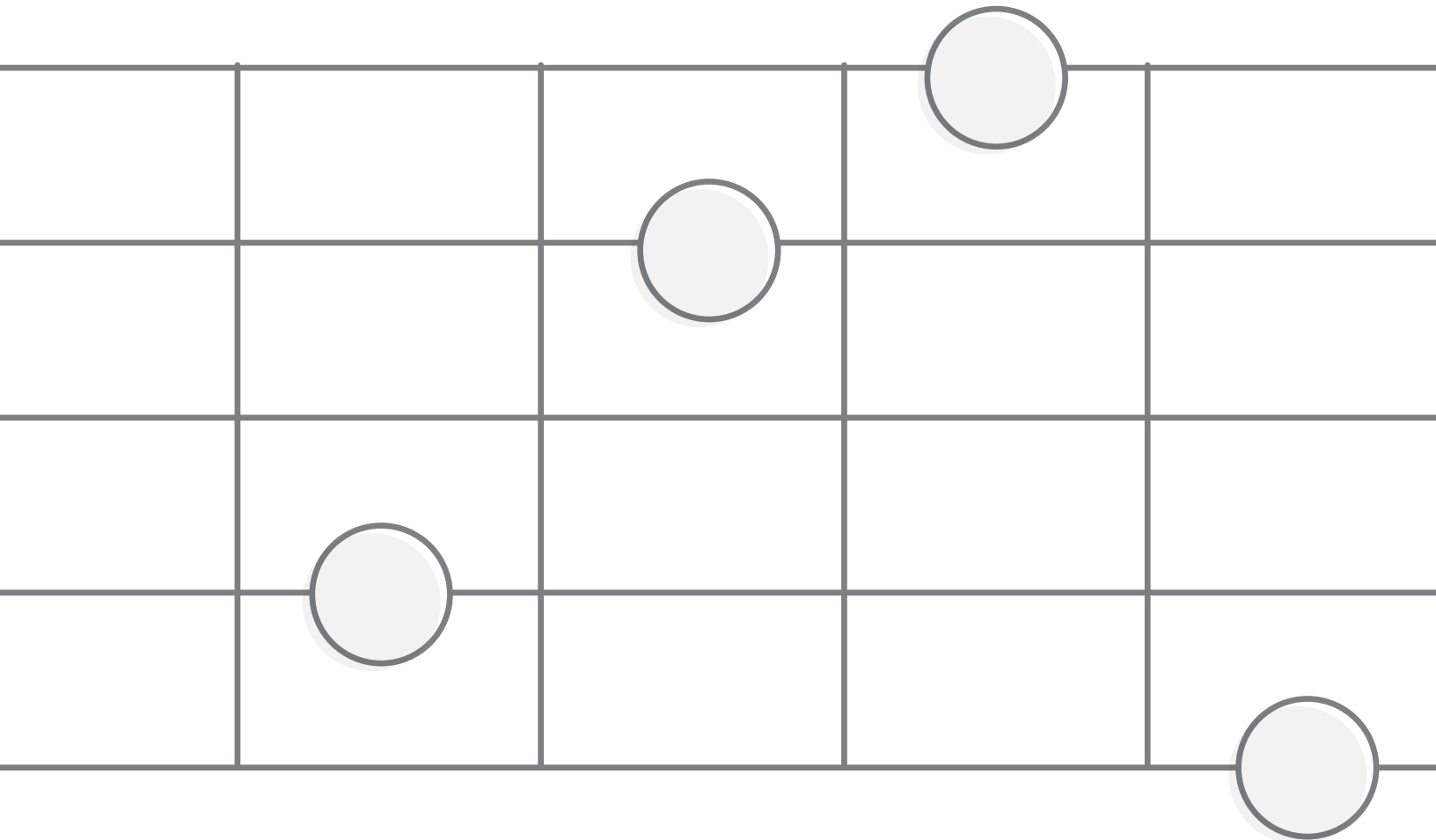# Fretboard Wizard

Learn The Fretboard Fast

Congrats, future Fretboard Wizard!
You are about to quickly learn how the fretboard works so you can get exponentially more enjoyment from your guitar routine.

