

Cut Capo Try This:

In previous issues, we've discussed "hammer-ons," "pull-offs," and the use of a moveable chord shape (power chords) in conjunction with the Cut Capo. I regularly receive emails asking either how to play a "G" chord or how to play songs in the key of "G" with the capo. I'll answer both of these questions.

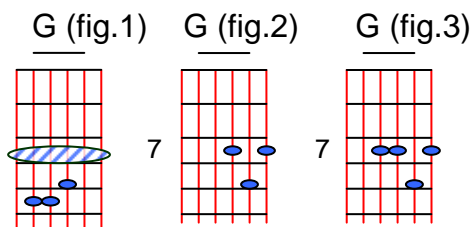
There are a handful of songs that require a "G" chord while playing with the capo in the standard position (2nd fret). The more you explore the notes up the neck of the guitar, the more possibilities you'll find. Here are a couple...

Because the guitar is tuned to standard tuning, playing a standard 'E-root' barre-chord on the 3rd fret may be a "G" chord you're already accustomed to playing (fig.1). Using this barre-chord will cover the chord effectively, however it will stop the droning sound of the 1st and 2nd strings.

A second option is to slide up to the 7th fret and use a standard "D" shape (fig.2). This can be played as a 3-string chord or a 4-string chord. Adding the 4th string 'open' would create a G/E (like a G6) which may or may not be desirable. However, fingering the 4th string on the 7th fret (fig.3) would create a G/A (like a G2) and bringing in the 5th string (open) would create a G/B. Choosing an appropriate chord is totally dependant on the song and style choices.

Playing a song written in the key of "G" is made possible by adding a second capo (6-string) and placing the full capo on the 3rd fret and the cut capo on the 5th fret. Rule of thumb is...if you move the capo UP, then *transcribe* (re-write the key) DOWN. This is done in 1/2 step increments. Placing a full capo on the 3rd fret is moving UP 3 half-steps, so you need to transcribe DOWN to the key of "E." Chords in this position... G = E, C = A, D = B... and so on. Each of these chords/notes has been transcribed 3 half-steps down.

Playing with two capos can be done from the 1st fret all the way up to the 6th or 7th fret (depending on the width of the guitar neck). This would take you from the key of "F" to the key of "B." (see the chart below) Also, you can visit my website at www.bos-capos.com for more instruction in transcribing.



Full capo on fret	Cut Capo on fret	Key
1	3	F
2	4	F#/G _b
3	5	G
4	6	G#/A _b
5	7	A