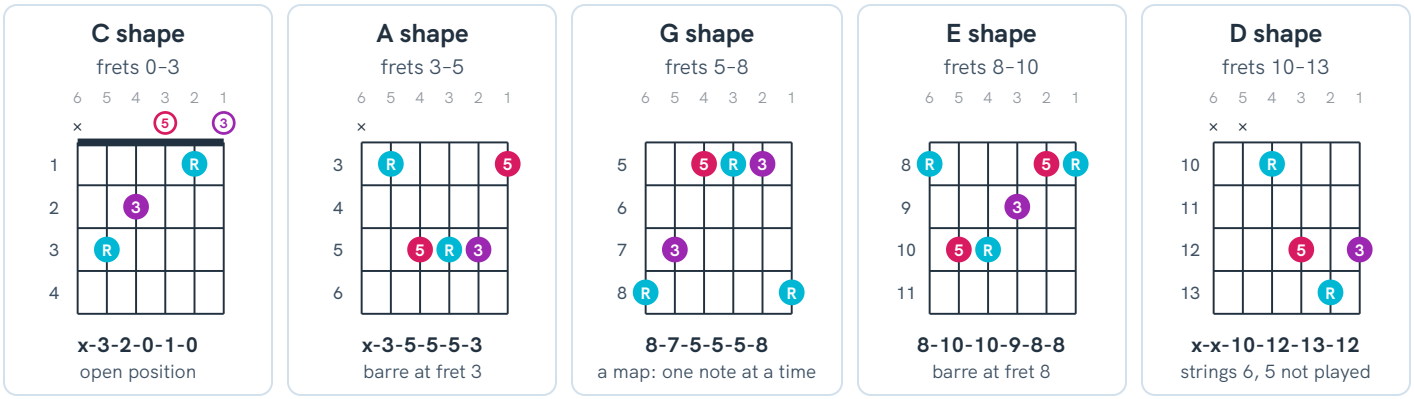
CAGED: Five Shapes of One C Chord

Slide the open C, A, G, E and D chord shapes up the neck until each one plays C major. Going up from the nut, they come in the order C–A–G–E–D.

1 · C-A-G-E-D: ONE CHORD, FIVE PLACES

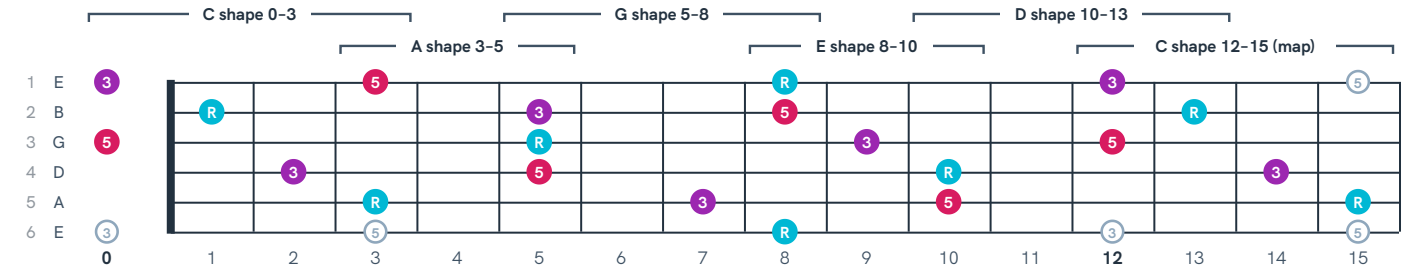
Each box is an open shape moved up until its root is a C. Every dot is **C**, **E** or **G**. Nut or first fret shown at the top, string 6 at the left, fret numbers down the left; × = not played; a ring above the nut = an open string, labeled like the dots. Under each box: the frets, string 6 to string 1. The **G shape** is a wide stretch: read it as a map of where the notes are, and play them one at a time.

R root: C 3 3rd: E 5 5th: G



2 · THE NECK MAP: FRETS 0 TO 15

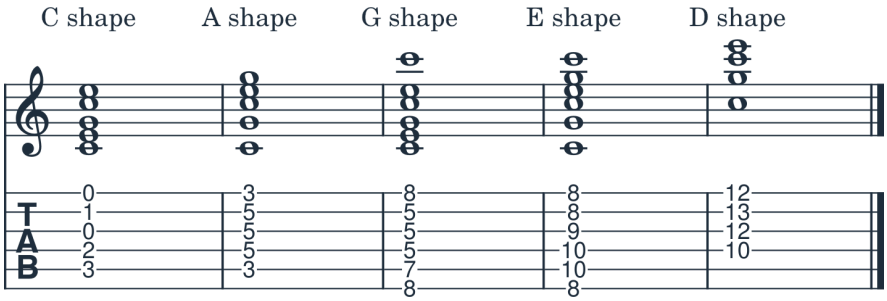
The same dots on one neck, string 1 at the top as in tab. Each **window** runs from a shape's lowest fret to its highest (open strings count as fret 0). Neighbors overlap: C and A share the C at string 5, fret 3; G and E share the Cs at fret 8. Fret 12 is the octave of the open strings, so from fret 12 the **C shape** returns an octave up (shown as a map of chord tones).



◯ gray ring: also C, E or G, but in none of these five shapes

3 · WHERE THE ROOTS ARE

Shape	Window	Root C on string
C	0–3	5 (fret 3), 2 (fret 1)
A	3–5	5 (fret 3), 3 (fret 5)
G	5–8	6 (fret 8), 3 (fret 5), 1 (fret 8)
E	8–10	6 (fret 8), 4 (fret 10), 1 (fret 8)
D	10–13	4 (fret 10), 2 (fret 13)



The same five chords in notation and tab (G shape: one note at a time). Staff notes are written an octave higher than they sound; in the tab, the top line is string 1.

Try it

Two shapes put a root C on string 6, fret 8. Which two? Strum the one that is a barre chord, then pick the other one's notes one at a time, low to high.

Answer: the G shape and the E shape (the E shape is the barre chord at fret 8). · Practice: Exercise 211. · Listen: scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/guitar-caged-five-c-shapes (quarter = 72): each shape, notes low to high then together (G shape: notes only), then all five in order; a synthesized pitch model.

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