

GUITAR THEORY REVOLUTION

Part 2: The CAGED Chord Pattern and the Major Triads

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Introduction

Thank you for taking an interest in this e-book. The CAGED chord pattern is rightly becoming a popular tool to help people understand the fretboard better. It's one of the ways in which the underlying principles of the guitar (a result of how the strings are tuned) manifests itself in easy to remember patterns. There are many secrets like this chord pattern just waiting to be uncovered, but those will have to wait for another time.

This e-book will teach you the CAGED chord pattern, a way of seeing Major chords all over the fretboard so that you are no longer stuck playing the same old chords on the first three frets of the neck. Besides that it is also a great tool for memorising all the notes on the fretboard and for learning the Major Triads; the notes that make up the Major Chords. Later you can use them to learn the Major and the Pentatonic Scales more easily. Before getting started with the lessons I just want to give you a brief overview of my teaching philosophy.

Although there are countless resources available online showing you what you need to know about music theory for the guitar, very few actually show you how to go about learning it all. Many resources use methods that are hundreds of years old and that were developed for teaching piano music. This leads beginner guitar players to believe that they aren't cut out to learn music theory when it's actually the teaching methods that are at fault. I can't tell you how many times I've spoken to guitar players who have tried to learn music theory several times but had to give up because the language and terms being used were only complicating things and creating confusion in stead of clarity.

I'm aware that the way I teach things is different to how a lot of other people do it. That's because many conventional ways of doing things are illogical and confusing. I'm not afraid to break away from conventions and do things in ways I think are better.

Please feel free to ask your friends to sign up to the free newsletter at <http://www.guitartheoryrevolution.info> for free lessons and resources. You may not edit or change this e-book in any way or use the images in it for your own purposes other than as a learning aid for yourself.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Until next time,

Neill

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Lesson 1: What Is The CAGED Chord Pattern?

The CAGED chord pattern is a teaching aid that has become increasingly popular over the past few years. In a way it shows how ineffective teaching music theory for the guitar has been that it hasn't been common knowledge ever since the guitar was invented, because these chord patterns are a result of the way that the guitar is tuned. It's an inherent part of the instrument.

Not only is the CAGED chord pattern great for learning to play chords all over the neck, it also helps you to memorise all the note names and helps you easily visualise the Major and Pentatonic scales on the fretboard. If you've done the exercises in Part 1: How To Learn All The Notes On The Guitar Fretboard then these lessons will be a lot easier because the knowledge and understanding from all the lesson build on top of each other.

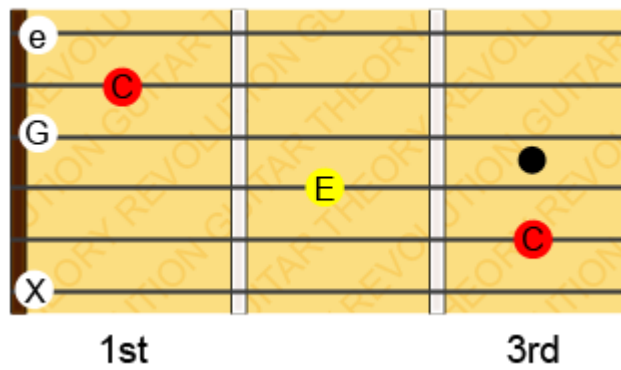
The name of the CAGED chord pattern describes what it is; 5 chord shapes based on their respective commonly played open positions that appear in a specific order which allows you to play a chord in 10 different places on the guitar neck (depending on how long your guitar neck is).

That might sound a little confusing but we'll break it down in the following lessons so that you understand exactly how it works.

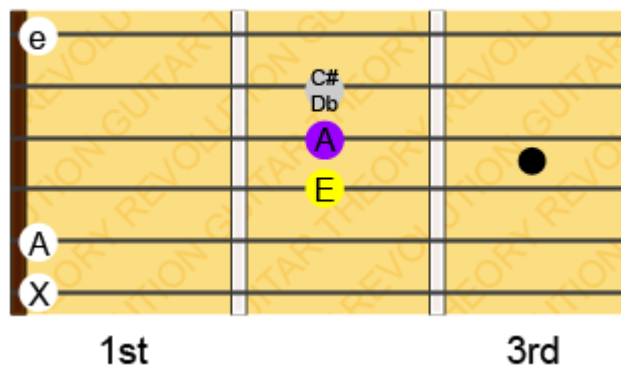
Lesson 2: The 5 Chord Shapes

The 5 chord shapes used in this system are obviously:

