



Beginner's Ukulele Concert Series

Join us for four weeks of ukulele
instruction with a concert at the end!

Weekly classes on Tuesdays @ 4:30 pm

Classes meet: 5/9, 5/16, and 5/23

Dress rehearsal: 5/30 @ 4:30 pm

Concert: 5/30 @ 5:00 pm



Participants must supply their own ukulele for the duration of the series.
Registration required.



HCLS Savage Branch

9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723 | 410.313.0760

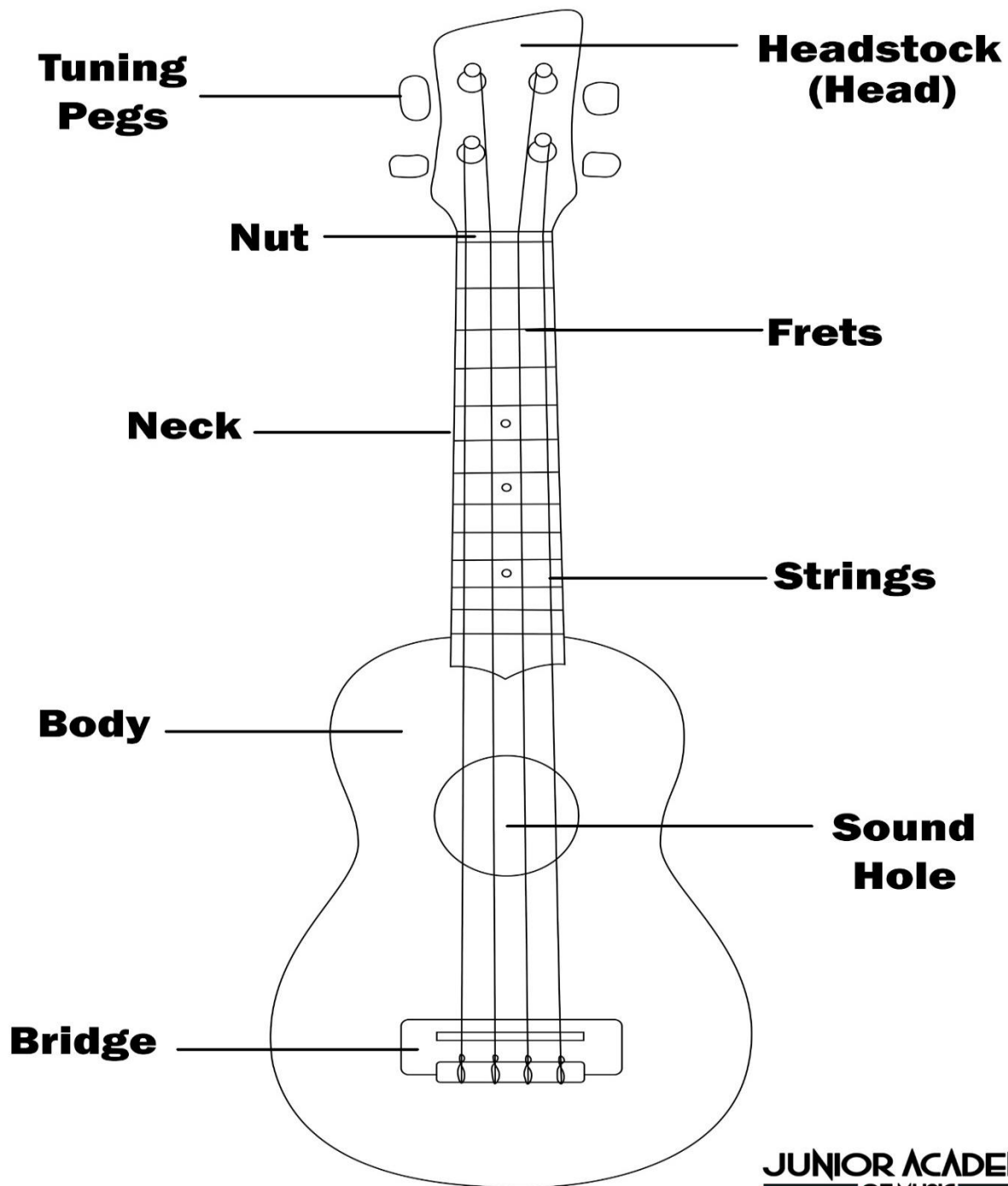
Welcome to the Ukulele Concert Series!

During this course, you will learn about the ukulele, proper playing techniques, easy chords, and songs. At the end we will have a concert to showcase what you learned!

We hope you have a great time during this course and begin, what we hope, is a lifelong love of the ukulele.