Why is Fretboard Wizard different than the rest?

This newly updated 30-day Fretboard Wizard program uses a carefully crafted "micro-learning" approach rather than the traditional information firehose of online courses or college curriculums.

This format has been shown to increase completion rates by up to 500%. This means when you invest in Fretboard Wizard, you're much more likely to see results. Here's how...

First, we've selected the most potent 10% of all music theory that guitar players use nearly every time they pick up the guitar.

Then, we've painstakingly sequenced this information so each day builds on previous days in a carefully layered progression that pulls you through the program.

Finally, we've connected what you're learning in Fretboard Wizard to the TAC Daily Challenges so you can reinforce your new knowledge with hands-on guitar playing. This cycle between fretboard concepts and your daily guitar routine will speed up your understanding while giving you a deep sense of fulfillment.

How it Works

You'll learn four core fretboard navigation concepts over four weeks. Each day will contain a micro-lesson and a hands-on challenge.

Use the quick reference section of this course guide to practice your new fretboard skills in the TAC Daily Challenges.

WEEK 01

Musical Alphabet

This is the most foundational element of fretboard knowledge. Everything you learn in the rest of the program will build upon this simple framework. Get ready for plenty of lightbulb moments! This week: learn the musical alphabet, create a major scale (and why it's important), find the key by ear, and learn the minor scale formula.

WEEK 02

Chord Matrix Fretboard Tool

The Chord Matrix is a simple tool you'll use to find scales, chords within a key, and notes for improvisation among so much more. This week: learn how to make a chord matrix, anatomy of chords & how to make them major or minor, find the chords to a song by ear, and learn the Nashville Number System that allows you to change keys instantly.

WEEK 03

CAGED

Using the previous two weeks as your foundation, you'll learn how the CAGED system helps you find chords, notes, and scales in five different locations to connect & unlock the entire fretboard. This week: learn what CAGED is, focus on one chord shape and scale shape each day, then see how they all connect. Prepare for your mind to be blown!

WEEK 04

Building Blocks of Soloing

This week you'll connect all the concepts you've learned so far to actual, hands-on guitar playing. This week: Learn the basics of improvisation by playing a scale over a chord progression, get a bit more musical by playing chord tones as you solo, add even more to your solos by finding the melody of any song, learn to find harmony notes (and the secret to arranging any harmony!)

Instructions

• Print & place on bathroom mirror
• Plan to focus at least 30 minutes per day

WEEK 01						
Musical Alphabet	**Day 1** Musical Alphabet	**Day 2** Major Scale Formula	**Day 3** Find the Key by Ear	**Day 4** Minor Scale Formula	**Day 5** Key Concepts & Quiz		

WEEK 02						
Chord Matrix Fretboard Tool	**Day 1** Learn the Chord Matrix	**Day 2** Anatomy of Chords	**Day 3** Find the Chords by Ear	**Day 4** Nashville Number System	**Day 5** Key Concepts & Quiz		

WEEK 03						
CAGED Navigation System	**Day 1** What is CAGED	**Day 2** C Shape & Scale Pattern	**Day 3** A Shape & Scale Pattern	**Day 4** G Shape & Scale Pattern	**Day 5** E Shape & Scale Pattern	**Day 6** D Shape & Scale Pattern	**Day 7** Connect the Shapes & Scales

| WEEK 04						
Building Blocks of Soloing	**Day 1** Foundation of Soloing	**Day 2** Find Chord Tones	**Day 3** Find the Melody	**Day 4** Find the Harmony	**Day 5** Review & Completion Certificate		

