

# ARPEGGIOS

THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GUITAR

**Welcome to Arpeggios!** For a guitarist, chords are the foundation of their playing. But combinations of notes can be used in all areas of playing. And they don't need to always be played at the same time – as with chords.

If you take a combination of notes and play them sequentially – one after the other – you get an arpeggio.

In fact, the word “arpeggio” comes from the Italian word for harp and means “broken chord”.

Arpeggios can be played ascending and descending and are a great way to add to your soloing and understanding on the guitar.

This is a series on playing arpeggios that I hope will change how you view chords and soloing on the neck of the guitar.

Arpeggios can be made of a variety of note combinations using three, four or even more notes.

We'll start with the simplest arpeggio combination – three note combinations called a triad.

Here's what everything means...

- Numbers on TAB Staff: Show what fret you should be pressing down.
- Fingering Diagrams for Each Chord
  - “X” at end of Chord Diagram = Mute String
  - Open Circle at end of Chord Diagram = Open String
  - Open Diamond = Root of a Chord which can be Moved

Learn all you can and let's get started!



# ARPEGGIOS

## major & minor triads

## Major and Minor Triads

There are four primary types of triad arpeggios – Major, Minor, Diminished and Augmented.

Let's look at Major and Minor triad arpeggios first.

## Inversions, Voicings & String Groupings Oh My!

The starting note of an arpeggio can be any of the three notes (root, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>). **We will start out with Root Position arpeggios – starting on the root of the triad.**

We'll also be using closed voicings.

**CLOSED VOICINGS** are voicings where all the notes in the triad occur within one octave and usually appear on adjacent strings.

Arpeggios will be grouped on the string that the root appears on. **Starting out the root will either be on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> strings.**

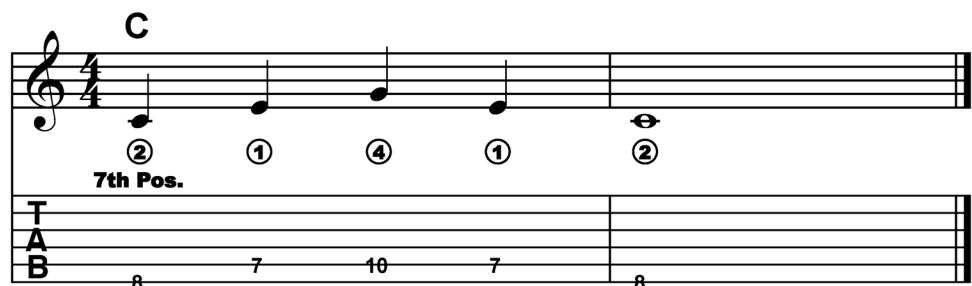
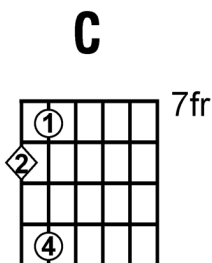
## Major Triad Arpeggios (6<sup>th</sup> String Root)

The root of the arpeggio will be played by the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> finger primarily. (The 3<sup>rd</sup> finger is less used as the starting note of an arpeggio on guitar.)

Let's start with the arpeggio starting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger playing the 6<sup>th</sup> string root.

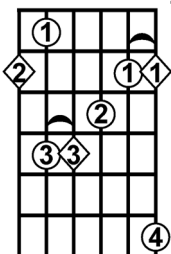
Here are two versions – a simple three note version and an expanded version.

The diamond indicates which note is the root. The circles numbers are the fingering.

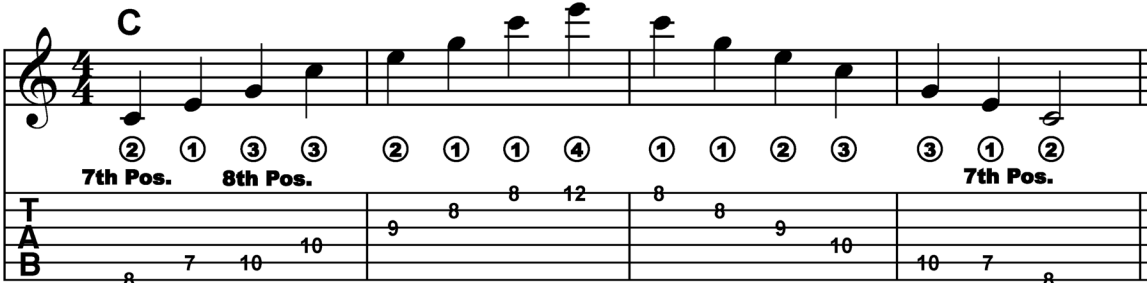


And here is the expanded version covering multiple octaves. Note the fingering changes when playing multiple octaves.