Parts Of The Ukulele



Strings On The Ukulele

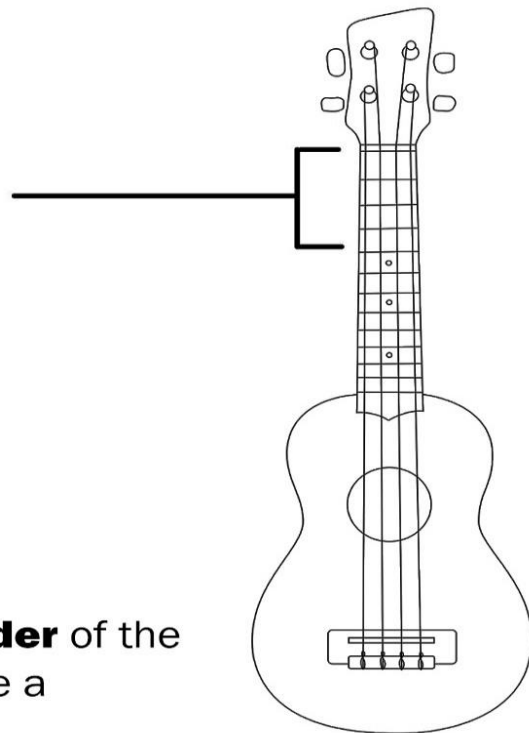
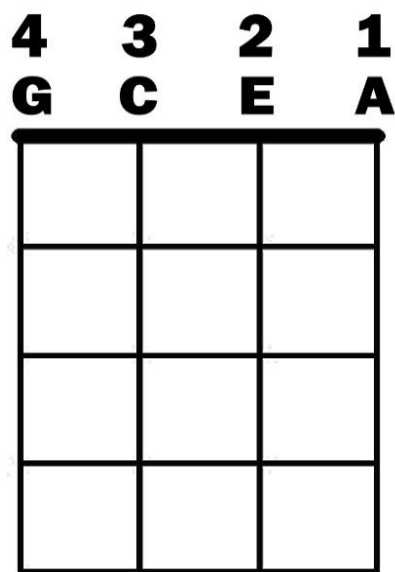
> Ukuleles come in **4** different **sizes**: (smallest to biggest)

Soprano, Concert, Tenor, Baritone

We will be using the **Soprano** ukuleles in our lessons.

All ukuleles have '**4**' strings and is played using **both** hands. One hand is used to **strum** or **pluck** the strings either with your **fingers** or a **plectrum**. The other hand is used to **hold down** the strings against the **frets**.

> Each string on the ukulele is **tuned** to a **note**, so it is important we know what each string is called so we can **tune** the ukulele correctly. Each string is also given a number **1 - 4**.



> To help us remember the **order** of the strings, we can make up or use a **rhyme** such as:

Good, Children, Eat, Apples

or

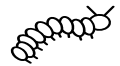
Go, Crazy, Every, Afternoon

Practice

Practice is important to learning the ukulele. It builds confidence in your ukulele skills, improves technique, and fosters creativity. Practice at least fifteen minutes. When practicing:

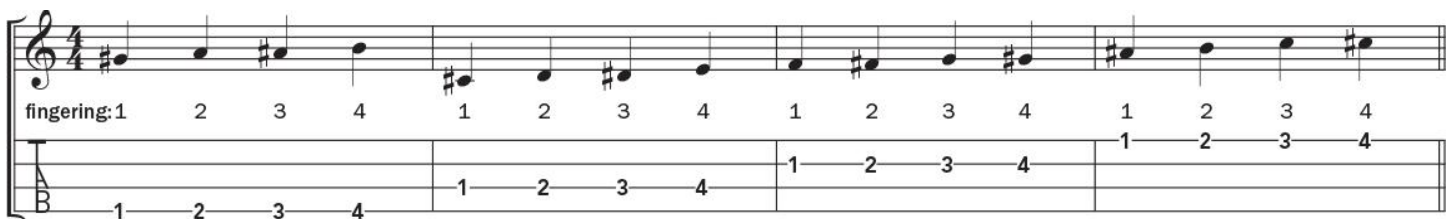
1. Choose a place and time where you can practice each day. Making practice a routine will help fit it into your day.
2. Before practicing or playing, always tune your ukulele.
3. Include warm-up exercises in your practice to get your fingers stretched and flexible.
4. Repeat skill drills or chord progressions until you are comfortable with them. Repetition will help transitions between chords or notes and build muscle memory.
5. Start slowly with the skill drills. Start with one strum per chord and work up to more strums and faster transitions. How fast can you go?
6. Keeping a practice journal may help you to keep track of your progress and what you would like to focus on.
7. When learning a song, chunk difficult sections into smaller sections to make learning easier. Chunking is a great way to build confidence and skill.
8. Have fun during your practice! Play songs that make you happy!

Warm-Up



Do the Caterpillar! Warm-ups help “warm” up your fingers to get them used to the frets and strings. This warm-up will help you get familiar with the first four frets and their spacing. It will help to become familiar with moving between strings and build muscle memory.

To play the caterpillar, use your fingertips to press down behind (not on top of) the first four frets of each string. This will give you the best sound of each note. Place your fingers on frets 1, 2, 3, and 4 with fingers 1 (index), 2 (middle), 3 (ring), and 4 (pinky). You will pluck the string with your right hand.



Repeat this pattern on all four strings. As you become familiar with the pattern, consider playing the warm-up forwards and backwards from the 4th fret on each string.

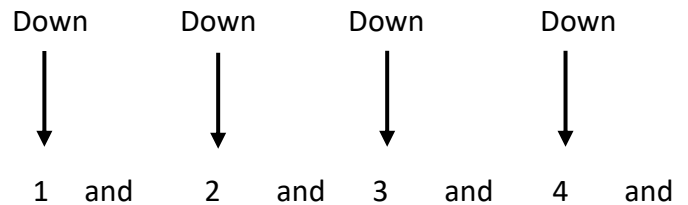
Tip: Start slowly. This warm-up is not a race. As you become more familiar with the warm-up, you can speed up the transitions. How fast can your caterpillar crawl?

Strumming Patterns

1. Quarter Note Strum.

This is a basic strum pattern in 4/4-time. Strum down four times with the thumb, index finger, or a felt pick.