# Fretboard Wizard

Quick Reference
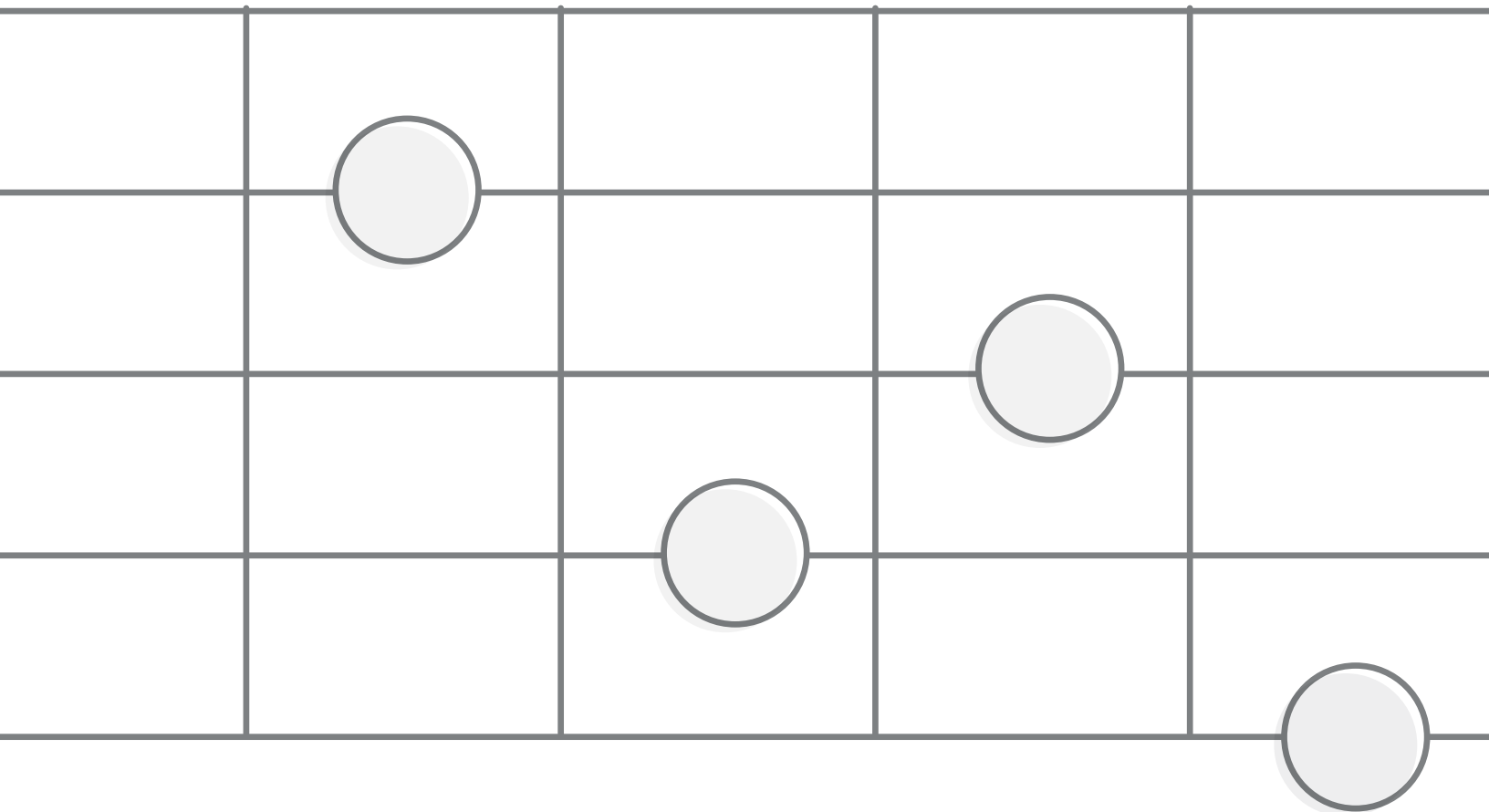
The Musical Alphabet

You learned that the Musical Alphabet is the most foundational element of fretboard knowledge. Everything you learned in the rest of the program built upon this simple framework. First you learned the musical alphabet, then you learned how to create a major scale (and that it's the foundation for all music). Next, you learned to find the key by ear, and the minor scale formula.

