

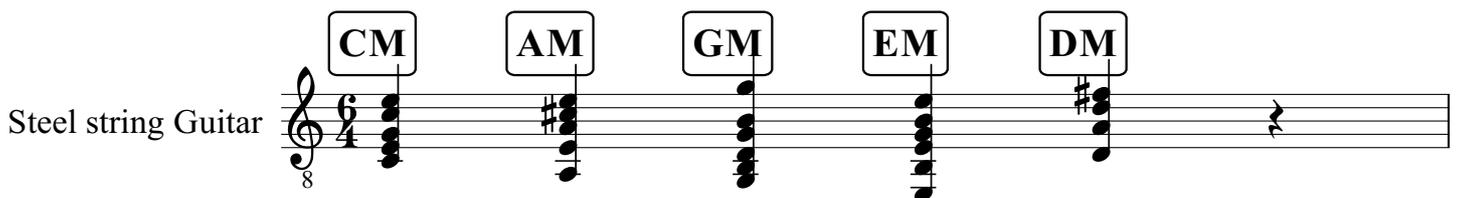
The Caged Method

John Ward
johnwardmusiclessons.com

This explanation of the CAGED method assumes you have a working knowledge of the basic chords in first position of the guitar. If you do not, please go back and refer to materials dealing with these chords, as they are a building block used to understand this new method.

The caged method was developed by jazz guitarists as a convenient way to organize the pitches on the fretboard.

First we will review the open Major chords of first position, these would be CM, AM, GM, EM, and DM. All of these chord shapes can be recreated using a bar. To get the idea imagine that the nut of the guitar is your finger, effectively the bar. Visualization is very important in mastering this method, so take time, as long as it takes and make sure that you can visualize this moving around the fretboard. It is also very usefull and helpfull to memorize the root notes of these chords, but that will be covered in another hand out.



These basic chord shapes will be repeated in barr position. Remember that the actual fingers will change on any given chord tone, but the "shape" of the chord will remain. So in this instance we are charting out 5 versions of the C Major chord.

Starting with the open position "campfire" chord we then move a bar to the highest position of the previous shape. So the C shape chord ends on the thrid fret, we then bar the third fret, and make the A shape, producing the second C Major displayed below. The A shape ends on the 5th fret, so repeat the process barring the 5th fret, and creating the G shape. Continue this process until you have played all the forms of C Major shown below, using your ear to check.

