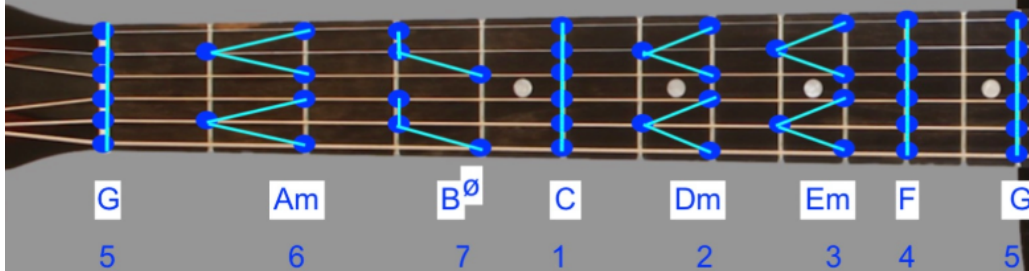


Key of C and Am: chords and scale notes

These chord shapes all have roots on G strings, and they're very convenient for scoping out where the scale notes fall and determining the chords in the key.

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Compared to the G major / E minor chart we used in previous workshops, notice that we're using the same patterns in the same order, but we've shifted "home base," the location of our key's 1-chord, to the fifth fret since we're now in the Key of C (which has the same chords and scale notes as Am).

Beard Radio R reso pic
courtesy of Beard Guitars

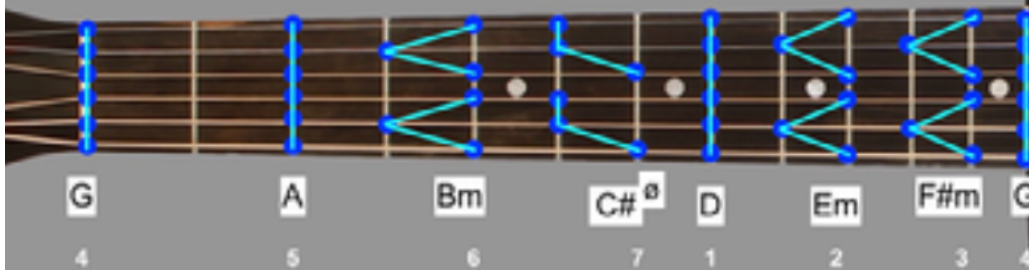
Key of D and Em: chord shapes and scale notes

As with the previous fretboard charts for the keys of G/E and C/Am, the chord shapes below for the key of D/Em all have roots on G strings, and they allow us to easily visualize where the scale notes fall using three simple chord shapes. These shapes, and the sequence in which they appear, should seem familiar by now.

In every key, starting at the 1-chord, the sequence is the same:
major, minor, minor, major, major, minor, half diminished.

Notice that, relative to the C/Am chart, all we've done is shift the entire fretboard map two frets up to accommodate our new "home base" at the 7th fret straight-bar D chord shape.

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Beard Radio R reso photo
courtesy of Beard Guitars

For the sake of accuracy, there's no such thing as a "half diminished triad," as a half-diminished chord requires four notes, so what you're seeing in these charts is a regular diminished chord triad shape (the first three notes of the half-diminished chord that's in a given key). Don't worry about this detail - we're just using the chord shape to help visualize where the scale notes fall and will probably never use it for any other purpose in bluegrass and folk music. You can get through an entire career in bluegrass without ever encountering a diminished or half diminished chord in a song.