



Guitargate 2.1 - Guitargate Fundamental 201 - Octave Shapes

The great thing about the guitar is that it is not linear like a piano. From the simplest chord to the most complicated scale, everything exists in five shapes. That's it. When you break the neck down into simple shapes it's easy to learn even the most advanced concepts. And what are these shapes made of? Octaves.

As we have already learned, an octave is the same note played in a different harmonic register. For example, a high C and a low C played in unison. The arrangement of the octaves on our guitar neck creates these shapes. This is commonly known as the "CAGED" system, and when it comes to learning your neck, you can't beat it.

The idea behind this system is that there are five octave shapes, and each one relates to a common open chord shape. Below are diagrams of each of the five octave shapes. Each of these shapes are movable. For example, if you are playing two C's in pattern one and you slide that whole shape up two frets, you are now playing two D's in pattern one.

Pattern 1 is based off of the C major chord.

Pattern 2 is based off of the A major chord.

Pattern 3 is based off of the G major chord.

Pattern 4 is based off of the E major chord.

Pattern 5 is based off of the D major chord.

After you get a good feel for these, we need to learn how to connect them. These patterns increase sequentially as we go up the neck. If we start with C pattern 1, we have our first finger on the first fret of the second string and our third finger on the third fret of the fifth string. What we want to do is play every C on the guitar.

So, as we go up the neck we connect to the next octave shape.

In order to connect to the pattern 2 shape, we put our first finger where our third finger was on the third fret of the fifth string and then reach our next octave with our third finger on the fifth fret on the third string.



The stretch to pattern 3 is tricky. Don't worry about playing both the first and sixth strings at the same time. You can bounce back and forth with your fourth finger. Just make sure you know where they are.

When you go to pattern 4, realize that you can play both the first and sixth strings with your first finger if you lay it across all of the strings. This is called barring. It may be hard at first, but this is a necessary skill to master in order to become a good guitar player.

After pattern 5 the cycle just starts over at pattern 1 again.

Don't let open strings fool you. Really try to visualize the octave shapes in open form.

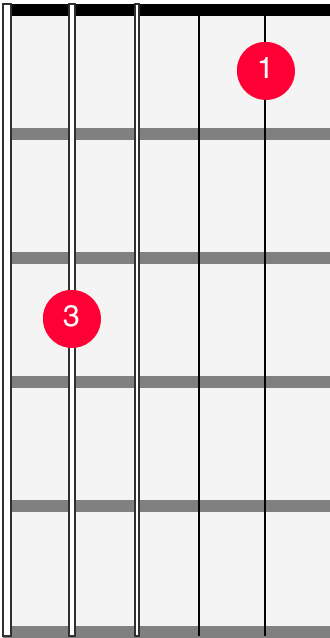
Choose random keys and try to connect all of your roots up and down the fretboard.

Choose keys like F# or Bb to make sure you really understand the concept. You will know you have fully absorbed this concept when you can play any note anywhere on the guitar neck by connecting these patterns.

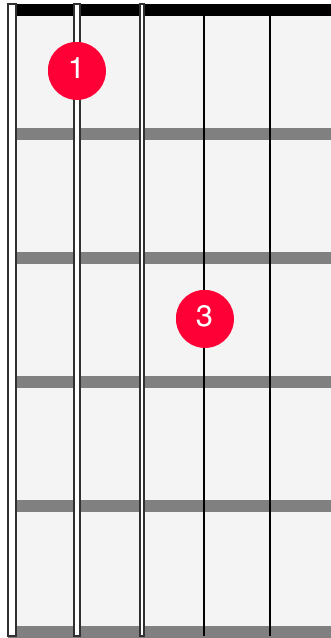
This is the foundation upon which all of our future lessons will be built. Get it down. It is absolutely essential.

Octave shapes

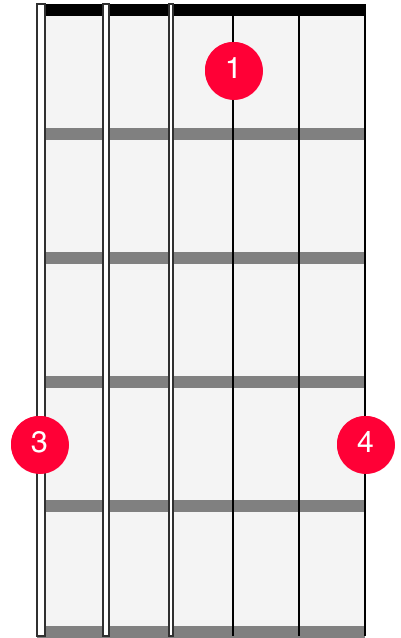
Pattern 1



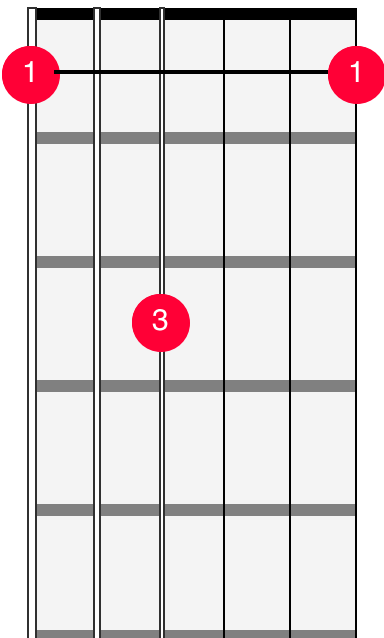
Pattern 2



Pattern 3



Pattern 4



Pattern 5