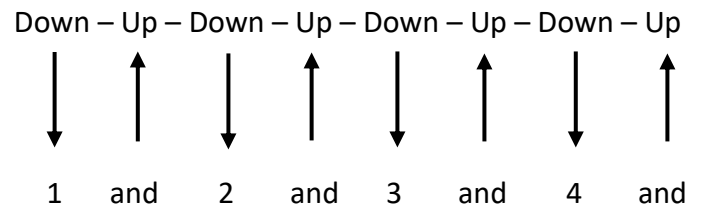
Quarter Note Strum



2. Eighth Note Strum.

This strum is in 4/4-time counted by eighth notes. Strum down and up four times with the thumb, index finger, or a felt pick.

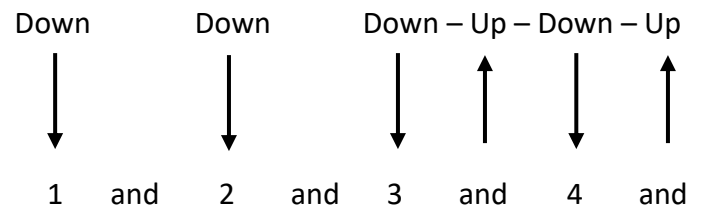
Eighth Note Strum



3. Quarter and Eighth Notes.

This strum is in 4/4-time and a mix of quarter and eighth notes. Quarter notes are one down strum and eighth notes are one down/up strum each. Strum with the thumb, index finger, or a felt pick.

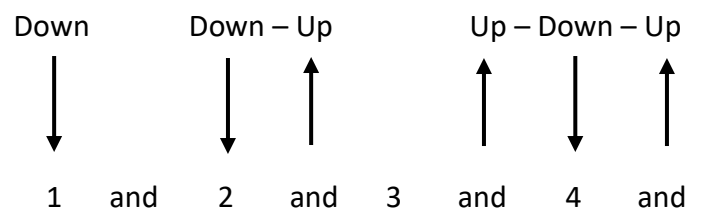
Quarter and Eighth Note Strum



4. The Island Strum

This is the ultimate strumming pattern that you can play on every song. Strum down and up four times with the thumb, index finger, or a felt pick.

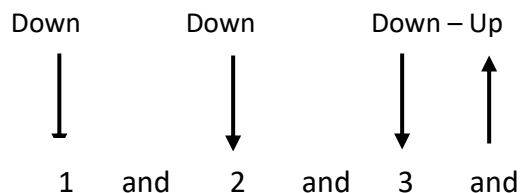
The Island Strum



5. Waltz Strum ($\frac{3}{4}$ Time)

Strum down and up three times with the thumb, index finger, or a felt pick.

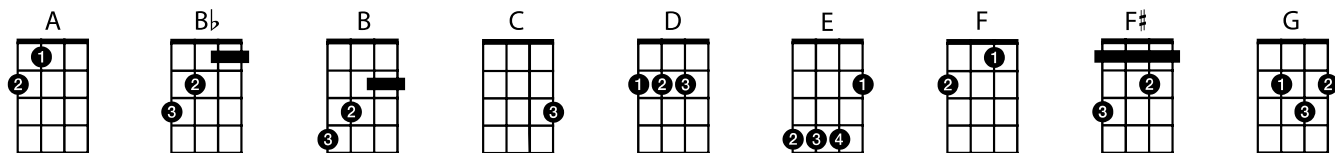
Waltz Strum



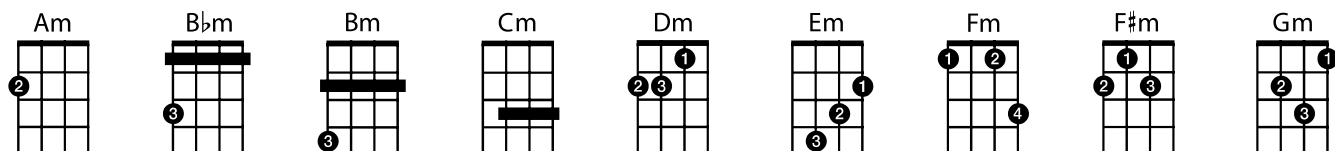
Can you come up with your own strum pattern? There are more strum patterns at the end of this book.

