

# The CAGED System

## Worksheet

### Major Chords in Open Position: C, A, G, E, D

The Major chords presented below are what the CAGED System is named for. Subsequent chords are based off of these FORMS. For each chord we want to create, we need to know the root, the type of chord, and the form:

Root: C	A	G	E	D
Type: Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj
Form: C	A	G	E	D

Notice for the Open Chord forms, the Form matches the Root. This will always be the case for the open chords

The diagram illustrates the fretboard positions for five open major chords: C, A, G, E, and D. Each chord is represented by a fretboard diagram with dots indicating finger positions and 'x' marks for muted strings. Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord's sound in treble clef.

- C:** Fretboard diagram shows notes C4, E4, G4, C5 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows a C major triad.
- A:** Fretboard diagram shows notes A2, C3, E3, A3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows an A major triad.
- G:** Fretboard diagram shows notes G2, B2, D3, G3 on strings 6, 5, 4, 3. Musical notation shows a G major triad.
- E:** Fretboard diagram shows notes E2, G2, B2, E3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows an E major triad.
- D:** Fretboard diagram shows notes D2, F#2, A2, D3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows a D major triad.

Parameters for a chord to be "moveable" or "bar-able"

\* 3 or fewer fretted notes

\* All notes should be within a 4 fret range (e.g. from frets 0-4 in the open position).

### Major Bar/Moveable Chords based off of the CAGED Forms

Using the C, A, G, E, and D major open chords as an intervallic basis for fully fretted/bar chords, we can alter the roots to create new chords based off of the CAGED forms.

Root: D	B	A	F#	E
Type: Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj	Maj
Form: C	A	G	E	D

Now we have Bar chords all based around the 2nd fret. Notice that the forms match the original but all of the dots have been moved on to the fretboard diagram and the fret number is specified.

The diagram illustrates the fretboard positions for five bar major chords, all based on the 2nd fret. Each chord is represented by a fretboard diagram with dots indicating finger positions, 'x' marks for muted strings, and a bracket labeled '2fr.' above the fretted notes. Below each diagram is a musical staff showing the chord's sound in treble clef.

- D:** Fretboard diagram shows notes D3, F#3, A3, D4 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows a D major triad.
- B:** Fretboard diagram shows notes B2, D3, F#3, B3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows a B major triad.
- A:** Fretboard diagram shows notes A2, C3, E3, A3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows an A major triad.
- F#:** Fretboard diagram shows notes F#2, A2, C#3, F#3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows an F# major triad.
- E:** Fretboard diagram shows notes E2, G2, B2, E3 on strings 5, 4, 3, 2. Musical notation shows an E major triad.

Note: For any Major chord in a CAGED form, the root may change, but nothing else in the diagram will except the FRET NUMBER next to the first fret on the diagram

## Minor Chords in Open Position: Cm, Am, Gm, Em, Dm

The Minor chords presented below use the same figuration as their major counter-parts, but account for the lowered 3rd degree of each chord. Notice that the Cm and Gm chords change slightly and use all four fingers of the left hand to fret the chords. Cm and Gm forms are *not moveable into Bar Chord form* (though they are still quite lovely).

Root:	C	A	G	E	D
Type:	Min	Min	Min	Min	Min
Form:	C	A	G	E	D

	Cm	Am	Gm	Em	Dm

## Minor Bar/Moveable chords based off of the CAGED Forms

Using the A, E, and D minor open chords as an intervallic basis for fully fretted/bar chords, we can alter the roots to create new chords based off of the CAGED forms.

Root:	N/A	B	N/A	F#	E
Type:	Min	Min	Min	Min	Min
Form:	N/A	A	N/A	E	D

Now we have Bar chords all based around the 2nd fret. Notice that the forms match the original but all of the dots have been moved on to the fretboard diagram and the fret number is specified.

	Bm	F#m	Em

Note: For any minor chord in a CAGED form, the root may change, but nothing else in the diagram will except the FRET NUMBER next to the first fret on the diagram

### Dominant 7 Chords in Open Position: C7, A7, G7, E7, D7

The Dominant 7 chords presented below use the same figuration as their major counter-parts, but account for the added flat-7 degree of each chord. Notice that the C7 uses all four fingers of the left hand to fret the chords. The C7 also omits the 5th. C7 is not moveable as a 5 string chord (4 string derivatives are used quite often).

Root:	C	A	G	E	D
Type:	7	7	7	7	7
Form:	C	A	G	E	D

	C7	A7	G7	E7	D7

### Dominant 7 Bar/Moveable chords based off the CAGED Forms

Using the C, A, G, E, and D Dominant 7 open chords as an intervallic basis for fully fretted/bar chords, we can alter the roots to create new chords based off of the CAGED forms.

Root:	D	B	A	F#	E
Type:	7	7	7	7	7
Form:	C	A	G	E	D

Now we have Bar chords all based around the 2nd fret. Notice that the forms match the original but all of the dots have been moved on to the fretboard diagram and the fret number is specified.

	D7	B7	A7	F#7	E7

\*4 note variation

Note: For any Dominant 7 chord in a CAGED form, the root may change, but nothing else in the diagram will except the FRET NUMBER next to the first fret on the diagram