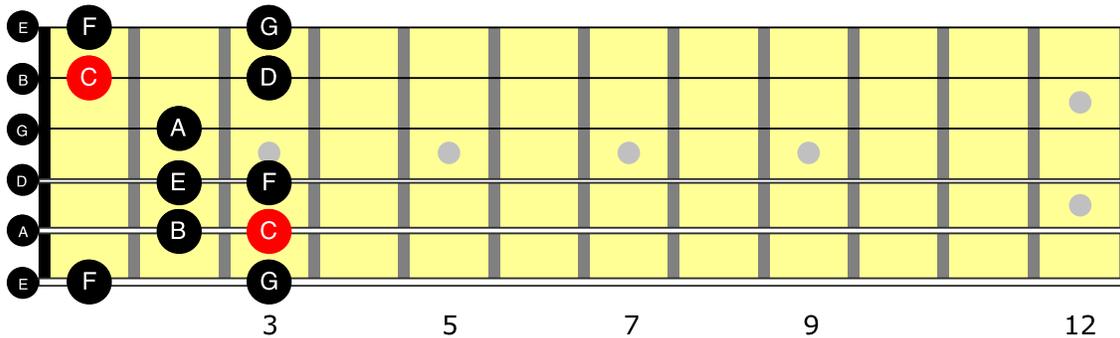


C Major (Ionian)

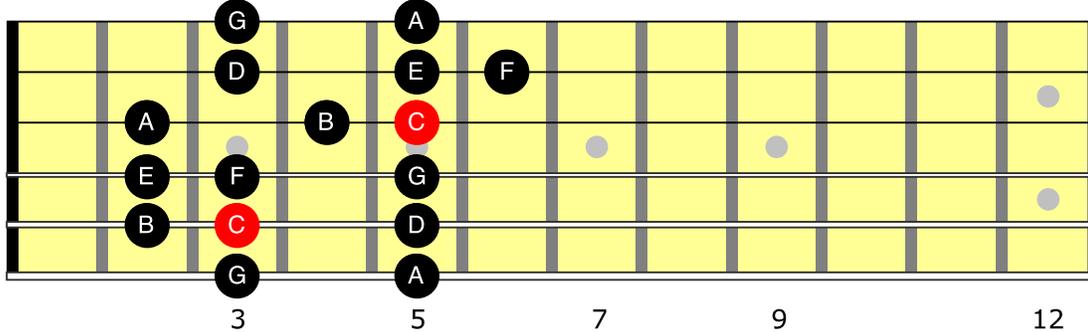
CAGED

Pattern 1 - C Shape

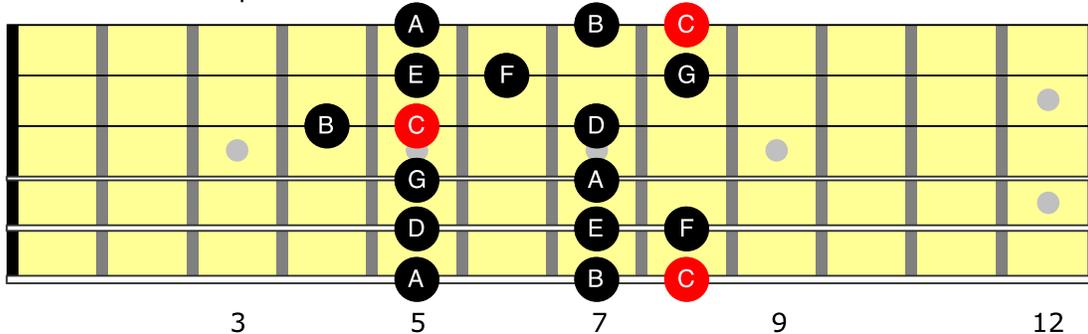
C w D w E h F w G w A w B h C



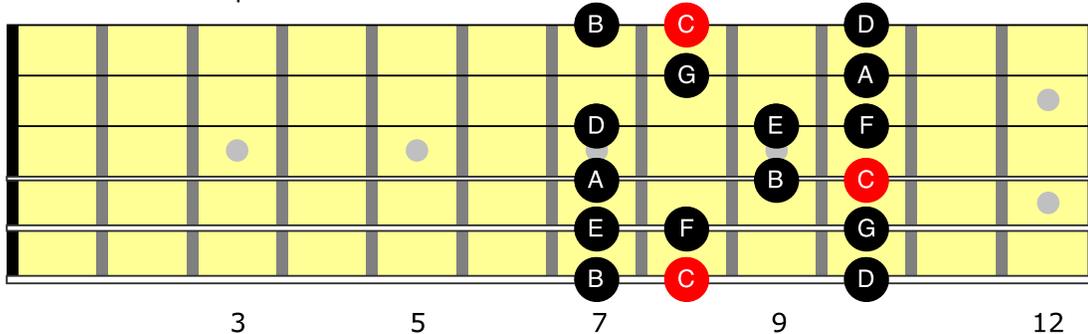
Pattern 2 - A Shape



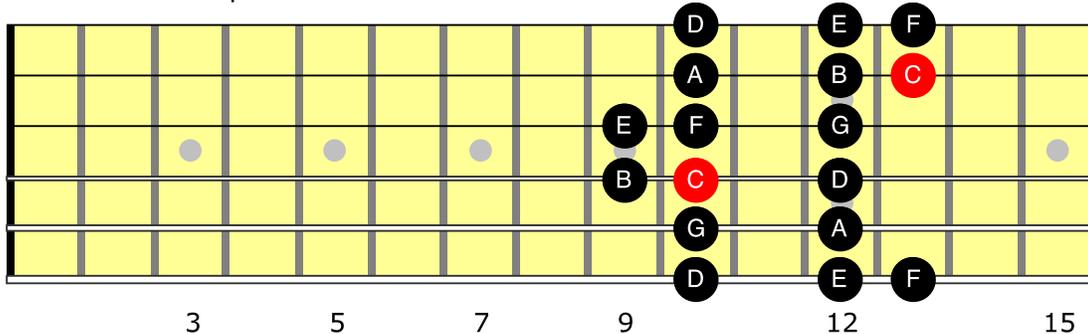
Pattern 3 - G Shape



Pattern 4 - E Shape



Pattern 5 - D Shape



G Major (Ionian)
G w A w B h C w D w E w F h G