C-Shape



A-Shape



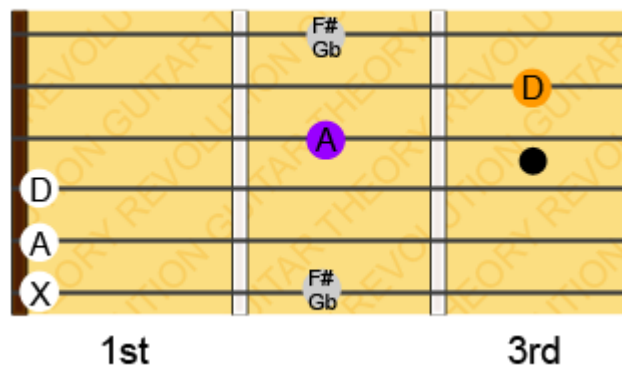
G-Shape



E-Shape



D-Shape



These are easy to remember because you can pronounce it as the word 'caged'. Notice how I refer to them as chord shapes rather than chords. The trick to this system is that the guitar is an instrument on which you can move chord shapes around on the neck in order to play different chords. Look at the examples below to get a feel for this.

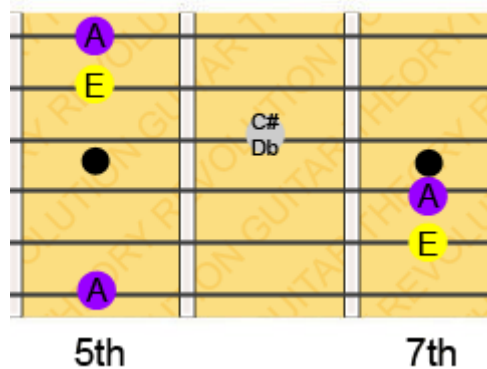
Here is an E Major chord with open strings.



Now imagine sliding that shape up 1 fret, instead of letting the open strings ring you place your 1st finger down across the strings creating the F Major chord. When you place your finger across all the strings like this you are forming a barre chord which simulates the nut of the guitar at the end of the fretboard closest to the head of the guitar. Keep this in mind when you look at the chord shapes as they appear along the fretboard.



Now slide the shape even further to the 5th fret and it becomes an A Major chord.



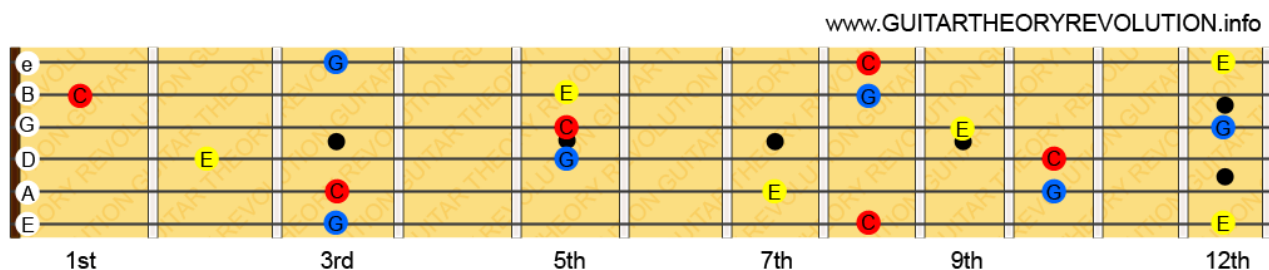
In fact you can play this exact same chord shape all along the guitar neck to get different Major chords. To know which Major chord you are playing you only need to know which note on the 1st string you are fretting.

The above shape above is referred to the E-shape in the CAGED chord pattern. In the same way you can slide the shape of the C, A, G and D chords up the neck in order to get new major chords.

Just to make sure you fully understand, the Major chord name is the same as the chord shape in the open position (first 3 frets of the fretboard). So the C shape in the open position is a C Major chord, the A shape in the open position is an A Major chord. But when you move the C-shape, A-shape etc. to another place on the guitar neck it will be a different Major chord.

