



Advanced Beginner's Ukulele Concert Series

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



Weekly classes on Tuesdays @ 5:00 pm
Classes meet: 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19
Dress rehearsal: 4/2 @ 5:00 pm
Concert: 4/2 @ 5:30 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

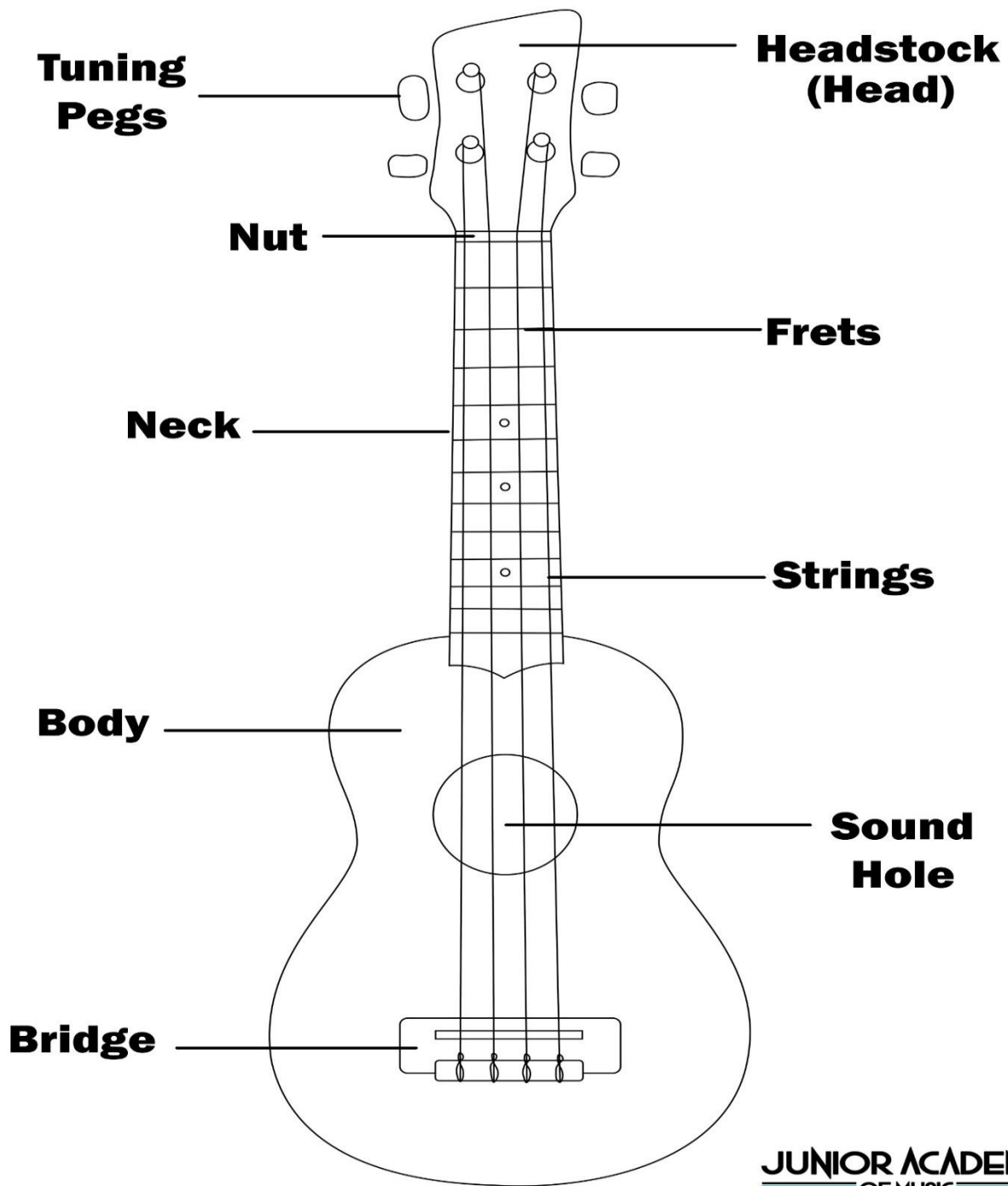
Welcome to the Ukulele Concert Series!

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 continue, what we hope, is a lifelong love of the ukulele.



