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# Acoustic Fingerstyle

LEVEL 1 • Guitar Skills



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## Hip Hop Fingerstyle

UNIT 3 • LESSON 1 << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

### Open Chord Keys

When it comes to fingerstyle guitar in most genres (other than virtuoso) we want to be working around open chord shapes as much as possible. There is just more flexibility with these shapes, especially when it comes to embellishments, as we saw in the previous unit. So, the question is, which keys tend to work best in open positions. Each key is built from two concepts:

### The Scale

For example, we could take the C major scale. This has 7 notes: **C D E F G A B C**. There are no sharps or flats, it is just as it is!

### Harmonising The Scale

We then take these notes and apply the formula "**major, minor, minor, major, major, minor and diminished**" (don't worry about diminished for now). This gives us our key!

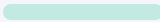

If you want to understand this in greater depth, check out our Theory Lab courses where we go through it in super high detail!

## Course navigation

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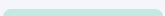

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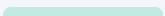

Fingerstyle

In Unit 3 we really jump up a notch, and enter the world of hip hop fingerstyle! It's so much fun to see just how applicable this style is to a wide range of music, and this track demonstrates that perfectly.

Lessons:

-  Open Chord Keys
-  The Capo
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Fingerstyle

With that in mind, when we come to see what keys work best in open positions, we are looking for keys that have the least amount of sharps or flats, as typically those types of chords are not easy to play in open positions. So, here are the common keys you'll see for fingerstyle type music (**NOTE: We've deliberately left out the 7th degree, as we don't need to be dealing with diminished chords at this point**).

*C major* = C Dm Em F G Am

*G major* = G Am Bm C D Em

*D major* = D Em F#m G A Bm

With these 3 keys, you can see that there are only two chords that are hard to play in open positions, F#m and Bm. As Thomas explains though, there are ways around that, by using chord inversions to get those notes in there (D/F# or G/B for example). So, let this information sink in for a little bit, and don't worry too much if it goes over the head. As we talk about it more and more and apply it more and more, you'll get there!



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