MUSICAL ALPHABET

A B C D E F G A
W H W W H W W
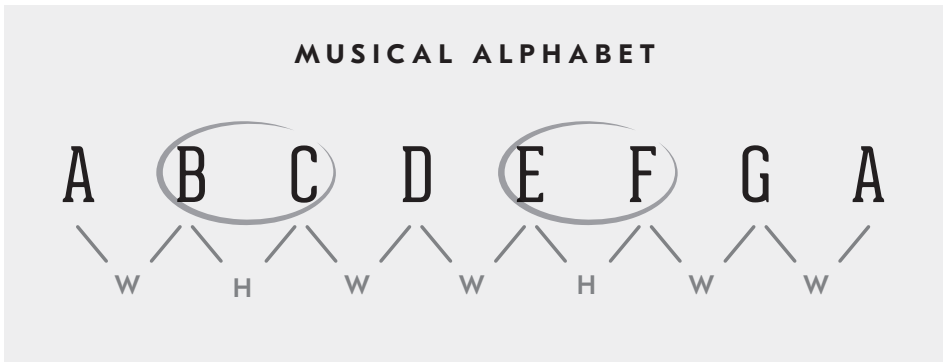
- Between B&C and E&F there is a naturally occurring half step, all other pairs of natural notes are separated by a whole step

- Whole Step = 2 frets

- Half Step = 1 fret
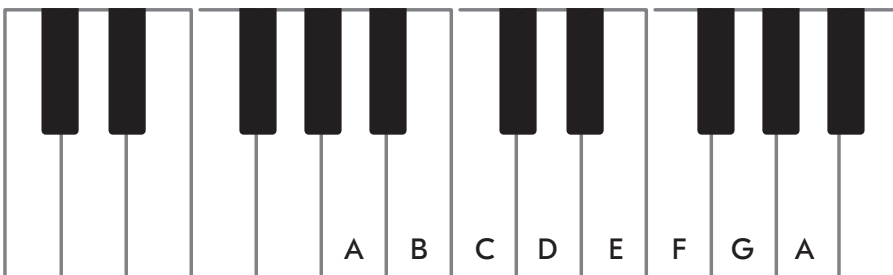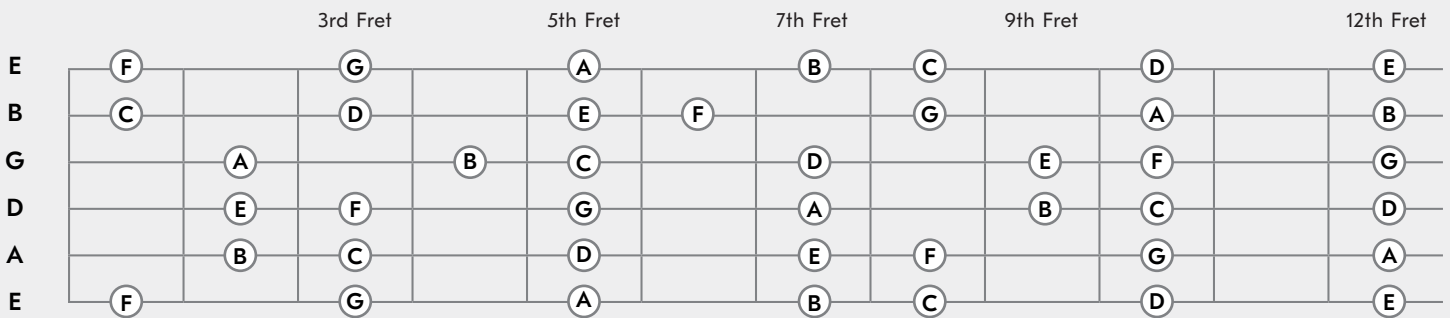
- **Above:** Study each string to see how it follows the musical alphabet formula.

- **Left:** See how the musical alphabet applies to piano. Notice the "half step" between B&C and E&F."

MAJOR SCALE FORMULA

C   D   (E   F)   G   A   (B   C)

W   W   H   W   W   W   H

The universal recipe for a major scale is: W W H W W W H

- The "model major" scale is the C major scale because it contains all natural notes. This means no sharps or flats are used to achieve the arrangement of whole and half steps necessary for a major scale.

- To make a major scale in keys other than C you will need to add sharps (#) or flats (b) to manipulate the intervals (the space between the notes) to achieve the correct "recipe" for a major scale.

EXAMPLE 01

D   E   (F#   G)   A   B   (C#   D)

W   W   H   W   W   W   H

EXAMPLE 02

A   B   (C#   D)   E   F#   (G#   A)

W   W   H   W   W   W   H

- You can add sharps or you can add flats to "fix" or create a major scale, but you will NEVER add both. You will be adding only sharps or only flats when manipulating notes.

