

guitar lesson world the book

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Lesson 14: Triads

You learned in previous lessons how to create diatonic chord progressions by mixing and matching chords. Instead of limiting yourself to the common chords provided in the Chord Construction lesson, this section will show you how to open up the fretboard to unlimited chordal possibilities using three-note chord patterns.

We are going to group the notes into three sets of the chord tones.

Root	1-3-5	C E G
1st inversion	3-5-1	E G C
2nd inversion	5-1-3	G C E

FIGURE 19.1 – C MAJOR TRIAD INVERSIONS

For each set of three adjacent strings, we will find the triads. This process can be repeated for all triads. Figure 19.2 shows all the C major triads. Each column is a string set. Each row follows a particular note order.

Note: These are considered closed voicings because they are on adjacent strings.

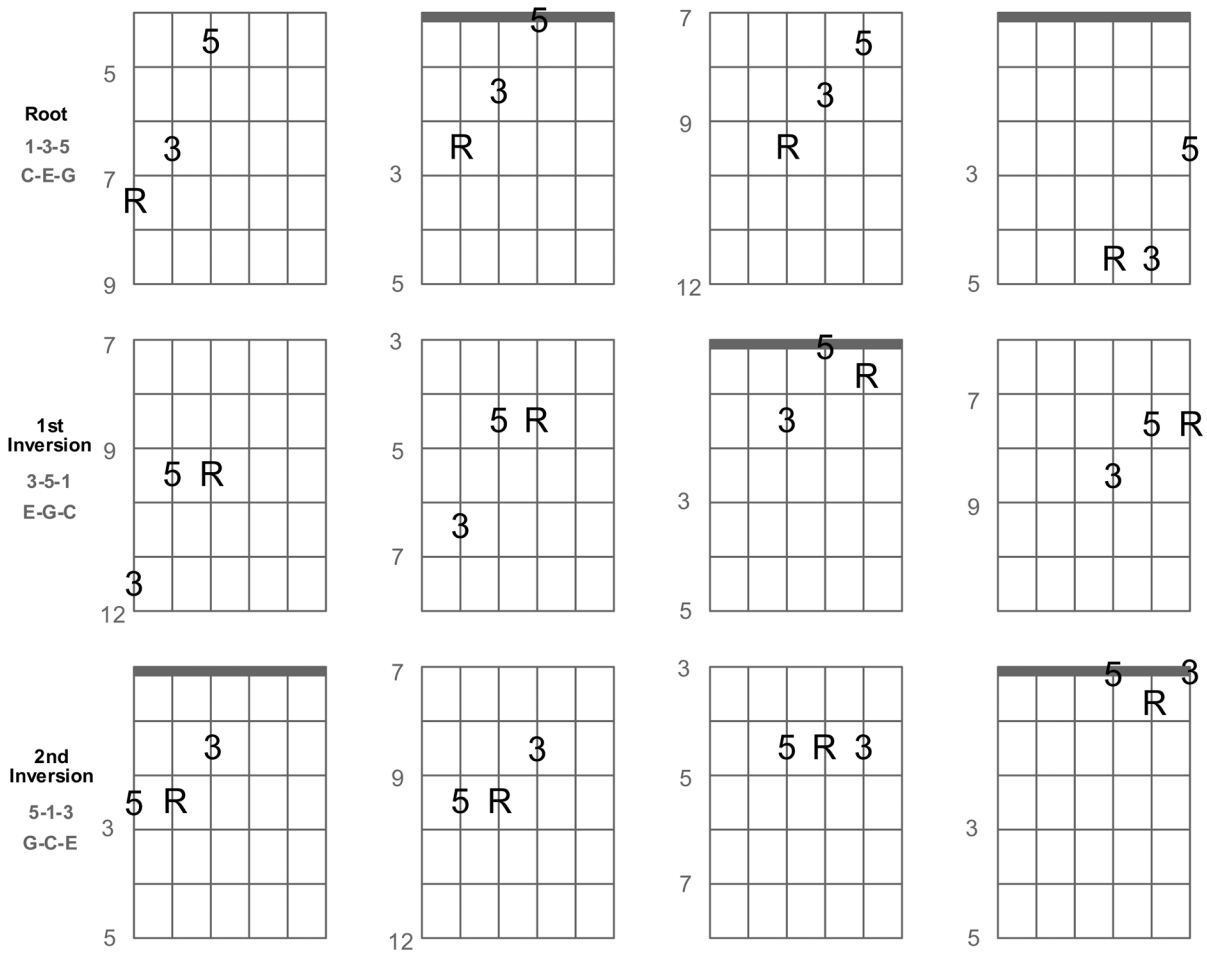


FIGURE 19.2 – C MAJOR TRIAD VOICINGS

Looking at this figure, you can simplify the number of patterns to three. Column 1 and column 2 use the same pattern, but it is shifted down one string set. In column 3 the pattern is shifted down a string set, but it also shifts the note on