

CUT CAPO TRY THIS: BY: MITCH BOHANNON

I've heard so many encouraging stories from many of you who have gained confidence in playing the guitar using the cut capo! I've posted some of them on my website (www.bos-capos.com).

In past issues, we've covered the general use of the cut capo... placing it on the 2nd fret and playing songs in the key of "E" or "A" then using a 6-string capo to move the cut capo up the fretboard and play in different keys. As a worship leader, this is how I find the cut capo the most useful. However, the cut capo is not limited to this basic use. We're going to take a step back and look at the cut capo in a different way. Let's review first what a capo (6-string) is made for.

A full capo placed on the first fret will move the string notes UP ½ step. In this position, you can **finger** an "E" chord and you will **hear** an "F" chord... play a "G" chord and you'll **hear** a "G#" chord. Place the full capo on the 2nd fret and the string notes move UP another ½ step (1 full step total)... now that "G" chord is an "A".

The capo is used to allow you to use the chord *voicing* you prefer in the correct *key* for the song. For instance, if the vocalist prefers to sing in the key of "A", the guitar player can easily place the full capo on the 2nd fret and play in the key of "G". Notice that "G" is LOWER on the scale than "A"... when the capo moves UP the fretboard, the chord moves DOWN the scale. That means that we can move the full capo UP 3 more frets (fret 5) and play in the key of "E" for the same song (key of A). This can also be helpful when you have 2 guitars playing together – using 2 different voicings.

Now let's apply this principle to the cut capo. Remember, move the capo UP the fretboard and move your chord shapes DOWN the scale. Our chord shapes are modified to make use of the design of the cut capo – allowing strings 1, 2, and 6 to ring open. However, you may choose to finger strings 1, 2, and/or 6 to add *color* in your chord voicing. Also remember, we're playing in the key of "E."

Place the cut capo on fret 2 and use the shapes from the key of "D" (DOWN 1 step from E). Place the capo on the 4th fret (we discussed this in the last article) and use the shapes from the key of "C" (C, F, G) Place the cut capo on the 7th fret and use the shapes from the key of "A" (A, D, E) Place the capo on the 9th fret and use the shapes from the key of "G" (G, C, D). NOTE: in these positions, we're changing the **voicing** of the chord but we're still **playing** in the key of "E."

All of these voicings can be applied to different keys with the use of 2 capos. However, you're limited by the length of the neck of your guitar. So, take your cut capo, move it into these fret positions and give it a try. Play a couple of the

chords in that voicing and see what you hear. You'll be surprised to see what God can show you once you put your fingers to the strings!

Keep worshipping Him!