- By understanding the universal recipe of the major scale you can construct a major scale on any string without having to know the notes.

- Playing a scale on one string will allow you to "see" and experience the distances or intervals between the notes in any major scale. Allowing you to understand what exactly you are playing when you play different scale shapes that go across the strings.

Find the Key by Ear

STEP 01
Using the low E string find the lowest note that works through the entire song

STEP 02
Name that note using the musical alphabet

Minor Scale Formula

- Every series of natural notes issues a mode, a mode is an arrangement of whole and half steps.
- There are many other modes, but for simplicity, only concern yourself with major and minor modes.
- Model minor scale is A B C D E F G A
- Minor scale formula: W H W W H W W

Reinforce These Concepts in Your TAC Daily Challenges

Wednesday Improvisation

- When playing a major or minor scale, recite the corresponding recipe
- Try to find the key of the backing track
- Check your answer the following day during the Thursday Rhythm Guitar Challenge
- In any daily challenge, name the notes that you are playing by using the musical alphabet

WEEK 02

The Chord Matrix Fretboard Tool

This week you learned that the Chord Matrix is a simple tool you'll use to find scales, chords within a key, and notes for improvisation among so much more. First you learned how to make a chord matrix, then you learned the anatomy of chords & how to make them major or minor. Next, you learned how to find the chords to a song by ear, and we wrapped up the week by learning the Nashville Number System that allows you to change keys instantly.

Create a Chord Matrix

Creating a Chord Matrix allows you to see what chords are in a key and which notes each chord contains. This can provide a wonderful basis for improvisation and give you some guidelines when choosing which notes to play over which chords.

The chord matrix will show you the tonality of the chords — Major (M), Minor (m), or diminished (dim) in whichever key you choose to construct it in.

The chord matrix will also show you the connection between the scale degree (1-7) and the tonality of its corresponding chord (i.e. the first scale degree corresponds to a Major chord, the 2nd scale degree corresponds to a minor chord. Etc.).

The major key chord matrix also reveals the universal rule of any major key's scale/chord connection. The chords in any major key will follow this pattern:

- The 1 chord is always Major
- The 2 chord is always minor
- The 3 chord is always minor
- The 4 chord is always Major
- The 5 chord is always Major
- The 6 chord is always minor
- The 7 chord is always diminished

The minor key chord matrix also reveals the universal rule of any minor key's scale/chord connection. The chords in any minor key will follow this pattern:

- The 1 chord is always minor
- The 2 chord is always diminished
- The 3 chord is always Major
- The 4 chord is always minor
- The 5 chord is always minor
- The 6 chord is always Major
- The 7 chord is always Major

Workflow

(STEP 1) Write the given scale in row 1.

(STEP 2) Starting on the 3rd of that scale, write the scale in row 2 (this row is based on the 3rd degree).

(STEP 3) Starting on the 5th of that scale write the scale in row 3 (this row is based on the 5th degree).

(STEP 4) Once constructed, note Major, minor, or diminished below the columns that correspond to the scale degree (This is the universal major key chord rule).

EXAMPLE 01

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
(3)	F#	G	A	B	C#	D	E	F#
(5)	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G	A
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

EXAMPLE 02

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
(3)	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#
(5)	E	F#	G#	A	B	C#	D	E
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

EXAMPLE 03 (WITH SCALE DEGREES)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
(3)	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
(5)	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

Chord Tonality

Use the chord matrix to see what notes are in a given chord, then determine if that chord is major or minor and manipulate it to your choosing.

Once fluent in chord manipulation, there is less urgency to memorize basic chord shapes due to your ability to "create" chords based on their inner workings.

