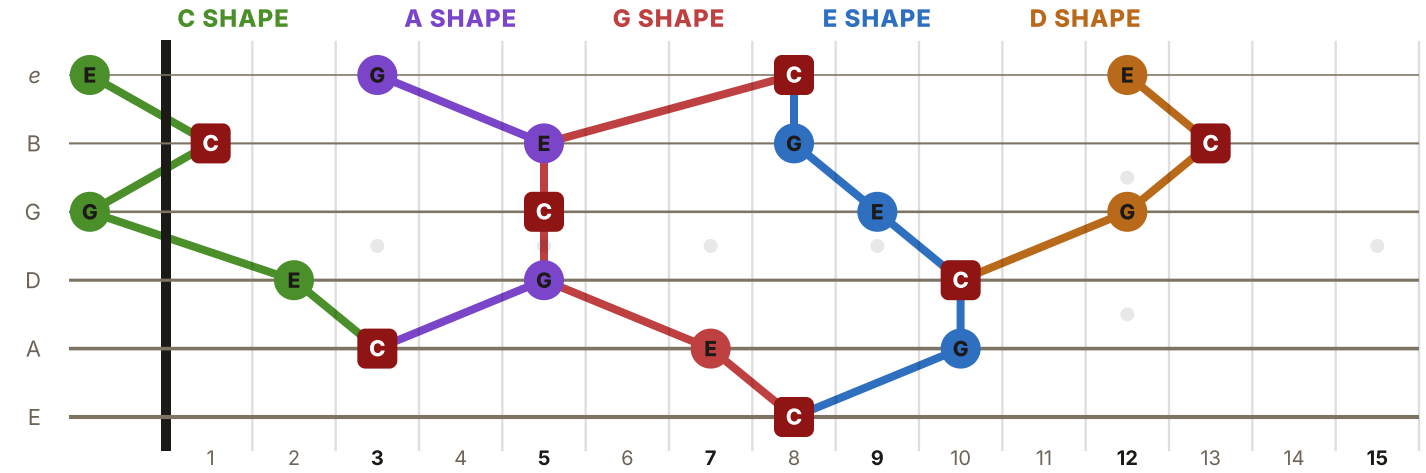
THE CAGED SYSTEM

C MAJOR SHOWN · SAME ORDER IN EVERY KEY

PENTATONIC BOX

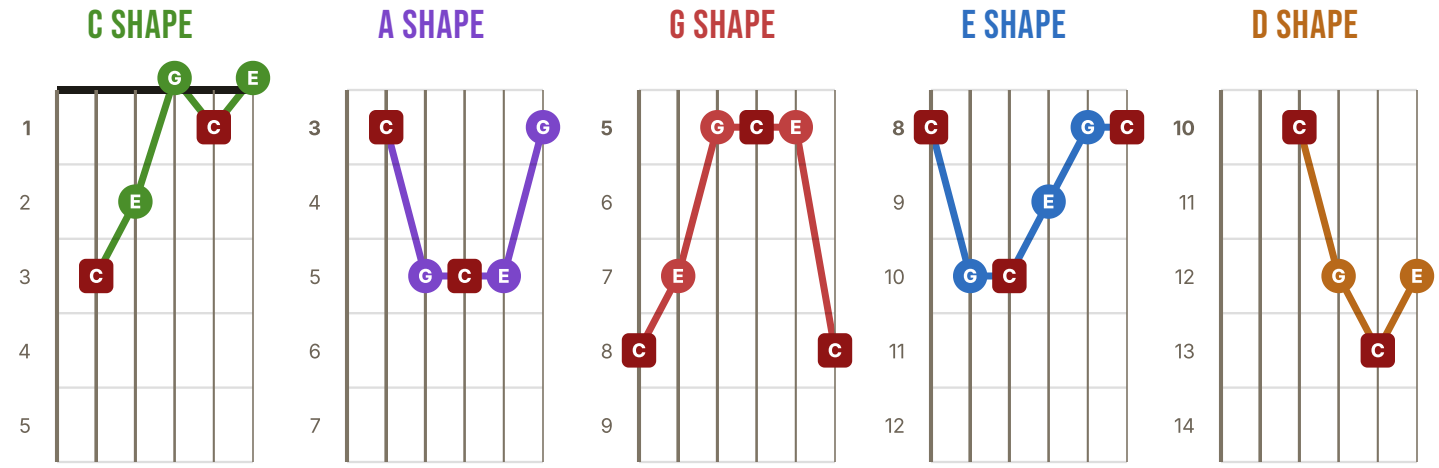
ORDER UP THE NECK — **C** shape · **A** shape · **G** shape · **E** shape · **D** shape — then C again, 12 frets up

FIVE SHAPES, ONE CHORD



Root (C) Lines connect the notes of each chord shape. Colors match the pentatonic boxes.

SHAPE BY SHAPE



inside Box 3 · inside Box 4 · inside Box 5 · inside Box 1 · inside Box 2

Change key by sliding

Move all five shapes together. G major = every shape 7 frets higher (or 5 lower).

Shapes share notes

The end of one shape is the start of the next, just like the pentatonic boxes.

Minor works too

Em, Dm, Cm, Am and Gm shapes line up the same way for any minor key.