

Scale/Key Construction

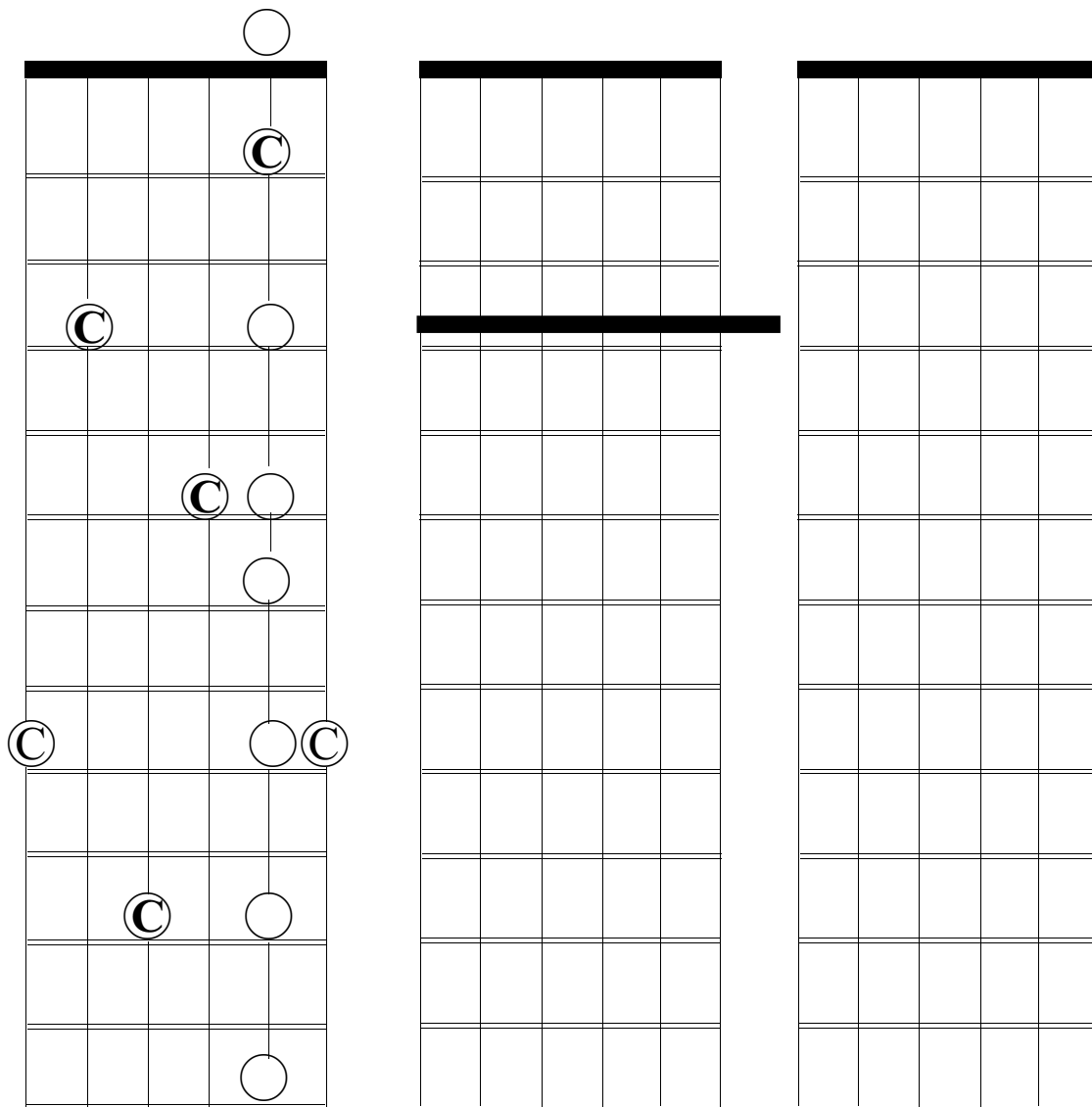
On guitar, the Major scale interval pattern ('*W-W-H-W-W-W-H*') can be used to **construct** the Major scale over the entire fretboard. Starting from 'scratch' with a blank fretboard, the following sections provide a step-by-step approach to constructing the complete twelve-fret pattern for the Major scale.

Scale Construction - Three Steps

Step 1: Locate 'C' notes on each string (*as shown below on far left*).

Step 2: From each 'C' note, use the Major scale interval pattern ('*W-W-H-W-W-W-H*') to construct notes going **up** each string. Just draw in empty circles to represent these notes.

Step 3: From each 'C' note, **reverse** the Major scale interval pattern ('*H-W-W-W-H-W-W*') to construct notes going **down** each string. (*Steps 1 & 2 are already shown below left on the second string.*) The other blank fretboards can be used to construct the Major scale in other keys. Completed versions of this construction are shown on the following page.



The Complete Major Scale Pattern

Below are three examples of the *Complete Major Scale Pattern*, which is essentially the ‘blueprint’ for the Major scale on guitar that covers a span of twelve frets and then repeats. Constructing and observing this pattern is only the first step, as upcoming lessons will introduce new chord shapes and songwriting techniques derived from this pattern.

The image displays three guitar fretboard diagrams, each representing a different major scale. Each diagram shows frets 1 through 12 and strings 1 through 6. The patterns are as follows:

- 'C' Major:** Shows the C major scale pattern. Chord shapes (C) are indicated at frets 1, 3, 5, 8, and 10.
- 'G' Major:** Shows the G major scale pattern. Chord shapes (G) are indicated at frets 3, 5, 8, and 12.
- 'D' Major:** Shows the D major scale pattern. Chord shapes (D) are indicated at frets 3, 5, 7, 10, and 12.