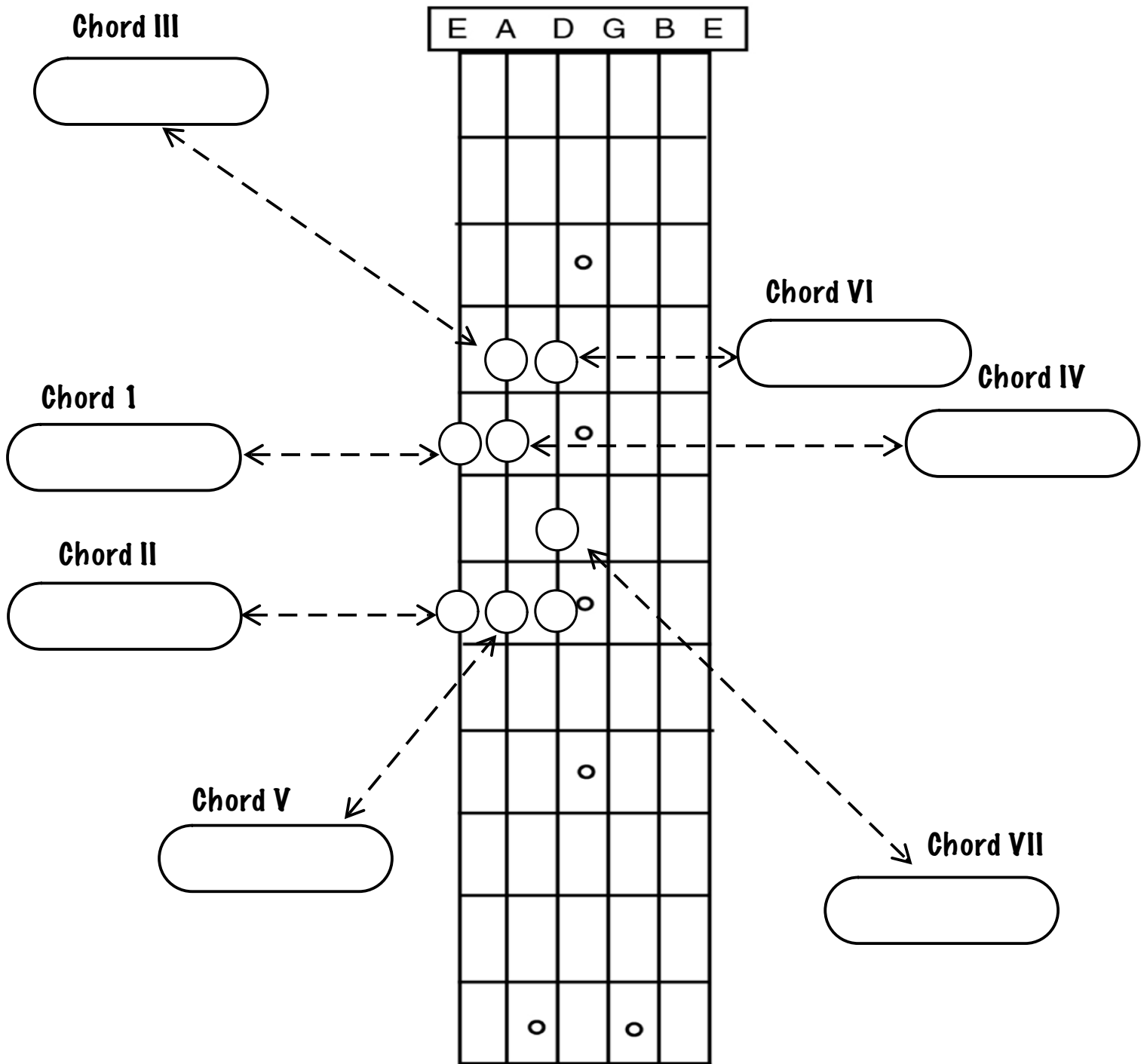


The Chords That Work

Key of A

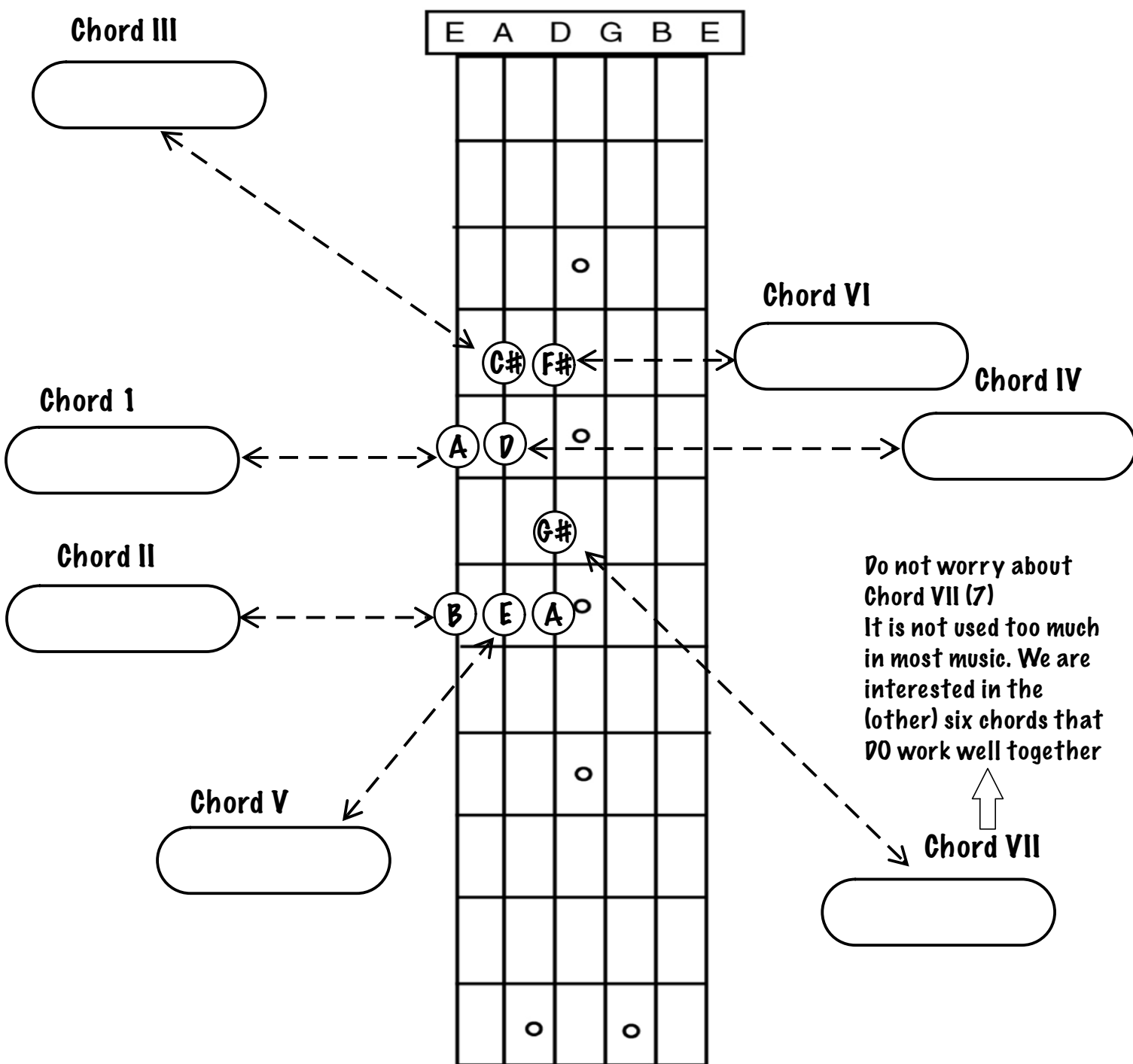


Above you will see the A Major Scale

Write the name of each note of the scale inside the circles on the neck

Follow the arrows and provide the name of the chord which can be constructed from the scale using the root note that you have identified

Explain to your guitar students.



Do not worry about Chord VII (7)
It is not used too much in most music. We are interested in the (other) six chords that DO work well together

Above you can see the notes of the A Major Scale (A, B, C#, D, E, F# and G#) identified inside the circles on the guitar neck

The Rules (which apply to all Major Scales)....

