

C Note Road Map

In this lesson, you'll learn where all the C notes are from the open string up to fret 11. We won't worry about the 12th fret and up because it's the same notes as 0-11.

A major point to keep in mind is that there will be one occurrence of C on each string, so we'll be learning 6 different locations of the C note.

Instead of just listing them off to you I want to use your mind and add a little method to the madness. We'll learn the notes one at a time. There are several points to be made that will help you remember where they are in the future.

Let's meet our fretboard diagram (it's pretty straight forward):



Ok, let's look at the tried and true open C major chord:



The root note of the C major chord is the C note and the root note will be the lowest note in pitch, so from this information we can deduce that the 3rd fret of the A string is C:



Now I want you to pick up your guitar and play a C chord. There's another C note on the remaining strings of that C chord. Can you find it by ear?

Well, it's here on the 1st fret of the B string (C comes after B):

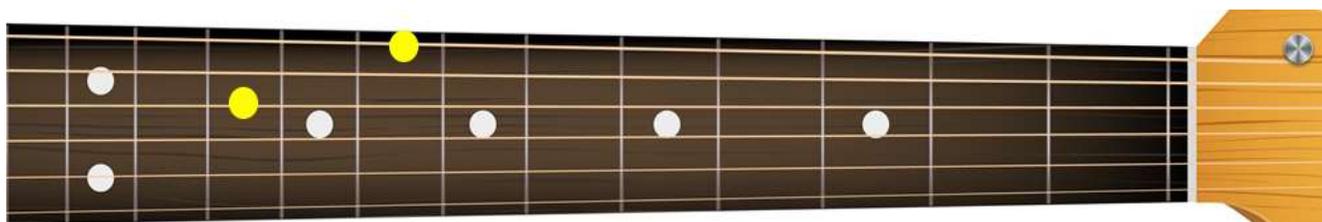


Ok, so we know the C note on 2 strings, so we're 1/3 of the way there. Since we know that there are 2 E strings we know that their C notes will be on the same fret, so we can kill 2 birds with 1 stone.

C is found on the 8th frets:



If we make an octave on that 8th fret of the low E string we'll quickly find our C note on the D string. It's right here on the 10th fret:



And we can apply an octave on the A string to find our C note on the G string:



So, we end up with:

- E String – 8th Fret
- A String – 3rd Fret
- D String – 10th Fret
- G String – 5th Fret
- B String – 1st Fret
- High E – 8th Fret

It's one thing to simply memorize it, but it's much better if you spend time finding them with your guitar in hand. If you can only remember where the C note is on one or two strings you can use that knowledge and, some of the tricks we've talked about, to find more.

Once you think you've got it down practice playing each C note on each string in quick succession. It's a really helpful exercise to perform and may help cement the locations of these notes in your mind.

Here they are again. All instances of the C note:



Whew! That was fun...

You can use the tab below to practice the C notes on all 6 strings:

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The staff contains six measures of music, each with a single note. The notes are: C4 (first space), C4 (first space), C4 (first space), C4 (first space), C3 (first line), and C3 (first line). Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six strings labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers for each string are: T (8), A (1), B (5); T (10), A (3), B (8).

T	8	1	5	10	3	8
A						
B						