Lesson 3: Visualising The CAGED Chord Shapes

Lets take a look at what the chord shapes look like on the guitar neck. In this example we will look at all the C Major chords between the 1st and 12th fret. Remember the neck repeats after the 12th fret in an octave higher so all the patterns are the same and the notes follow the universal note pattern as described in Part 1: How To Learn All The Notes On The Guitar Fretboard.



The C Major chord is made from the notes C, E and G (also known as a Major Triad). You can see the chord appear in the open position at the first 3 frets. You'll also notice that there are two G's at the 3rd fret that most people don't play in this position. But since the G is one of the notes in the C Major triad it 's up to you whether you want to play them or not. You'll find that this is the case with playing the chords in different positions along the neck, it's basically up to you which notes you want to include, the CAGED shapes are just the most common.

In order to find the next C Major chord on the neck we find the next letter in the word CAGED. It's A, which means the next C Major chord will have the A-shape. Look at the image again and you'll see the A-shape appear at the 5th fret. If you wanted to you could just play those 3 notes to get a C Major chord. But in most cases people will hold those notes with their 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers and place their 1st finger across all the strings in order to fret the notes on the 1st, 2nd and 6th strings.

This is a barre chord and may be uncomfortable for beginners so take it slowly and stop if your hands or wrists become painful. Barre chords will become more comfortable with just a few minutes practice per day.

The next shape to appear is the G-shape at the 7th and 8th frets. In order to play this chord you have to either fret the notes at the 5th fret or mute the middle strings. This shape is not used very often since it is quite hard to play. The next shape is the E-shape between the 8th and 11th fret. Finally there is the D-shape on the 12th and 13th. Remember that the 13th fret is the same as the 1st, the 14th as the 2nd etc. So the other half of the D-shape can in this instance be found at the 1st fret as well

The order of the chord-shapes is always the same CAGEDCAGEDCAGED etc. which helps you easily find out which chord-shape is further up or down from the one you are using at the moment.

The order of shapes for the 5 chords we've covered so far is as follows, starting from the open position at the 1st to the 3rd fret.

CAGEDCAGED etc.

AGEDCAGEDC etc.

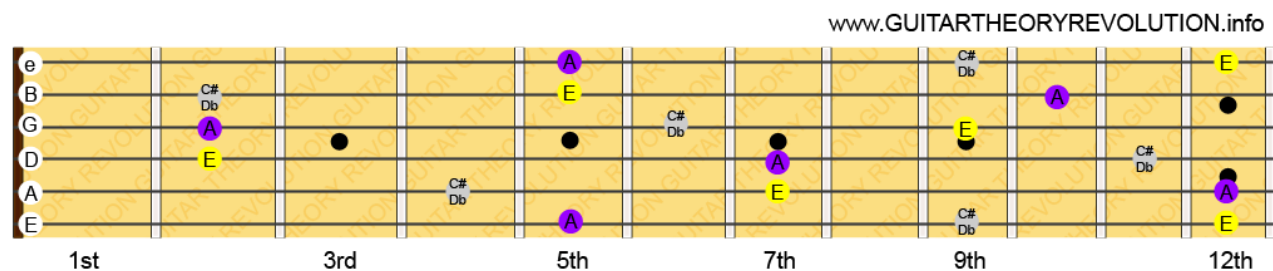
GEDCAGEDCA etc.

EDCAGEDCAG etc.

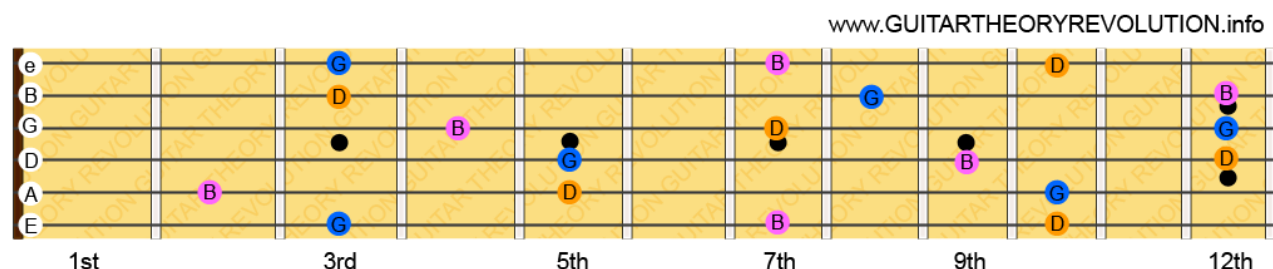
DCAGEDCAGE etc.

