

## What's a CAPO (kay-poe)? - Suggestions and uses



Quoted from Wikipedia.org

A **capo** (/ˈkeɪ.poʊ/ or /ˈkæ.poʊ/; short for *capotasto*, Italian for "head of fretboard") is a device used on the neck of a stringed (typically fretted) instrument to shorten the playable length of the strings, hence raising the pitch. It is frequently used on guitars, mandolins, and banjos.

Musicians commonly use a capo to raise the pitch of a fretted instrument so they can play in a different key using the same fingerings as playing *open chords* (i.e., without a capo). In effect, a capo uses a fret of an instrument to create a new nut at a higher note than the instrument's actual nut.



There are many capo designs, but most commercial capos consist of a rubber-covered bar that clamps to the instrument's neck in some way to hold down the strings. Capos come in different sizes and shapes for different instruments and fretboard curvatures.

### HOW WE WILL USE THE CAPO

**RECORDING PITCH** - Artists often raise the pitch of a song using a capo to allow them to play open position chords in a 'key' that's in their vocal range. Sometimes they'll raise the key of the song for effect. Metal and rock group often use drop tuning. Examples include many Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Coldplay, as well as back to The Beatles - Here Comes The Sun. Using a capo will allow a beginning student to play along with their favorite songs without retuning the guitar to a different pitch.

**VOCAL PITCH** - Students will be able use the Capo to adjust the key of a song to allow for their own vocal range when performing. Many students playing with friends, or at school or church, may need this skill to allow them to play in an adjusted key using the capo.



### RECOMMENDED TYPES & COST

The most commonly available Capo is a spring clamp (see the illustration above). These come in a variety of shapes, colors, and brands, but their basically all doing the same thing. Be sure you purchase a Capo specific to your guitar type. Acoustic, electric, classical, will most likely have different shapes to accommodate the width of the guitar neck.

Costs generally run between \$10 to \$20 for a basic spring clamp capo. Specialty and professional models can run up to \$50.