

# The Basics of Using a "CAPO"



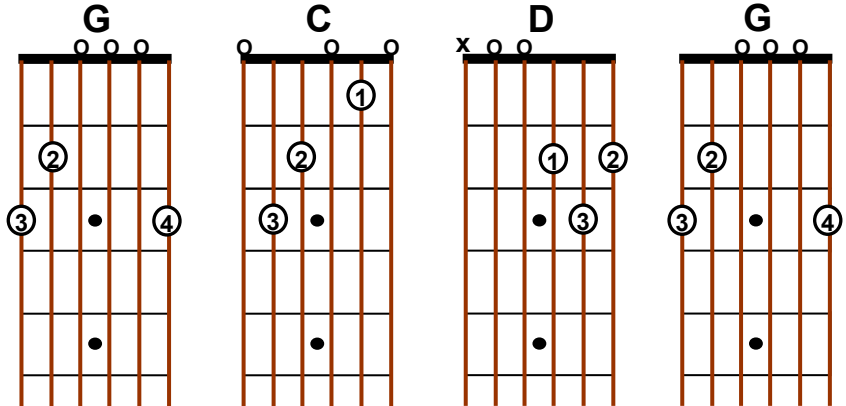
The "CAPO" is a simple device that fits (clamps) over the fret and neck area of the guitar to help make it easier to play songs in different "keys" (without having to change to more difficult chord fingerings). Newer types of Capo's snap on to the guitar neck very easily. The following information will demonstrate the use of a CAPO and why.



## Example #1: A chord progression in the key of "G" (G-C-D-G).

In example #1 we will use a simple progression in the key of "G" to demonstrate. Let's say you start singing the song, and your voice is too low. You need to change the key so you can sing the song a half-step higher. You could do two things: Play the chords as "Barre Chords" (Ex: #2) or Use a Capo (Ex: #3). [Video Clip!](#)

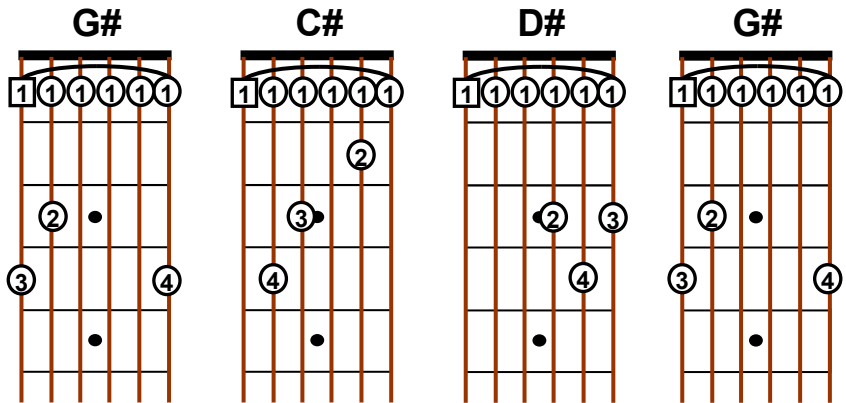
#1 G /// C /// D /// G ///



## Example #2: Changing Regular Chords to Barre Chords – "G" to "G#"

If you do not have a Capo – you would have to play the chords as shown → Barre the first fret with your first finger and now these "regular" chords are changed to "Barre" chords. The sound of the chord has changed (they do not have that "open string" sound to them). These "easy" regular chords are now harder to play as "barre" chords.

#2 G# /// C# /// D# /// G# ///



## Example #3: Use a Capo to Change the Key of the song – "G" to "G#"

Place the Capo over the first fret of the first string, and play the "regular" chords as shown (one fret higher up the fretboard). The chords are "fingered" the same, but since they are one half-step higher up the fret board they are all "sharps" now.

[A Capo helps make the chords easier to play while increasing the "quality" of the chord tone \(regular chords will sound much better than barre chords\).](#)