**C**



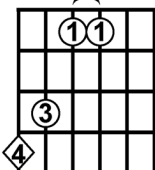
7fr



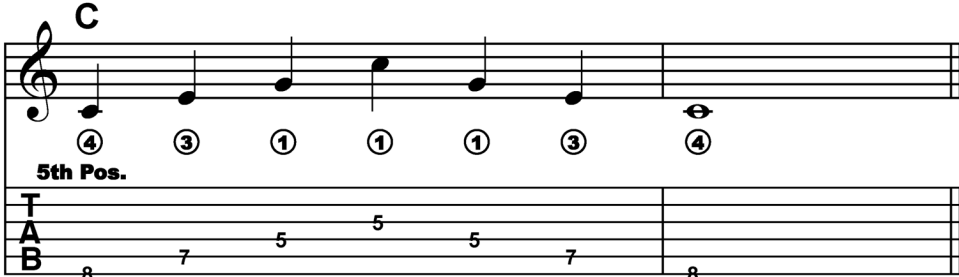
7th Pos. 8th Pos. 7th Pos.

Next, let's look at the C major arpeggio starting with the 6<sup>th</sup> string root being played by the 4<sup>th</sup> finger. This arpeggio is in the 5<sup>th</sup> position.

**C**



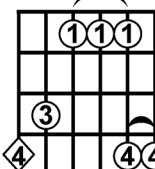
5fr



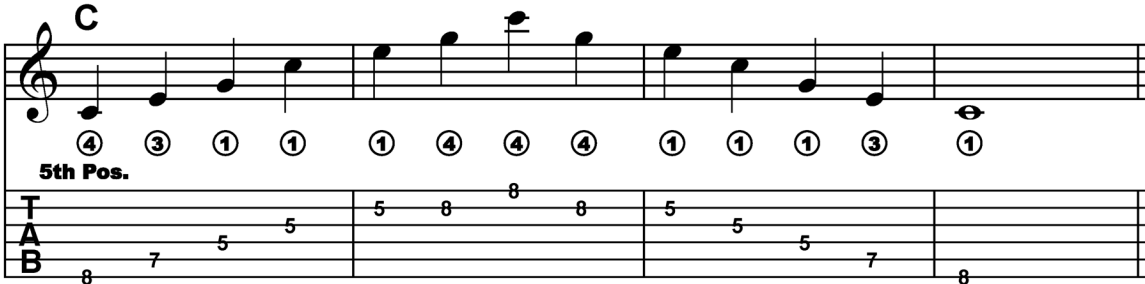
5th Pos.

Here is the expanded version covering multiple octaves.

**C**

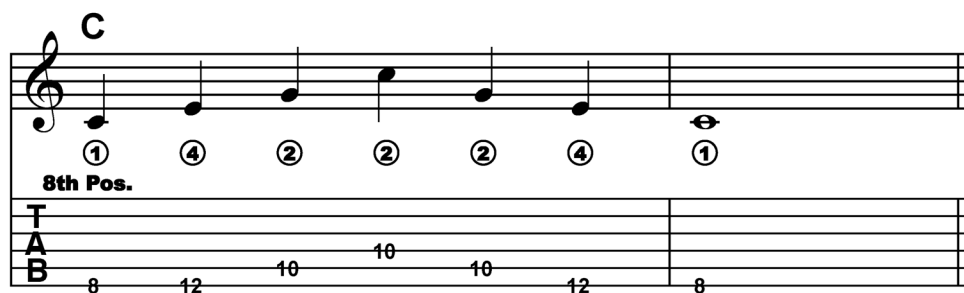
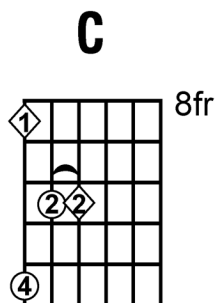


5fr



5th Pos.

Now look at the final C major arpeggio 6<sup>th</sup> string root being played by the 1<sup>st</sup> finger. This arpeggio is in the 8<sup>th</sup> position.



Here is the expanded version covering multiple octaves. Notice the fingering changes from the one octave version.