Below are the diagrams for the A Major, G Major, E Major and D Major Triads. Note how all the chord-shapes link into each other to form a continuous pattern. This later forms the basis for the Major and Pentatonic scales. As you can tell the best way to learn music theory for the guitar is by learning things in a particular order so that each lessons builds on the previous one. That way everything is much easier to remember and apply.

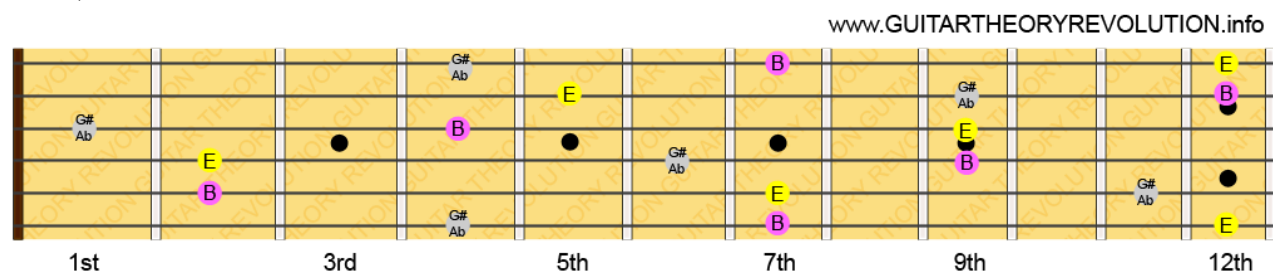
A Major Triads



G Major Triads

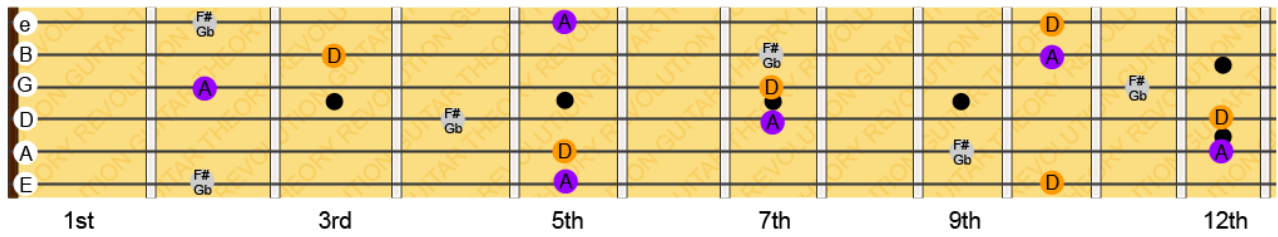


E Major Triads



D Major Triads

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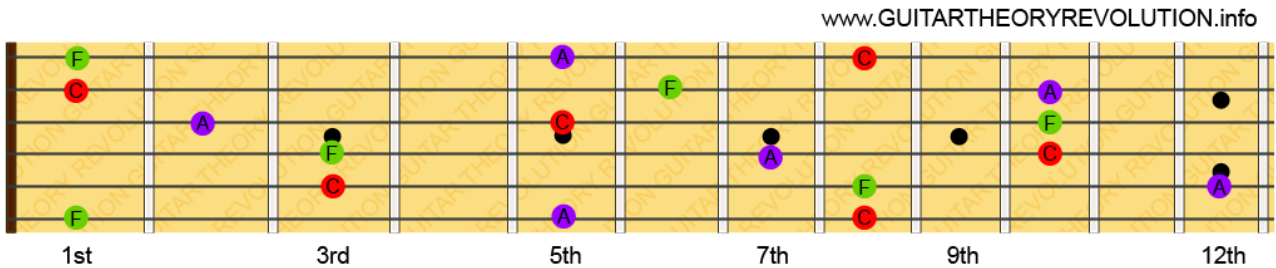


Remember that you only need to play the 3 notes of each Major Triad in order to play a Major chord. This means that you don't always have to fret all 6 strings and can choose shapes that are easiest for you to hold.