the 2nd string up one fret. Column 4 uses the pattern from column 3 and shifts the note on the 2nd string up one fret. Essentially, all four string sets use the same pattern. The key is remembering to shift the note on the 2nd string.

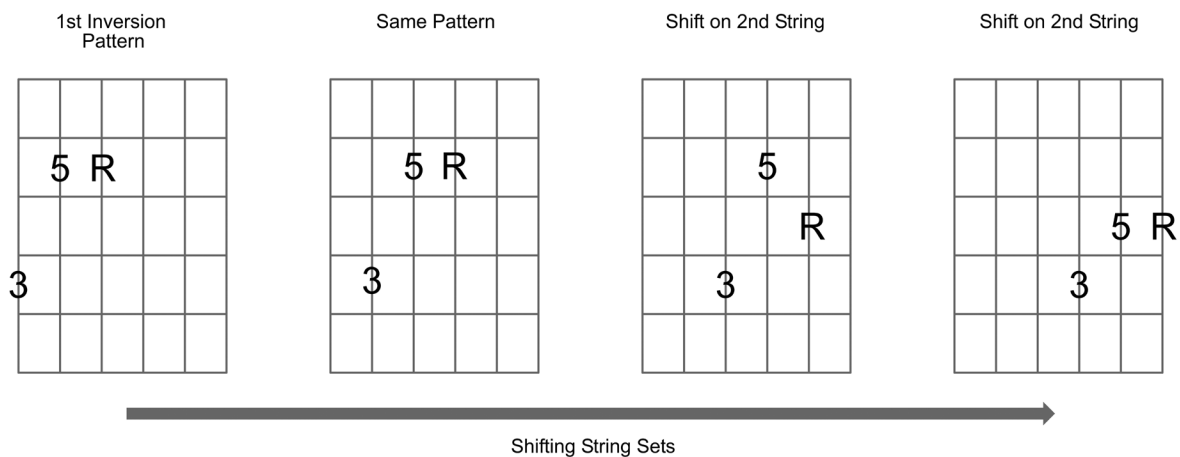


FIGURE 19.3 – PATTERN SHIFTING

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1. Write the formulas for the triad voicings.
2. What is a closed voicing?
3. Chart the three base triad patterns for all the triad types (Maj, min, etc).
4. Write the chord formula and the voicing name for the following chords

Note Order	Degrees	Voicing Name
G-C-E		
B-D-G		
E ^b -G-B ^b		
C-F-A		
C [#] -E-A		

3. Play the triads as diatonic chord scales on each string set.

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o	C
T 3	5	7	8	10	12	13	15
A 5	6	8	10	12	13	15	17
B 5	7	9	10	12	14	16	17

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o	C
T 1	3	5	6	8	10	12	13
A 0	2	4	5	7	9	10	12
B 2	3	5	7	9	10	12	14

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o	C
T 0	2	4	5	7	9	10	12
A 2	3	5	7	9	10	12	14
B 3	5	7	8	10	12	14	15

C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B ^o	C
T 2	3	5	7	9	10	12	14
A 3	5	7	8	10	12	14	15
B 3	5	7	8	10	12	13	15