Parts Of The Ukulele



Strings On The Ukulele

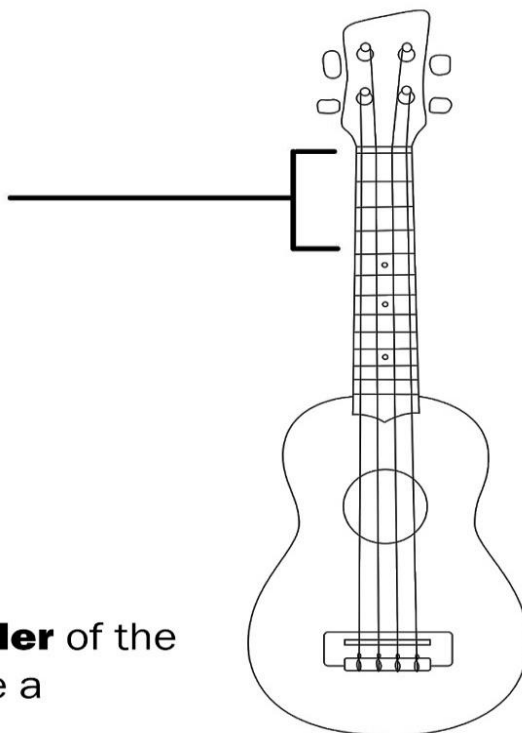
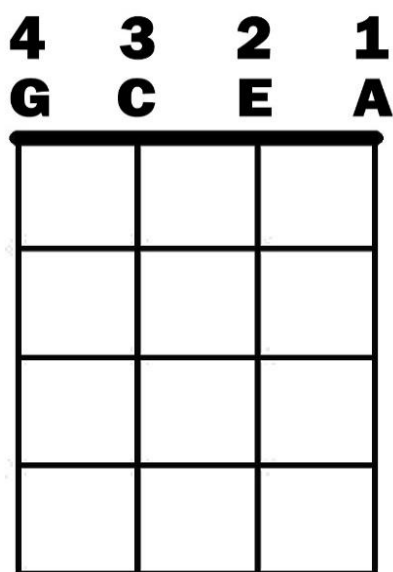
> Ukuleles come in **4** different **sizes**: (smallest to biggest)

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

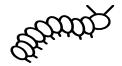
Go, Crazy, Every, Afternoon

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 learn it 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.

fingering: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

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.

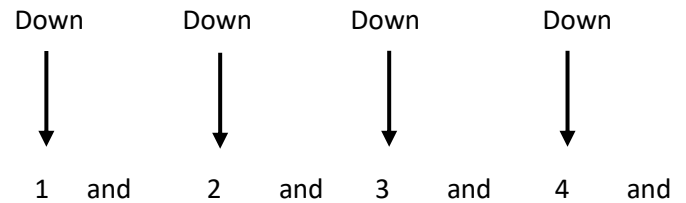
Tip: Start slowly. This warm-up is not a race. As you become more familiar with the warm-up, you can speed up the transitions. How fast can your caterpillar crawl?

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.

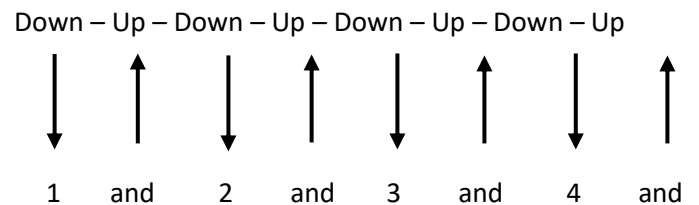
Quarter Note Strum



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.

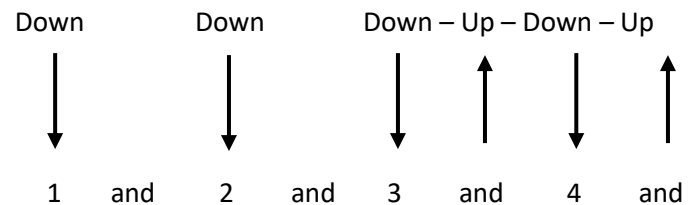
Eighth Note Strum



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.

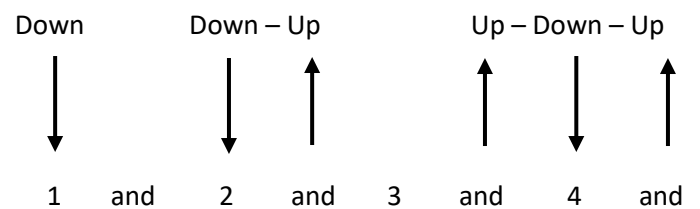
Quarter and Eighth Note Strum



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.

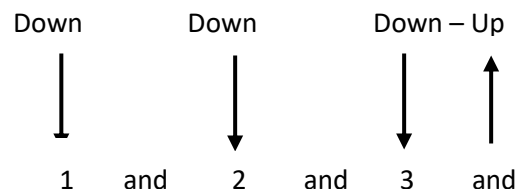
The Island Strum



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.

