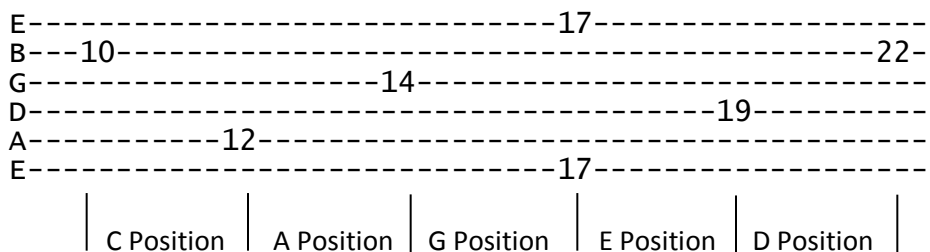
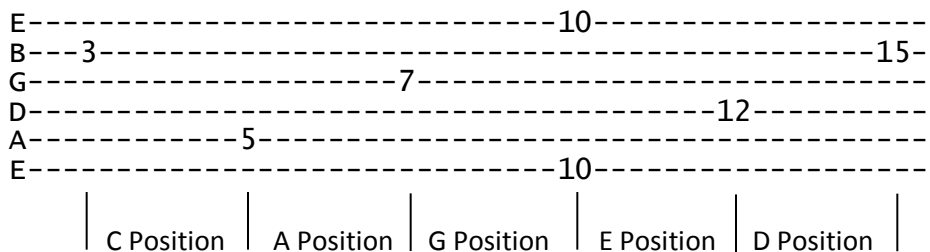


The Heart of the Fretboard Positions Diagram

For any one of the twelve note names (A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, or G#), there is a sequence of five frets on the guitar where the note name appears, and the sequence repeats continuously until you run out of fretboard. For example, the tablature below shows all of the strings and frets for the note D on the fretboard starting at the 3rd fret of the B string and stopping twelve frets higher at the 15th fret of the B string, which is the start of the sequence again. A similar-looking tablature could be made for all 12 note names with the only difference being the fret numbers. The second example below is the similar tablature for the note A.



The above tablatures also show Positions from note name to note name. The Positions bring structure to playing scales and making chords on the frets near each set of the note names.

C Position contains the note name on the B string and the A string

A Position contains the note name on the A string and the G string

G Position contains the note name on the G string, the low E string, and the high E string

E Position contains the note name on the low E string, the high E string, and the D string

D Position contains the note name on the D string and the B string

You may have noticed in these descriptions that the Position Name matches up with a string name within the Position, except for the C Position.

Re-using the earlier tablature for the note name D, in the tablature below I added in "chord shapes" that the Positions are named for. The fret numbers in the tablature are placed to roughly resemble the shape of the five Chords in the five Positions.