Chord Chart

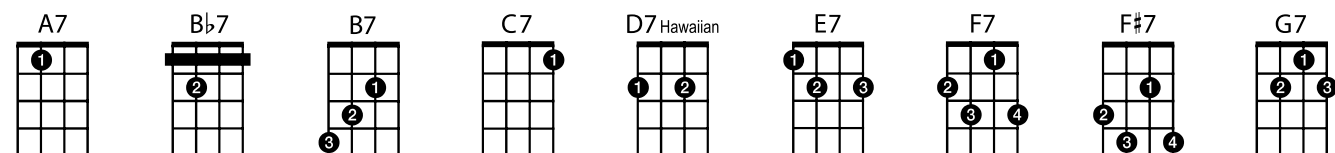
Major Chords



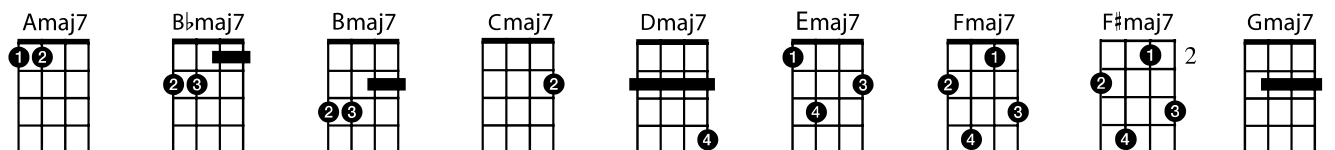
Minor Chords



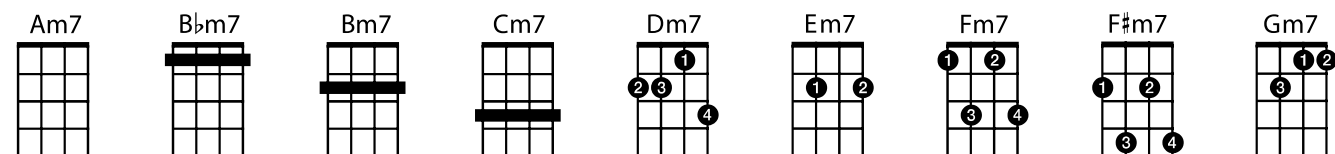
Dominant 7th Chords



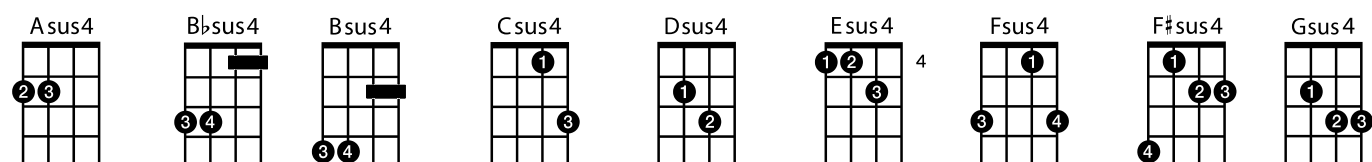
Major 7th Chords



Minor 7th Chords



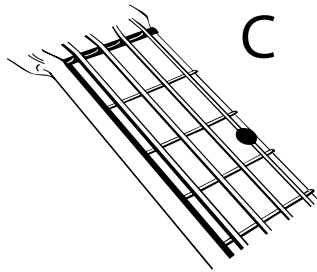
Suspended 4th Chords



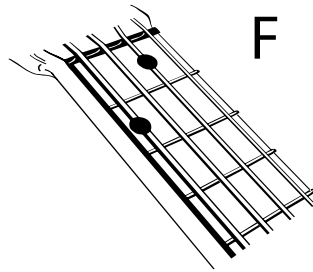
Lesson 1: C and F

Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play a **C** Chord, put your:
1. Third finger on the third fret on the first string.

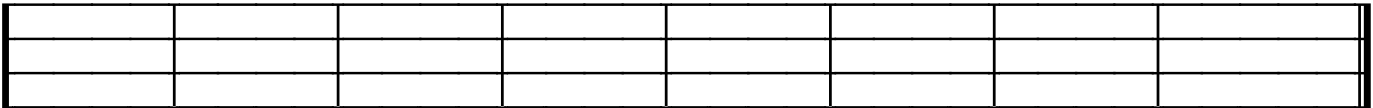
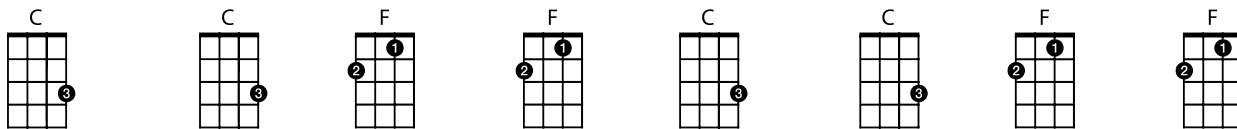


F

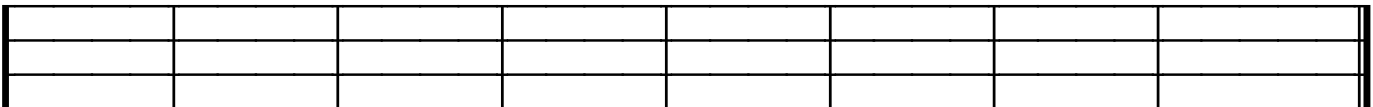
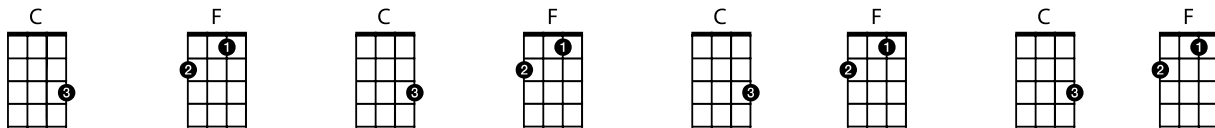


To play an **F** Chord, put your:
1. First finger on the first fret of the second string.
2. Second finger on the second fret of the fourth string.

Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



As you are practicing, try different strum patterns.

Basic Quarter Note Strum

Down Down Down Down

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

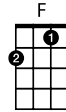
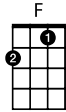
Basic Eighth Note Strum

Down – Up – Down – Up – Down – Up – Down – Up

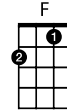
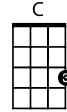
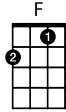
↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

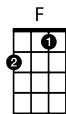
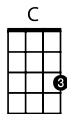
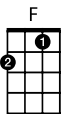


Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream

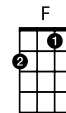
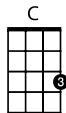
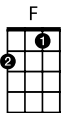


Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream

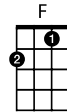
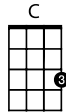
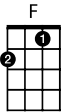
Mary Had a Little Lamb



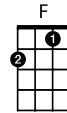
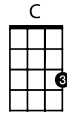
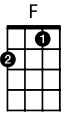
Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb,



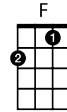
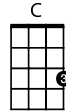
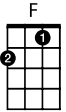
Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow.



