

# The **COMPLETE** **CAPO** Guide



# The Complete Capo Reference Guide for Guitar Players

The capo is an invaluable tool for those who play acoustic guitar. There are essentially five keys that are most commonly played by acoustic guitar players: A, C, D, E and G. With a capo, you can use the chord shapes of any of those guitar friendly keys to play in any other key. In every case, you have several options, depending on the chord shapes you want to play, and the musical range you want to play in. For example, playing higher up the fret board gives you more of a mandolin sound.

In this quick reference guide, you can find two charts to help you understand what keys are available to you with a capo, and what chords you are actually playing in various capo positions. Both charts give essentially the same information, but from different vantage points. In Option 1, you take the chord shape you are playing with your capo on a specific fret, and then determine the actual chord you are playing from the grid. In Option 2, you choose the key that you want to play, and determine various chord shape options available to you at various capo positions. Another way to use Option 2 is for example, if you like playing chord shapes in the key of G, you can look for G in the grid. Then reference the side bar for the capo Key and the top row for the Capo position.

# Capo Reference Chart

**Option 1:** Cross reference the chord and capo position to see the actual chord

**Example:** The "D" chord played with your capo on the "3rd fret" is an "F"

Capo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb	E	F
C	Db	D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab
D	Eb	E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb
E	F	Gb	G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C
G	Ab	A	Bb	B	C	Db	D	Eb

**Option 2:** Locate the actual chord to find alternative chord shapes in various capo position

**Example:** For the key of Bb, you can play in "G" on the "3rd fret".

Capo	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ab	G1			E4		D6		C8
A		G2			E5		D7	
Bb	A1		G3			E6		D8
B		A2		G4			E7	
C			A3		G5			E8
Db	C1			A4		G6		
D		C2			A5		G7	
Eb	D1		C3			A6		G8
E		D2		C4			A7	
F	E1		D3		C5			A8
Gb		E2		D4		C6		
G			E3		D5		C7	