What allows you to analyze a chord are the spaces in between the notes called intervals.
Within a triad, (the three notes that a chord contains) there are two types of naturally occurring intervals:

· Major 3rd - Equal to 2 whole steps
· Minor 3rd - Equal to 1.5 whole steps

The distance of these intervals is measured by calculating the number of steps between the given pair of notes. Depending on the order in which the intervals occur, you will have a major chord, a minor chord, or a diminished chord when using chords from a major scale.
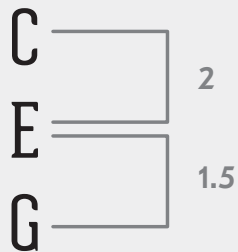
CHORD TONALITY FORMULA:
Major Chord = Major 3rd followed by minor 3rd
Minor Chord = minor 3rd followed by Major 3rd
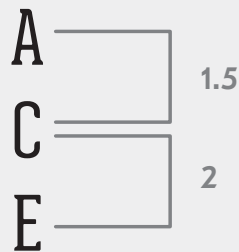**Diminished Chord** = minor 3rd followed by minor 3rd

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
(3)	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
(5)	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

EXAMPLE 01

C ⎤
     ⎥ 2
E ⎦
     ⎤ 1.5
G ⎦

EXAMPLE 02

A ⎤
     ⎥ 1.5
C ⎦
     ⎤ 2
E ⎦

EXAMPLE 03

B ⎤
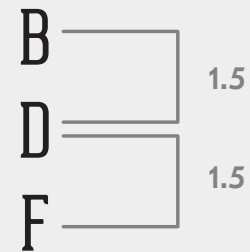   ⎥ 1.5
D ⎦
     ⎤ 1.5
F ⎦

- Between C and E there are 2 whole steps or a major 3rd

- Between E and G there are 1.5 whole steps or a minor 3rd

- Due to the above layout this is a C major chord

- Between A and C there are 1.5 whole steps or a minor 3rd

- Between C and E there are 2 whole steps or a major 3rd

- Due to the above layout this is an A minor chord

- Between B and D there are 1.5 whole steps or a minor 3rd

- Between D and F there are 1.5 whole steps or a minor 3rd

- Due to the above layout this is a B diminished chord

Understanding chord analysis is crucial to your chord knowledge on the guitar. Once you understand chord analysis you can then change any chord on the guitar using the following process.

················· **Workflow** ·················

(STEP 1) Make a chord shape.

(STEP 2) Figure out the notes that you are holding down (hint: they will be in the chord's triad).

(STEP 3) Translate those notes into numbers corresponding to which row they're located on in the chord matrix (1,3, or 5).

(STEP 4) Once you translate the notes into numbers identify the location of the 3rd (this could be multiple locations depending on the chord).

(STEP 5) Manipulate the 3rd raising it a half step to make any minor chord major, or flatting it a half step to make any major chord minor.

EXAMPLE

A

Am
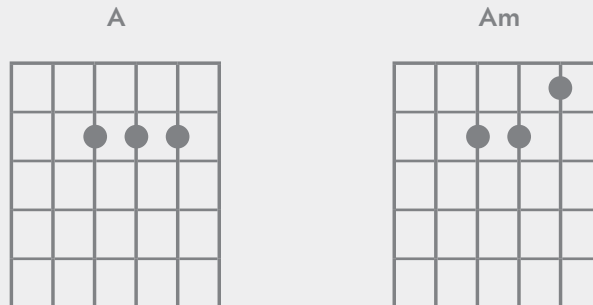
Chords By Ear

. . . . **Workflow** . . . .

(STEP 1) Find the key by ear.

(STEP 2) Write out the corresponding chord matrix.

(STEP 3) Identify the naturally occurring chords (3 major, 3 minor).

(STEP 4) Start on the 1st major chord of the key (99% of the time this will be your starting point).

(STEP 5) Identify the 1st chord change.

(STEP 6) If it sounds happy, try out the remaining major chords, if it sounds sad, try out minor chords in the following order (6m, 3m, 2m).

(STEP 7) Repeat steps 5 and 6 for the remaining chord changes.

NOTE: If an odd chord change happens it will likely be the flat 7 chord or major 2 chord.

Nashville Number System

Major Chord Matrix columns will always result in the following chord tonalities
1 = Maj, 2 = min, 3 = min, 4 = Maj, 5 = Maj, 6 = min, 7 = dim

Minor Chord Matrix columns will always result in the following chord tonalities
1 = min, 2 = dim, 3 = Maj, 4 = min, 5 = min, 6 = Maj, 7 = Maj

Converting a chord progression to numbers then allows you to transpose to any key.