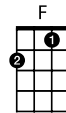
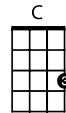
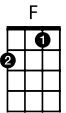
Everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went,



Everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go.



It followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day



It followed her to school one day which was against the rules.

Songs to practice with C and F

Dance The Night Away by The Mavericks

<https://youtu.be/MQN1W--Vo4s>

Don't Worry Be Happy by Bobby McFerrin <https://youtu.be/xzej3lu108>

Dream Baby by Roy Orbison <https://youtu.be/IAOgFZFujf4>

Iko Iko (My Bestie) by Justin Wellington https://youtu.be/xgPBHXWCx_o

Incy Wincy Spider <https://youtu.be/SBGywY9o9mo>

The Beat Goes On by Sonny and Cher <https://youtu.be/EYrI32NLeRU>

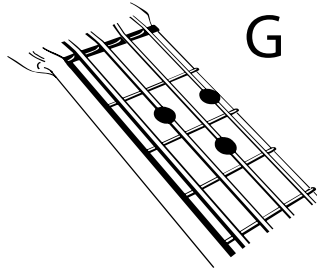
Where is Thumbkin https://youtu.be/xB_Ggqr8KfE

Lesson 2: G and G7

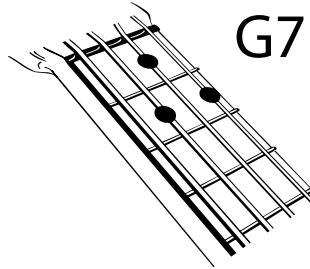
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play a **G** Chord, put your:

1. First finger on second fret of the third string.
2. Second finger on the second fret of first string.
3. Third finger on the third fret of the second string.



G

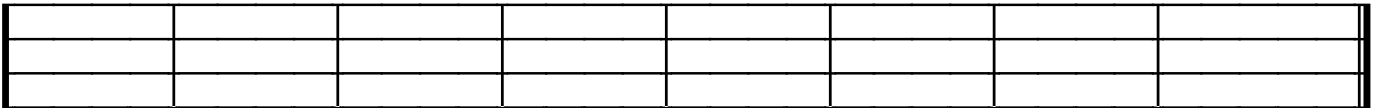
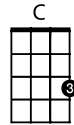
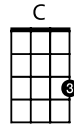
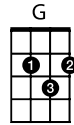
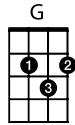
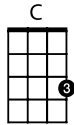
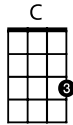
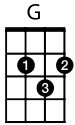
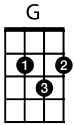


G7

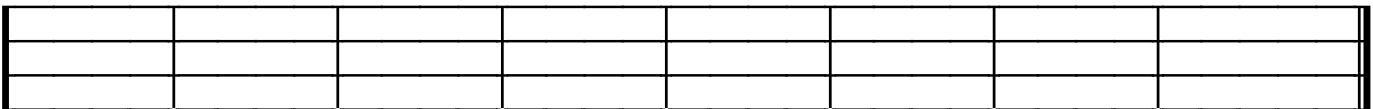
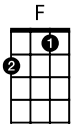
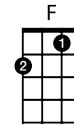
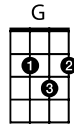
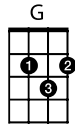
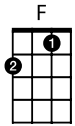
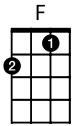
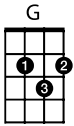
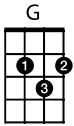
To play a **G7** Chord, put your:

1. First finger on first fret of the second string.
2. Second finger on the second fret of third string.
3. Third finger on the second fret of the first string.

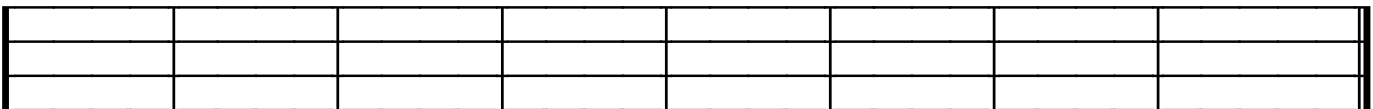
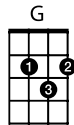
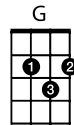
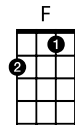
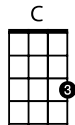
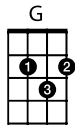
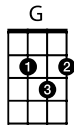
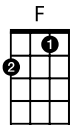
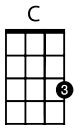
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.