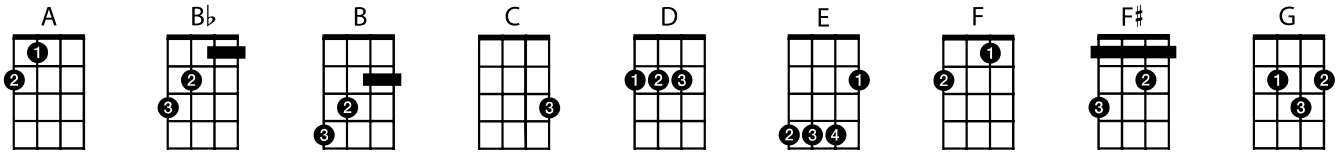
Chord Chart

Finger Numbers:

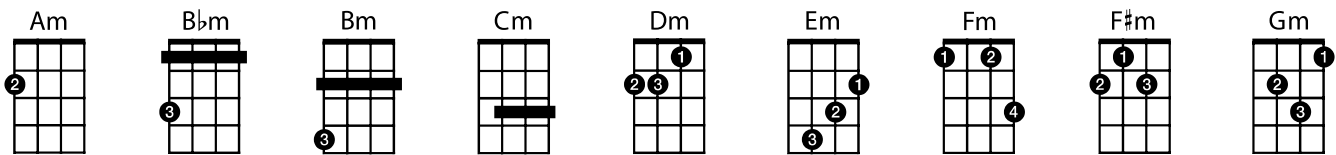


The fingers on the left hand are numbered to help make the chords.
 1 = Index Finger, 2 = Middle Finger, 3 = Ring Finger, 4 = Pinky Finger.

