

## How to Capo like a Pro

### Two terms you need to be familiar with:

1. “Guitar Key” – This is the key that you will be playing the song in on your guitar, determined by which chord shapes you are playing.
2. “Concert Key” – This is the key that all non capo using instruments (piano, bass, voice, etc.) will be performing in.

### The fail proof method:

1. Determine which of the five “guitar keys” (C, A, G, E, or D) you will be playing your song in.
2. Determine what “concert key you” want or need to capo up to.
3. Count in half steps, starting with your chosen guitar key at the number zero, until you get to the chosen concert key. The number of half steps you counted will be the fret you need to place your capo on.

*For example:*

If you are playing a song with the guitar chords falling in the Key of C major (ie. the “Guitar Key” of C major), and you need it to sound in the concert key of F major, you would count C as zero, C# as 1, D as 2, D# as 3, E as 4, and F as 5.

Hence, you place your capo on the fifth fret, and continue to play the chords from the key of C so it will sound in the concert key of F.

### Another Method:

1. Learn the location of the root notes of your five open major chords (CAGED).
2. Slide the chord shape up the neck, placing the root note finger on the fret that matches the root note of the concert key you are going to.
3. Pay special attention to where the open strings are in relation to the given chord you are playing, and place the capo on those frets.

*For example:*

The C chord has its root note on the 5<sup>th</sup> string, 3<sup>rd</sup> fret. This is usually played with your third finger, with the open strings being three frets below. In order to move it to the key of F, you would need that root note finger to be placed at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret with the capo three strings below that on the fifth fret.