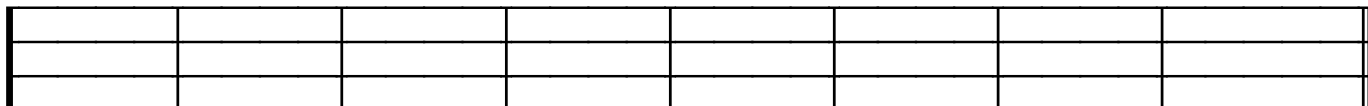
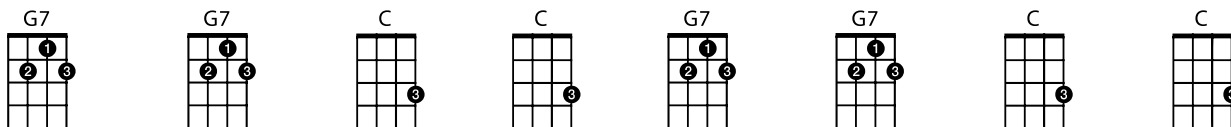


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

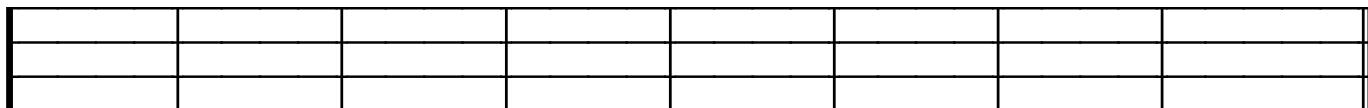
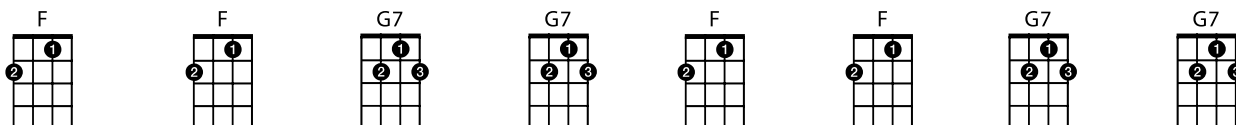


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

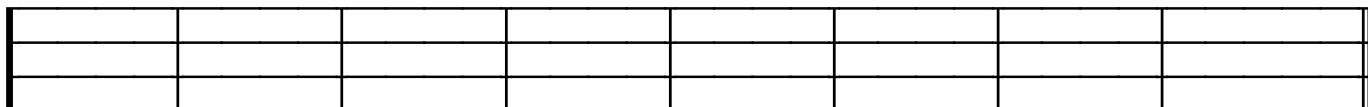
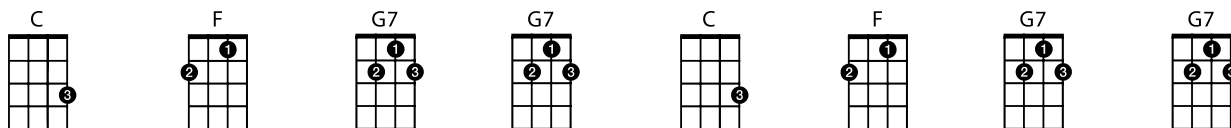
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Notice in the change from G7 to C that the third finger slides up one fret. Lift fingers one and two off the fret board but keep them close.



Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Notice in the change from F to G7 that the first finger stays in the same place. Don't lift up the first finger during this chord change.

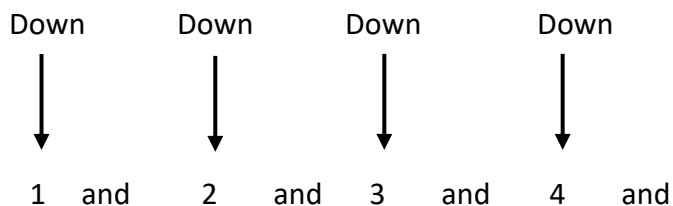


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

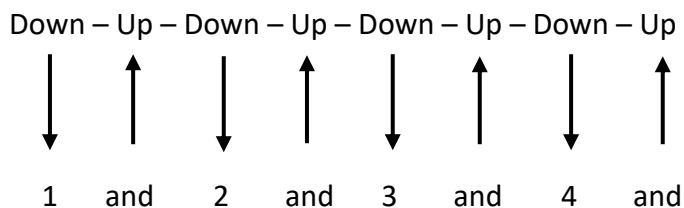


As you are practicing, try different strum patterns.

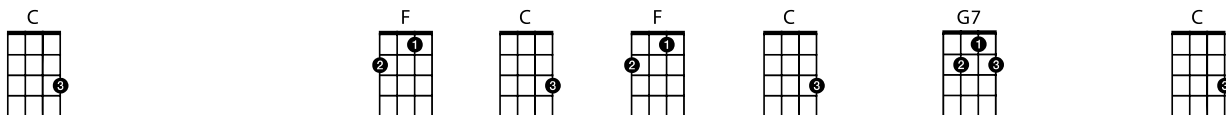
Basic Quarter Note Strum



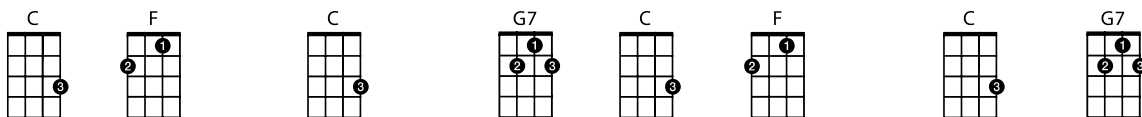
Basic Eighth Note Strum



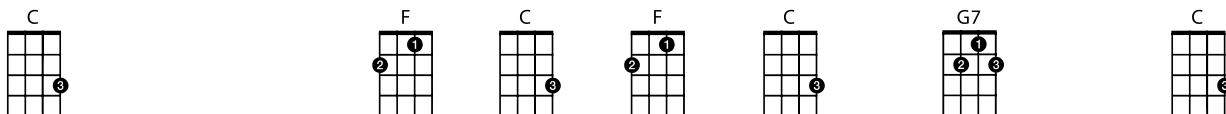
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.

