

Rhythm Guitar Core Catalog Analysis

CAPO and BARRE CHORDS

The first and last categories of information contained in the individual Catalog listings, CAPO and BARRE CHORDS, are also the simplest in terms of a volume by volume analysis. The capo is used for 72 of the 160 arrangements contained in the Catalog, with the greatest concentration in the two Noel volumes, in which 33 of the 48 arrangements (a little more than two-thirds) require the use of a capo. Excluding the two Noel volumes, the capo is used for 39 of 112 arrangements (a little more than one-third). Barre chords are required for 59 of the 160 arrangements, with a lesser concentration of arrangements requiring barre chords in the Children's Songs volume than in any of the other volumes.

	Noel I	Noel II	Children's	Traditional	DLStiegII	Classical	Totals
CAPO	16/24	17/24	7/24	7/24	16/40	9/24	72/160
BARRE CHORDS	9/24	11/24	4/24	9/24	17/40	9/24	59/160

KEY OF PLAY

Alternate tunings are required for 14 of the 160 arrangements, with the greatest concentration in the D. L. Stieg II volume, in which 10 of the 40 arrangements require alternate tunings (8 in d pedal tuning, and 1 each in OPEN G and OPEN C). The alternate tunings used in other volumes are low D and OPEN G in the Children's Songs volume, open g in the Traditional American Songs volume, and OPEN C in the Classical volume. These 14 arrangements are not relevant to an analysis of the keys of play, since different chord fingerings are used in alternate

tunings. Since 2 of the 146 arrangements played in standard tuning (the flatpick and fingerstyle arrangements for “We Three Kings” in the Noel I volume) have two keys of play, the total number of arrangements in terms of an analysis of the keys of play is 148. All but 4 are one of the 8 most common keys for guitar music (A, a, C, D, d, E, e, and G). Of the 148 keys of play, 118 are Major and 30 are minor. It should be noted that since 9 of the 14 arrangements requiring alternate tunings are in minor keys, the overall M/m distribution of actual keys for the 162 is 123 Major and 39 (about one-fourth) minor. In the volume by volume distribution of the 148 keys of play given below, key refers to the key of play, and separate entries are given for Fl (including P+S) arrangements and Fs (including FP) arrangements.

Key	Noel I	Noel II	Children’s	Traditional	DLStiegII	Classical	Totals
G	2 Fl, 3 Fs	4 Fl, 1 Fs	2 Fl, 3 Fs	3 Fl, 2Fs	1 Fl, 1 Fs	3 Fl, 4 Fs	15Fl, 14Fs
A	2Fl, 2Fs	2Fl, 3Fs	2Fl, 3Fs	3Fl, 3Fs	3Fl, 2Fs	2Fl, 1Fs	14Fl, 14Fs
D	2Fl, 2Fs	3Fl, 2Fs	1Fl, 2Fs	4Fl	3Fl, 4Fs	2Fl, 2Fs	15Fl, 12Fs
C	2Fl, 3Fs	3Fs	3Fl, 2Fs	1Fl, 1Fs	3Fs	--	6Fl, 12Fs
E	2Fl	1Fl, 1Fs	3Fl, 1Fs	1Fl, 1Fs	2Fl, 2Fs	--	9Fl, 5Fs
a	2Fs	1Fs	--	2Fs	3Fs	2Fl, 3Fs	2Fl, 11Fs
e	2Fl	1Fl, 1Fs	--	1Fs	1Fl, 2Fs	--	4Fl, 4Fs
d	--	1Fl	--	1Fs	2Fl, 1Fs	1Fl, 1Fs	4Fl, 3Fs
F	--	--	--	--	--	2Fl	2Fl
b	1Fl	--	--	--	--	--	1Fl
f#	1Fs	--	--	--	--	--	1Fs
Totals	26	24	22	23	30	23	148

METER

Since two of the arrangements (the flatpick and fingerstyle arrangements for “Oh, Christmas Tree” in the Noel II volume) employ multiple meters (3, 4, and 5, to be exact), the number of arrangements in terms of the distribution of meters is 158. Of the 22 that employ compound meter (6, 9, or 12), 10 are contained in the Children’s Songs

volume. It should be noted, however, that a number of arrangements, and especially in the Noel volumes, were notated in 3 in order to simplify the tablature, but in reality are in 6. That said, of the 136 arrangements employing simple meter, 91 (about two-thirds) are in 4, and 45 are in 3.