Nashville Number System Reference Card
TIP: Cut this out, fold, and place in your guitar case

Major	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tonality	Maj	min	min	Maj	Maj	min	dim
Key of A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	g#dim
Key of B	B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	a#dim
Key of C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	bdim
Key of D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	c#dim
Key of E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	d#dim
Key of F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	dm	edim
Key of G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	f#dim

Minor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tonality	min	dim	Maj	min	min	Maj	Maj
Key of Am	Am	bdim	C	Dm	Em	F	G
Key of Bm	Bm	c#dim	D	Em	F#m	G	A
Key of Cm	Cm	ddim	Eb	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bb
Key of Dm	Dm	edim	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C
Key of Em	Em	f#dim	G	Am	Bm	C	D
Key of Fm	Fm	gdim	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb
Key of Gm	Gm	adim	Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F

Reinforce These Concepts in Your TAC Daily Challenges

- Write out a chord matrix for a given scale

- Figure out the chord progression of the backing track by ear

**Wednesday
Improvisation**

- Convert the chord progression to Nashville Number System and then transpose to a different key

- When playing a chord progression, find the third of a chord and alter its tonality

**Thursday
Rythm**

WEEK 03

CAGED Navigation System

Using the previous two weeks as your foundation, you learned how the CAGED system helps you find chords, notes, and scales in five different locations to essentially unlock and connect the entire fretboard. First you learned what CAGED is, then each day you focused on one chord shape and its corresponding scale shape, then you learned how they all connect.

• The CAGED system is a way to navigate the guitar neck. It is a pattern for telling how chord shapes and their associated scale shapes layout across the fretboard.

• The letters in the word CAGED are the exact order the chord shapes occur on the fretboard.

• The CAGED system involves two critical pieces of information: the first is knowledge of the 5 basic moveable chord and scale shapes (C, A, G, E, and D), the second is the root note location for each of those 5 shapes.

• Each chord shape in the CAGED system is moveable and wherever it is moved the root note will name the chord.
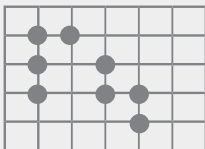
Workflow

STEP 1   Form the shape (C, A, G, E, or D) and play it anywhere on the fretboard.

STEP 2   Play the chord shape's associated scale shape.

STEP 3   Name the root note to name the chord and the scale.
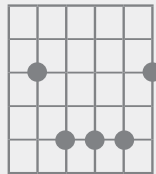
C SHAPE

C Chord Shape
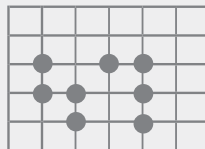(root on A string)
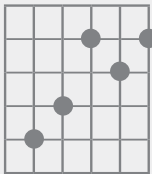
C Scale Shape

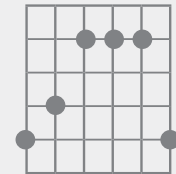### A SHAPE

A Chord Shape
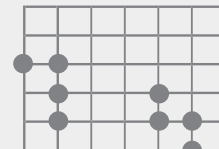(root on A string)

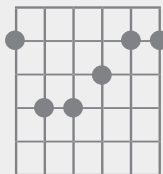A Scale Shape

G SHAPE

G Chord Shape
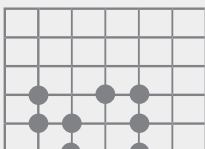(root on E string)

G Scale Shape

E SHAPE

E Chord Shape
(root on E string)

E Scale Shape

D SHAPE

D Chord Shape
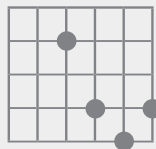
D Scale Shape
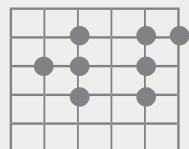
SHAPE CONNECTION