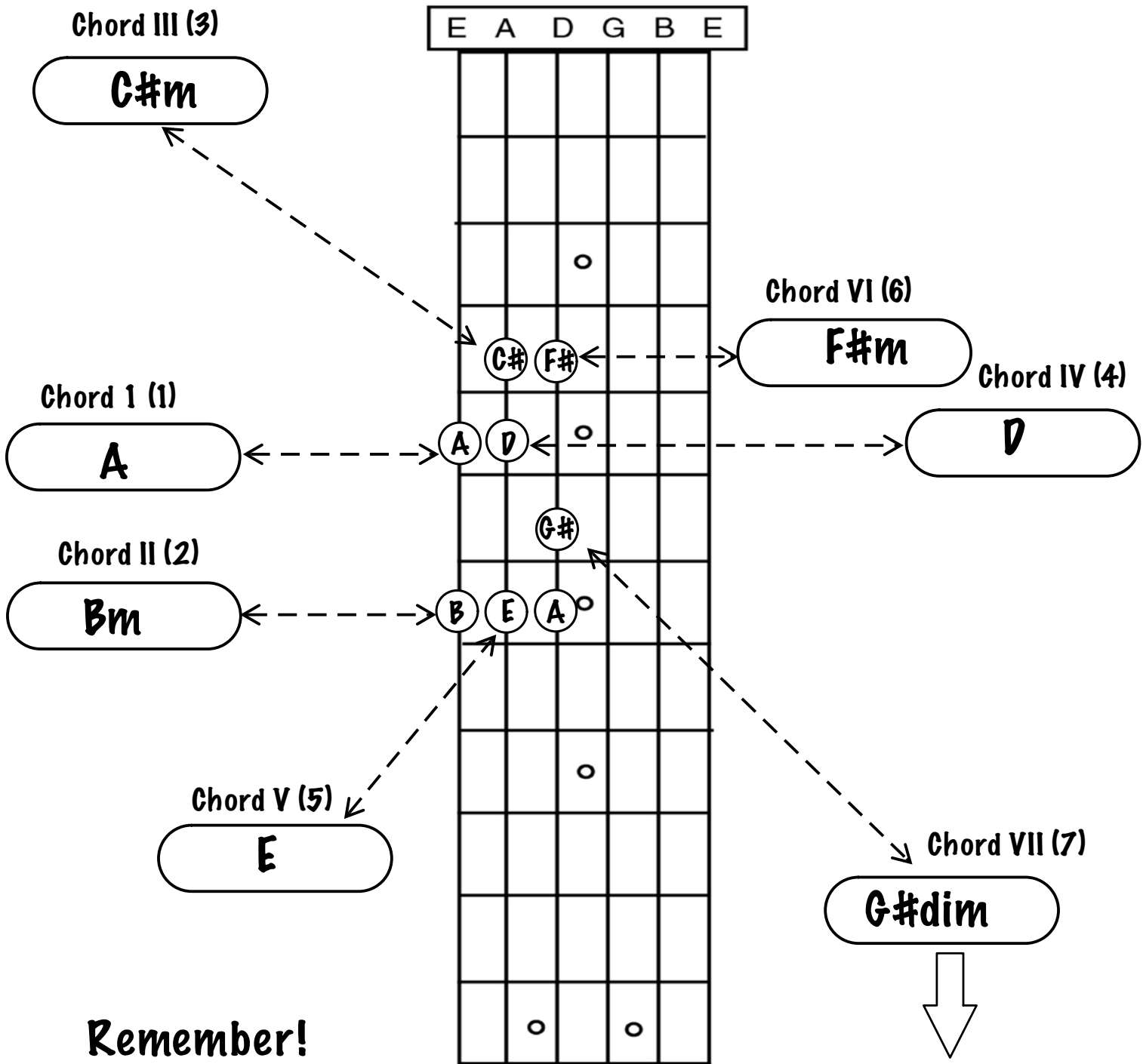
Apart from the root note (A) which appears at either end of the scale each letter name appears only once

The letter names occur in strict alphabetic sequence (A-B-C-D etc)

The scale may contain either # (sharp) or b (flat) notes but not both

Each note of the scale is the root (name) note of the chord that is based on it

Important points for guitar teachers



Remember!

- Chord I (1) is always a Major chord
- Chord II (2) is always a minor chord
- Chord III (3) is always a minor chord
- Chord IV (4) is always a Major chord
- Chord V (5) is always a Major chord
- Chord VI (6) is always a minor chord
- Chord VII (7) is always a diminished chord

Do not worry about Chord VII (7)
 It is not used too much in most music. We are interested in the (other) six chords that DO work well together

More stuff for guitar teachers

During the lessons covering this material you may like to...