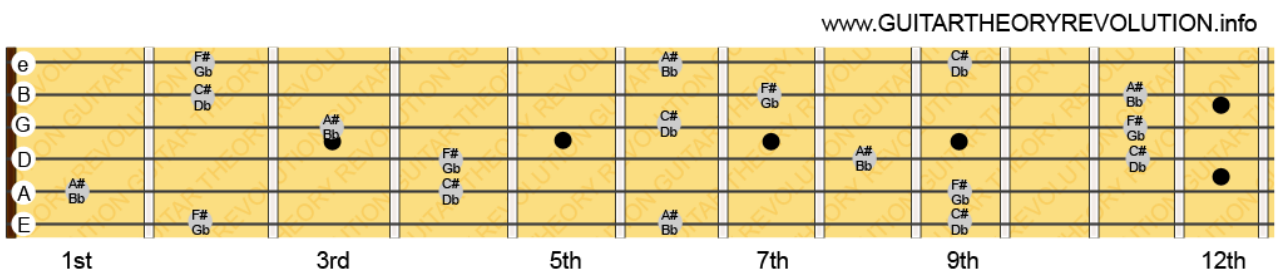
Lesson 4: Other Major Chord Shapes and Triads

You should now have a good idea of what the interlinking CAGED chord shapes look like. What follows is a map of all the Major Triads for the remaining Major chords. It's good to practice finding all the CAGED chord shapes on the fretboard and the other remaining triad notes. Doing this will be a great foundation for learning scales in the future.