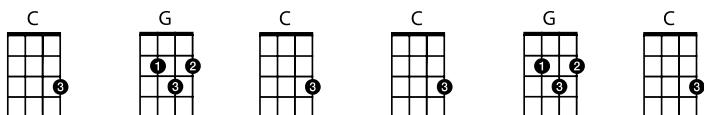


Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky.

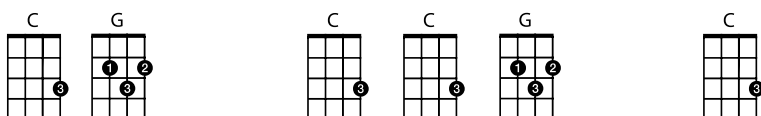


Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.

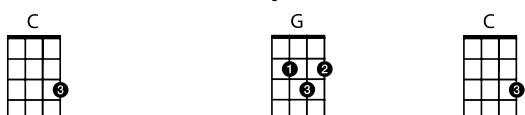
Three Blind Mice



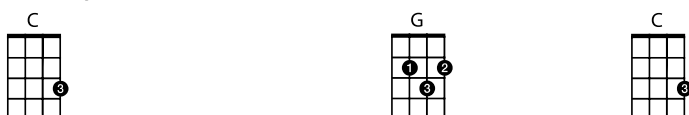
Three blind mice, three blind mice.



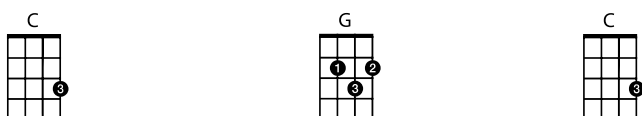
See how they run, see how they run.



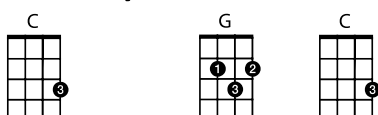
They all ran after the farmer's wife.



Who cut off their tails with a carving knife.

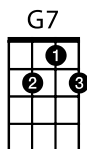
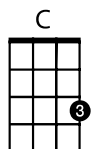


Have you ever seen such a sight in your life?

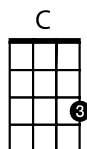
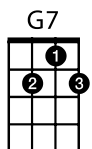


As three blind mice.

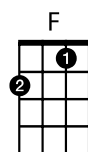
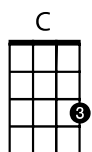
Happy Birthday



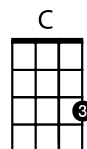
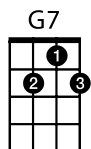
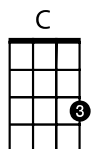
Happy birthday to you



Happy birthday to you



Happy birthday dear *INSERT NAME HERE*



Happy birthday to you



This song is in $\frac{3}{4}$ time.



Songs to practice with C, F, G and G7

5 Years Time by Noah and the Whale <https://youtu.be/gXUTGNTWVRU>

Banana Boat Song (Day-O) by Harry Belafonte
<https://youtu.be/mgH9bZNMvQE>

Cecilia by Simon and Garfunkel <https://youtu.be/B1l8YP2ZfrI>

Cool by The Jonas Brothers <https://youtu.be/2uV4kvjudG0>

Everyday People by Sly and the Family Stone
<https://youtu.be/ovBqjIYaWal>

Hound Dog by Elvis Presley <https://youtu.be/Dta70Kkr3ew>

I Love Rock and Roll by Joan Jett <https://youtu.be/SW50GZUEejQ>

Jambalaya by Hank Williams <https://youtu.be/02WT6E6RB8w>

Johnny B Goode by Chuck Berry <https://youtu.be/JEyggXgvuOc>

La Bamba by Ritchie Valens <https://youtu.be/wGVXm5l6TtU>

Lean on Me by Bill Withers <https://youtu.be/H-5CsBOuCs0>

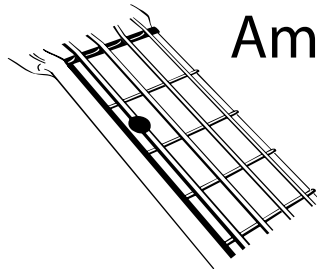
Mustang Sally by Wilson Pickett <https://youtu.be/ac86n97e84w>

Steal My Girl by One Direction <https://youtu.be/Tl800t6giZw>

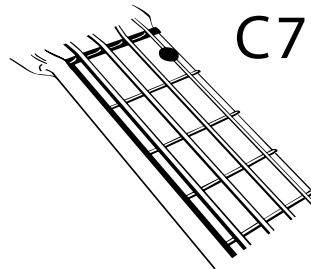
Lesson 3: Am and C7

Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play an **Am** Chord, put your:
1. First finger on second fret of the fourth string.



