

## GUITAR FINGERBOARD THEORY

email: [jacobsweet@mac.com](mailto:jacobsweet@mac.com)

Class Website: [www.jacobsweet.com](http://www.jacobsweet.com)

Welcome to Guitar Fingerboard Theory. Here are some of the things we will hope to learn:

- All of the notes on the fingerboard.
- The construction of major scales and their affiliated keys.
- The Circle of 5ths (or some people call it the cycle of 4ths)
- How to play the major scale in all 12 keys on a single string.
- Intervals and their importance to playing leads on the guitar.
- The four basic types of triads and how they are constructed.
- The “Diatonic Triads” in every key.
- How to transpose songs into other keys.
- How to use a capo like a pro.
- How songwriters use the basic triads to write songs.
- The “Nashville Numbering System”.
- The difference between Major and Minor keys.
- Pentatonic Scales (including the “blues scale”).
- Learn how to apply this music theory to songwriting, lead guitar, and rhythm Guitar playing.
- The “CAGED” system for figuring out the guitar fingerboard (ie. the secret of the universe).
- A bunch of cool songs to demonstrate the above concepts.

If all this seems like an awful lot of information and you fear your head may explode, fear not, we rarely get to everything and very rarely had anyone’s head explode. If you miss a class, check the website to see what we covered. Whatever you do, don’t worry about falling behind and stop coming to class. Remember, this is the Old Town School of Folk Music, not Julliard. It’s not like we’re handing out grades or anything.

Music Theory is a language much like Spanish or (my favorite) Pig Latin. Some people learn from just being around it every day, other people pick up just enough phrases to get by, while others devote years and years of study in order become as fluent as possible. It’s like traveling to a point on a map where there are many roads you can take to reach your destination.

So whatever road you decide to take is just fine with me. Let’s start the journey...