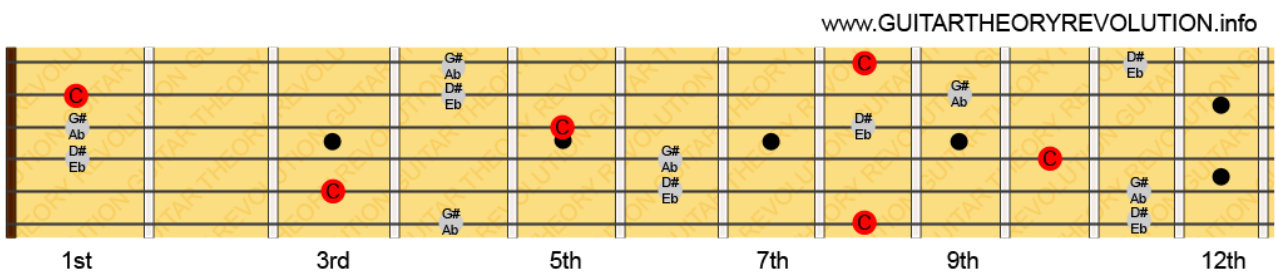
F Major Triads



F# / Gb Major Triads

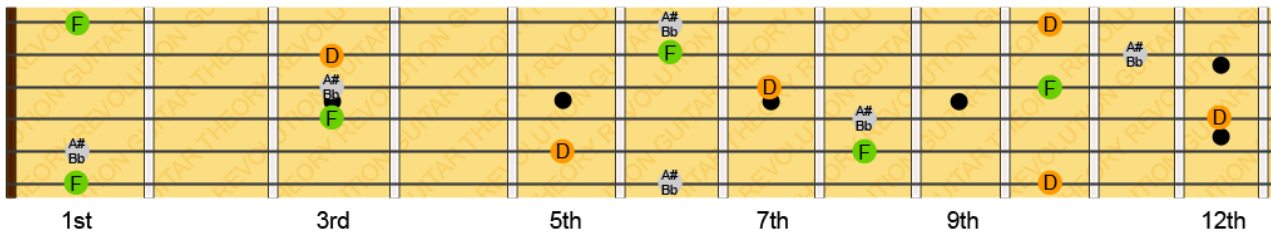


G# / Ab Major Triads



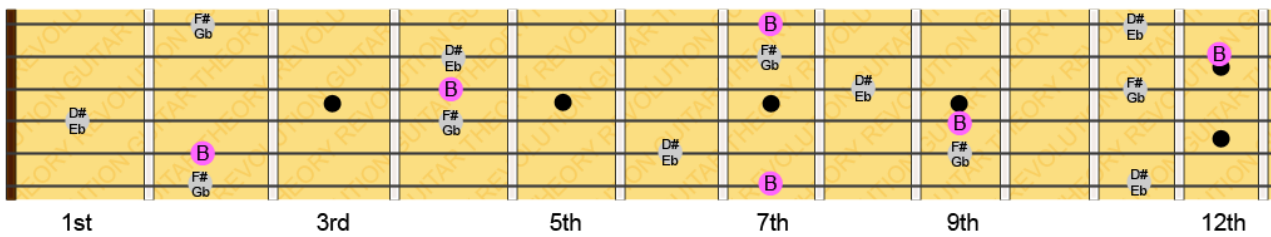
A# / Bb Major Triads

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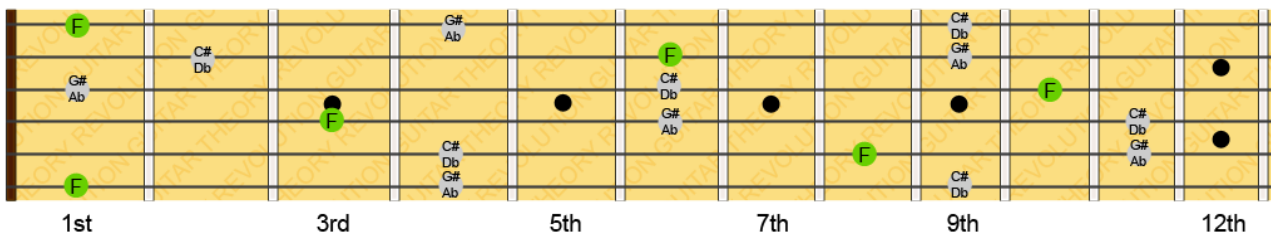
B Major Triads

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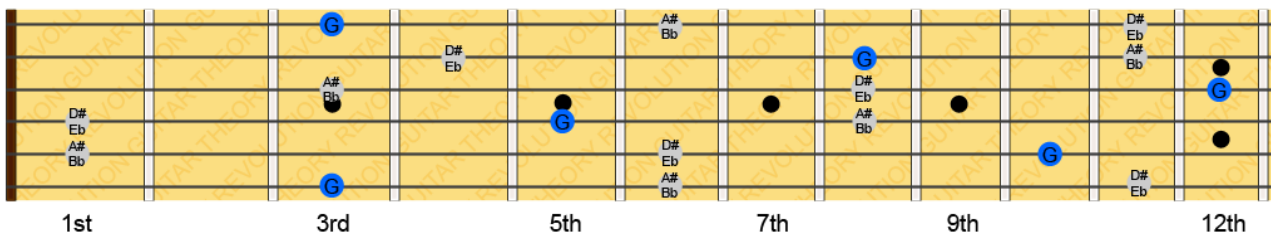
C# / Db Major Triads

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D# / Eb Major Triads

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What Next?

What I've provided you with so far should be more than enough to keep you occupied for a while (although I do have more exercises to make the learning process even quicker). But there is a lot more I can teach you.

I've created a comprehensive resource that will take you step by step from beginner to total fretboard mastery. Some of the topics covered include:

- How to see the notes on the fretboard like matrix code in front of your eyes.
- How to play chords all over the neck with the CAGED chords pattern.
- How to unlock the inherent strengths of the fretboard with a simple 7 note formula.
- The best way to train yourself to recognise musical intervals by ear.
- How to be able to construct chords wherever you want on the neck and not by just relying on memorising chord shapes.
- How to learn scales more quickly and efficiently and without being trapped in 'scale-boxes'. You'll understand the inner workings of Major, minor, pentatonic and other scales rather than just memorising finger positions.
- The power behind the circle of 4ths and 5ths including how to figure out which chords fit together in which key and how to transpose keys easily.

You can check out this comprehensive resource by clicking the link below:

[Guitar Theory Revolution E-Book and MP3s](#)

It will teach you all the above and much more in a new and refreshing way that other teachers and resources just don't do. If you've struggled to learn music theory for the guitar in the past I guarantee that the way I teach the subject will come as a breath of fresh air and remove the pain and frustration from working with what are in my opinion methods that have been out of date for hundreds of years.

If you found the information in this book helpful then please share it with your friends and advise them to sign up for the free newsletter at <http://www.guitartheoryrevolution.info> so that they can receive more free lessons and resources straight into their inbox.

Thanks again for taking an interest in these lessons.

Until next time,

Neill

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