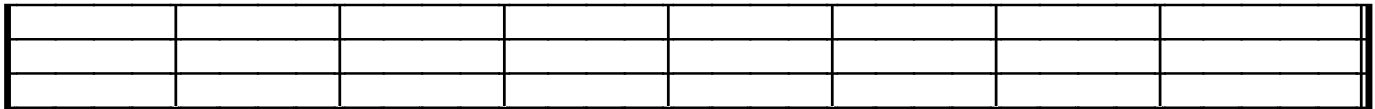
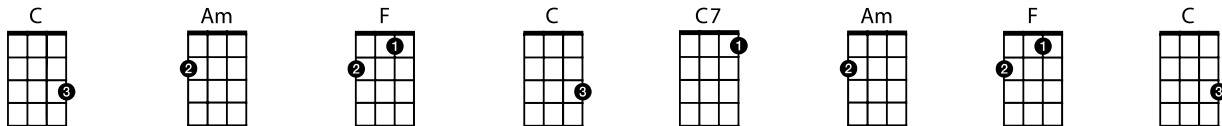
Am



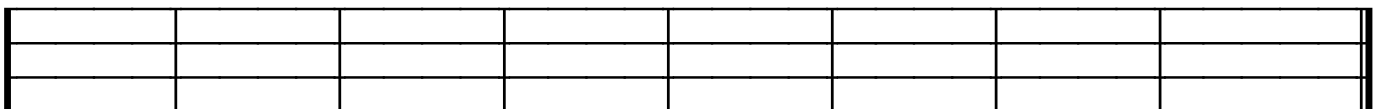
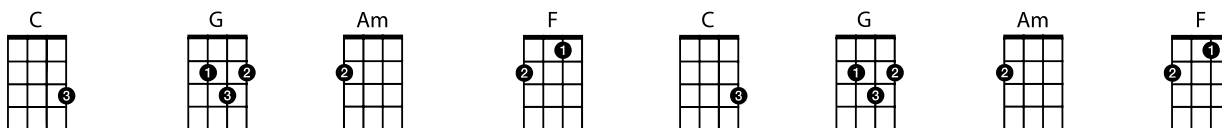
C7

To play a **C7** Chord, put your:
1. First finger on first fret of the first string.

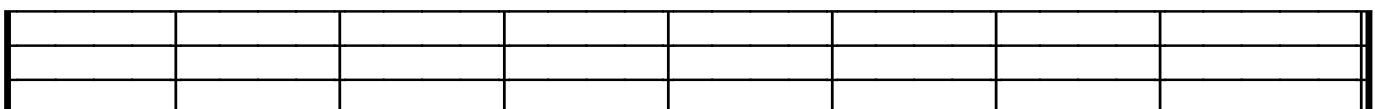
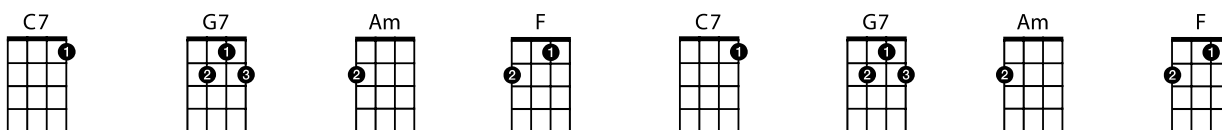
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Notice in the change from Am to F that the second finger stays in the same place. Don't lift the second finger during this chord change.



Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



Songs to practice with Am and C7

Best Day of My Life by American Authors <https://youtu.be/jAzqewpjjj0>

Girls Like You by Maroon 5 <https://youtu.be/Az0NNK1xBOM>

Good To Be Alive by Meghan Trainor <https://youtu.be/EF15lp2lg3M>

Gummy Bear by the Gummy Bear Show <https://youtu.be/vv14Q3Jgbg8>

Have You Ever Seen the Rain by CCR https://youtu.be/1ONaNpo_YoI

Lava (Someone to Lava) by Pixar Movies <https://youtu.be/kbexjxcLA8E>

Little Talks by Of Monsters and Men https://youtu.be/-_7FCcV5DJY

Riptide by Vance Joy <https://youtu.be/LJTJhEichcl>

Shake It Off by Taylor Swift <https://youtu.be/qv0gOTWphF8>

Shut Up and Dance With Me by Walk off the Moon
<https://youtu.be/PRGlcJlfnhE>

Stitches by Shawn Mendes https://youtu.be/Qdc_hCGEVtA

Try Everything by Shakira <https://youtu.be/K5TzInF65TA>

Watermelon Sugar High by Harry Styles <https://youtu.be/xAfGyIO43Dw>

With or Without You by U2 <https://youtu.be/wiOUDfdp8hE>

Online Resources

Thank you so much for participating in the Ukulele Concert Series. We hope this course has sparked your love for the ukulele and music! We hope you continue to practice and learn about the ukulele. To help you, below are some additional resources:

1. Howard County Library online course: visit <http://hclibrary.org/research/artist-works> for free online ukulele lessons through the Libby App.
2. Savage Ukes: Please visit <http://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/> for our monthly Savage Ukes lesson and play along.
3. Recommended websites and online ukulele teachers:

Websites:

- a. **UkeStuff.info** is a great ukulele resource. <https://ukestuff.wordpress.com/>
- b. **Got A Ukulele** provides ukulele reviews, tips on care and maintenance, changing strings, and much more. <https://www.gotaukulele.com/>
- c. **Uke Hunt** has songs and resources for beginners to advanced players. <http://ukulelehunt.com/>
- d. **UkuTabs** has ukulele tabs and chords for all experience levels. <https://ukutabs.com/>

There are many YouTube channels for ukulele tutorials and content. Below are just a few (in alphabetical order) of my favorites. I encourage you to explore additional ukulele content and channels to inspire and motivate you on your ukulele journey:

- a. Abby Lyons
- b. Bernadette Teaches Music
- c. Christopher Davis-Shannon
- d. Craig Chee and Sarah Maisel
- e. Cynthia Lin
- f. Katie DeNure (One Music School)
- g. Ten Thumbs Production
- h. The Ukulele Teacher
- i. Ukulele Cheats