Play the C Major Scale (C D E F G A B C) and then immediately afterwards play the sequence of chords C Dm Em F G Am Bdim C (strumming each chord once) so that they can hear the scale in the chords

Then play the notes of the A Major Scale A B C# D E F# G# and A followed closely by the chords A Bm C#m D E F#m G#dim and A

Help them to realise that the two chord progressions sound the same but they are in different keys

From there ask your student to tell you the names of the following four chords in the key of C

Chord I (1) C

Chord VI (6) Am

Chord IV (4) F

Chord V (5) G

Play the chords in sequence and then help your students to realise that the chords in that particular sequence are the basis of a whole load of "classic" songs (Stand By Me, Every Breath You Take, The River, Crocodile Rock, Simply The Best, Blue Moon and loads more that you can add yourself)

Help your student to move the progression into different keys in order to help them to realise that once you understand them all keys are the same and the chords within them function and behave in the same way

Over 20 more handouts on guitar music theory

The Chords That Work

Chord Number I II III IV V VI VII

Notes of the C Major Scale: C D E F G A B C

Chord built on each note: C Dm Em F G Am Bdim

Notes of the G Major Scale: G A B C D E F# G

Chord built on each note: G Am Bm C D Em F#dim

Notes of the D Major Scale: D E F# G A B C# D

Chord built on each note: D Em F#m G A Bm C#dim

Notes of the A Major Scale: A B C# D E F# G# A

Chord built on each note: A Bm C#m D E F#m G#dim

Notes of the E Major Scale: E F# G# A B C# D# E

Chord built on each note: E F#m G#m A B C#m D#dim

Notes of the B Major Scale: B C# D# E F# G# A# B

Chord built on each note: B C#m D#m E F#m G#m A#dim

Diatonic Harmony: Common Chord Progressions 1

Write the notes of the major scale in the lower part of the circles and then provide the appropriate chord symbols on the staff. Play through the progressions on your guitar to hear the similarities

Key of C

Notes: C D E F G A B C

Chords: I (C), VI (F), IV (D), V (G)

Key of G

Notes: G A B C D E F# G

Chords: I (G), VI (C), IV (D), V (G)

Key of D

Notes: D E F# G A B C# D

Chords: I (D), VI (G), IV (A), V (D)

Diatonic Chords Key of G

Fill in the circles on the guitar neck with the correct note names for the G Major scale

Transfer the note names to the appropriate lower half of the circles below

Follow the arrows down and fill in the boxes with the diatonic chords (Major, minor or diminished) contained within the key

Chord I (G) → Chord II (C) → Chord III (D) → Chord IV (G) → Chord V (D) → Chord VI (C)

The Chords That Work Together

A look at the six useful (and one not so useful) chords that can be created by building a triad (a three note chord) on each degree of any Major Scale. This example uses the quality (shown on the right) remains the same no matter which major scale is being used to create all of the chords

Chord I → Using the notes of C, E and G → **Major**

Chord II (2) → Using the notes of D, F and A → **minor**

Chord III (3) → Using the notes of E, G and B → **minor**

Chord IV (4) → Using the notes of F, A and C → **Major**

Chord V (5) → Using the notes of G, B and D → **Major**

Chord VI (6) → Using the notes of A, C and E → **minor**

Chord VII (7) → notes of B, D and F → **diminished**

The diminished chord (made up of a root, a minor third and a flattened fifth) is not commonly used in most pop music

Notes of the C Major Scale: C D E F G A B C

Chord built on each note: C Dm Em F G Am Bdim

The Chords That Work

Key of C

Chord I → Chord II → Chord III → Chord IV → Chord V → Chord VI → Chord VII

Above you will see the C Major Scale

Write the name of each note of the scale inside the circles on

Follow the arrows and provide the name of the chord which is constructed from the scale using the root note that you have

Major Scales

Provide the letter names for each note of the following scales in the lower section of each circle

Scale of C Major

Scale of G Major

Scale of D Major

Scale of A Major

Scale of E Major

There are a whole lot of other resources in our "Deluxe Download" designed to help your guitar students to understand that all keys are essentially the same and to allow them to function in a theoretically sound way on the guitar

Understanding the guitar in this way will help them to analyse the cover songs that they play and to write and understand their own chord progressions