Reinforce These Concepts in Your TAC Daily Challenges
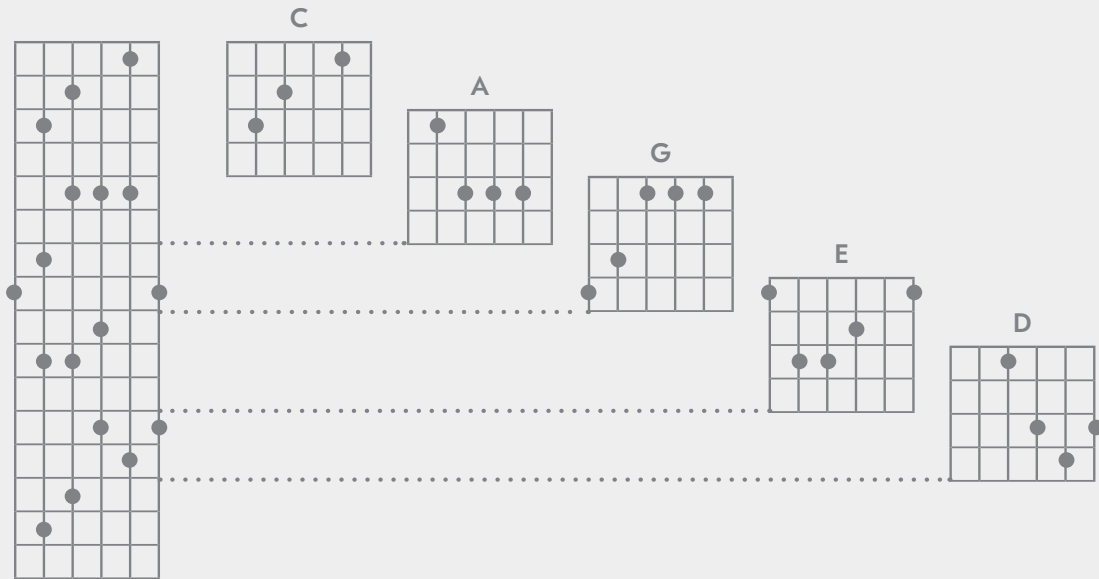
- What scale shape is the guitar lick derived from?

Tuesday
Guitar Lick

- What scale shape are you using?

- Can you play the scale in a different location on the guitar neck using one of the five locations from CAGED?

Wednesday
Improvisation

- What chord shapes are you using to play the chord progression?

- Can you play the chord progression using different shapes?

Thursday
Rythm

Friday
Chord Transition

Building Blocks of Soloing

This week you connected all the concepts you've learned so far to actual, hands-on guitar playing. You learned the basics of improvisation by playing a scale over a chord progression, you got a bit more musical by playing chord tones as you solo, then you added even more to your solos by finding the melody of the song. Lastly, you learned to find harmony notes which opened up the secret to arranging any harmony!

Guitar Soloing Technique

Below is the basic workflow of the TAC Improvisation Challenge on Wednesdays:

STEP 1 Pair the chord progression with the matching scale and play one note at a time. This helps you get comfortable with the notes in a key that you can choose from when playing a solo.

STEP 2 Once you're comfortable playing the scale over the chord progression, use rhythmic variation to create phrases.

Using Chord Tones

Use the chord matrix as your guide to find chord tones that correspond to each chord being played in the backing track. Next, find chord tones without using the chord matrix.

Workflow

STEP 1 Without the chord matrix, identify the root note of the chord within the scale shape.

STEP 2 Use the "every other note" approach to identify chord tones within the scale quickly and easily.

Finding the Melody

Workflow

STEP 1 Sing the words to the song.

STEP 2 Convert words to sounds (Da, La, or even whistle).

STEP 3 Identify the chord accompanying the melody and search chord tones for the melody note.

STEP 4 Repeat for each unique melody note.

Playing Harmony

· **Workflow** ·

(STEP 1) Find the melody notes in row 1 of the chord matrix.

(STEP 2) Use the columns to find the corresponding 3rd & 5th harmony notes.

Reinforce These Concepts in Your TAC Daily Challenges

• Play the harmony to the lick

TuesdayGuitar
Lick

• Add rhythmic variations to your solo

• Improvise more musically using chord tones

Wednesday
Improvisation

• Come up with a line or musical phrase and then play its harmony

Printable Blank Chord Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

Printable Blank Chord Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(1)
(1)								
(3)								
(5)								
	M	m	m	M	M	m	dim	M