Volume	4	3	6	12	9	Totals
Noel I	8	14	2	0	0	24
Noel II	16	6	0	0	0	22
Children's Songs	12	2	4	6	0	24
Traditional American Songs	17	4	3	0	0	24
D. L. Stieg II	28	10	0	2	0	40
Classical	10	9	4	0	1	24
Totals	91	45	13	8	1	158

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Of the 160 arrangements, 113 (a little more than two-thirds) are rated at an intermediate level of skill, although this is admittedly a broad category encompassing various levels of skill and various types of skills. There are no advanced level arrangements, and only two intermediate/advanced level arrangements and two beginning level arrangements. Of the 43 arrangements rated at a beginning/intermediate level of skill, since 31 are in flatpick styles (F1 or P+S), 12 are in fingerstyles (Fs or FP).

Volume	1 (Beg)	2 (Beg/Int)	3 (Int)	4 (Int/Adv)	Totals
Noel I	1 (Flat)	8 (6 Flat)	15	0	24
Noel II	1 (Fstyle)	8 (6 Flat)	15	0	24
Children's Songs	0	3 (3 Flat)	20	0	24
Traditional American Songs	0	5 (3 Flat)	18	1 (FP)	24
D. L. Stieg II	0	14 (10 Flat)	25	1 (FP)	40
Classical	0	4 (3 Flat)	20	0	24
Totals	2	43 (31 Flat)	113	2	160

STYLE OF PLAY

Of the 160 arrangements, 80 are in flatpick styles and 80 are in fingerstyles. Of the 80 flatpick arrangements, 38 (nearly half) are in P+S style (require individually flatpicked notes). Of the 80 fingerstyle arrangements, 27 (about one-third) are in FP style (require an alternating bass pattern). The greatest concentration of Flat arrangements is in the Noel II and Classical volumes. The greatest concentration of P+S arrangements is in the Children's Songs and D. L. Stieg II volumes. The greatest concentration of Fstyle arrangements is in the Noel II and Classical volumes. The greatest concentration of FP arrangements is in the Children's Songs volume.

Volume	Flat	P+S	Fstyle	FP	Totals
Noel I	7	5	7	5	24
Noel II	9	3	11	1	24
Children's Songs	2	10	4	8	24
Traditional American Songs	7	5	8	4	24
D. L. Stieg II	8	12	12	8	40
Classical	9	3	11	1	24
Totals	42	38	53	27	160

CHORDS

Of the 146 arrangements played in standard tuning, 44 employ all common chords. For 38 more, there is only one chord required that is not a common chord. The greatest concentration of arrangements with simple chording requirements is in the two Noel volumes. It should be noted that, in many cases, the playing patterns used in the Noel volumes are reasonably simple as well, and the chief difficulty in playing an arrangement is the brisk tempo of the music. This points toward the usefulness of e-scores in learning to play the Noel arrangements, especially for beginning/intermediate level players, since the tempo can

be adjusted. Of the 18 common chords, only 13 are required for more than five of the 146 arrangements played in standard tuning. The five Major common chords are used with the greatest frequency, and are followed by the three minor common chords in terms of frequency of use.

Chords	Noel I	Noel II	Children's	Traditional	DLStiegII	Classical	Totals
ALL COMMON	12	10	6	2	10	4	44
ALL BUT 1	6	6	7	8	7	4	38
G	19	13	11	14	19	14	90
D	21	14	11	11	14	11	82
A	13	13	11	10	16	9	72
E	13	9	11	9	12	13	67
C	13	8	6	10	10	14	61
a	6	9	4	7	3	10	39
e	8	9	3	5	7	4	36
F	7	3	3	3	5	6	27
am7	3	1	3	2	6	3	18
D7	0	2	3	7	0	6	18
B7	3	1	4	1	5	1	15
A7	0	1	2	3	3	5	14
d	1	3	1	2	3	4	14