

In my previous Zoom workshops, we've used this map of the G major scale to help us memorize where all the G major scale notes fall on the fretboard using three simple chord shapes, one for every chord in the Key of G. Reminder: there are 7 notes in the G major scale: G A B C D E F#. For each of those notes in the the scale, there's a corresponding chord that's in the Key of G, and each of those chords has a "shape" we can visualize. The corresponding chord shapes are what we see below: each is based off a root note which falls on a G string: in the Key of G, we get a G chord (open), A minor chord (starting on the second fret of the G string), Bm chord starting on the 4th fret of the G string, and so on.

In this minor key Zoom workshop series, we'll use this chart to scope out the scale notes in the Key of Em (which uses identical scale notes as G major). All of the notes below ARE in the Em scale, which is: E F# G A B C D. In the Key of Em, in terms of the Nashville Number System, we can think of Em as the "1 chord" and name the other chords accordingly, or we can imagine we're still in the key of G and call it the "minor 6 chord." It doesn't really matter as long as you're consistent, though I've heard the Nashville pros would tend to still think of and chart the key of Em as the Key of G since all the notes and chords are the same.

Importantly, in this workshop we'll be working on locating minor chord inversions in the Key of Em, and that will yield some different shapes because we'll be looking at chord inversions which DO NOT have their roots on the G strings. This is going to be a little confusing for some of you. Bear with me and you'll get it eventually! For this key (Em), we'll group the notes below into triads up and down the neck, and this will yield some new shapes to learn. They're use only notes that appear below, but they'll form new-to-you "constellations" to visualize. I have these in a separate chart, which I don't want to overlay here because it's too much information to take in at once and will just confuse folks...