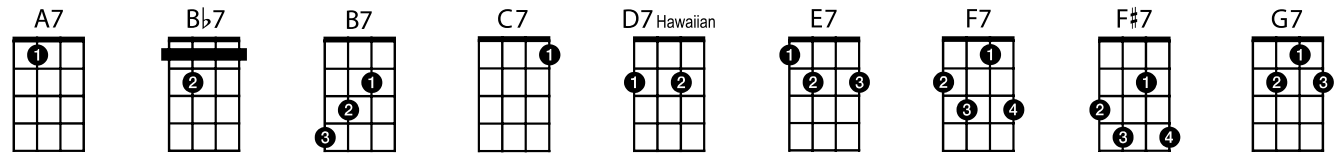
Major Chords



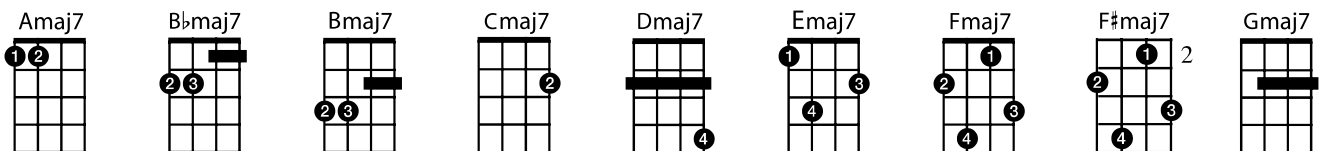
Minor Chords



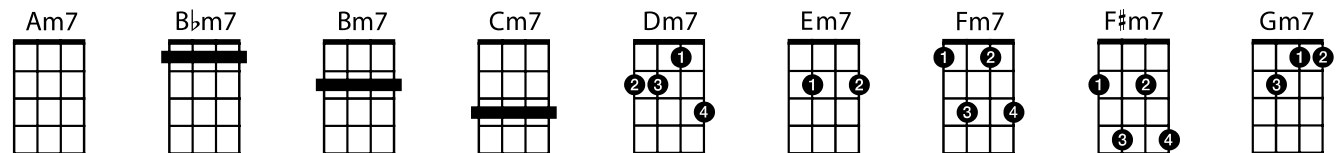
Dominant 7th Chords



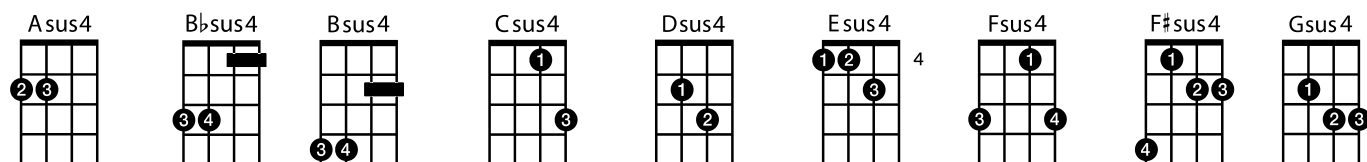
Major 7th Chords



Minor 7th Chords

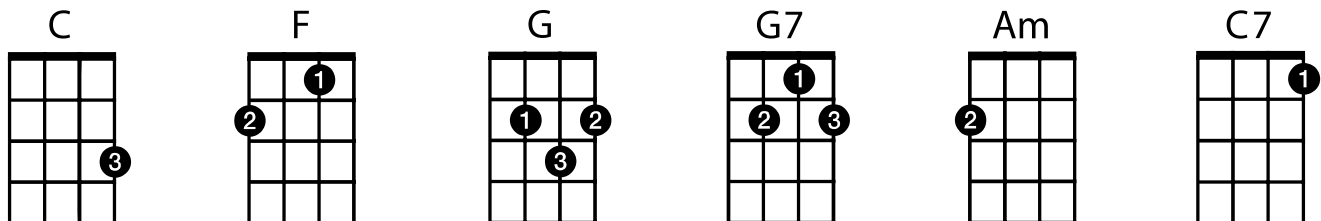


Suspended 4th Chords



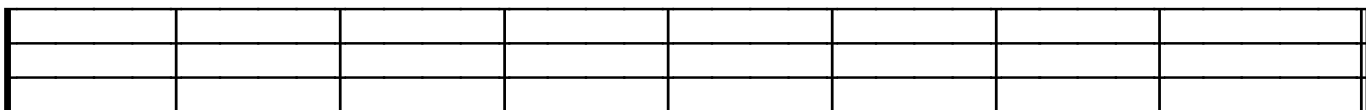
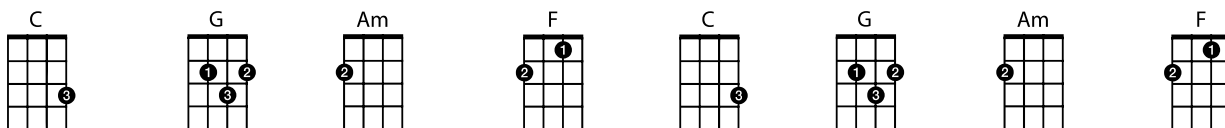
Review Chords from Concert Series

This concert series will continue where the first series left off. Over the next four weeks we'll learn new chords and strumming patterns. You should already know the following chords:

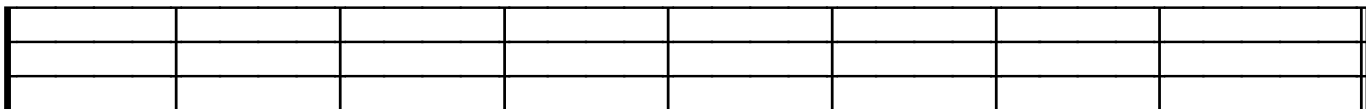
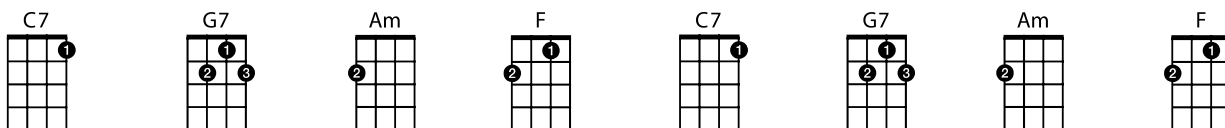


As a refresher, let's play these chord drills:

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.

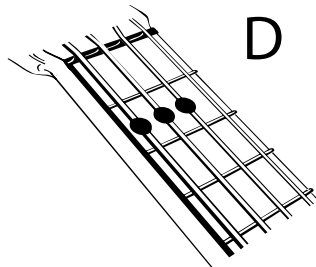


Lesson 1: D and D7

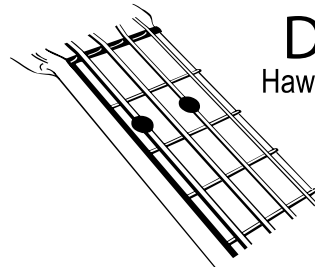
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play a **D** Chord, put your:
 1. First, second, and third fingers on the second fret on the fourth, third, and second strings.

*You can also use your second, third, or fourth fingers. This leaves your first finger available for faster chord changes.



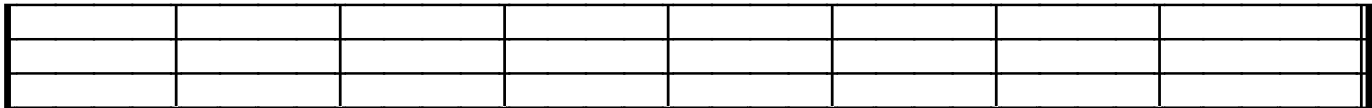
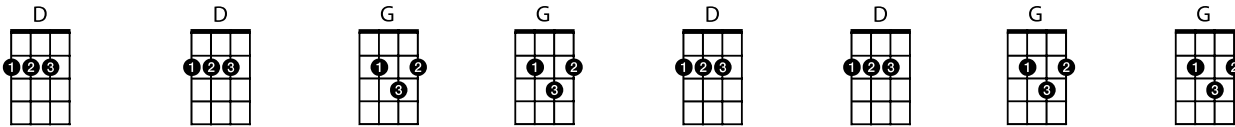
D



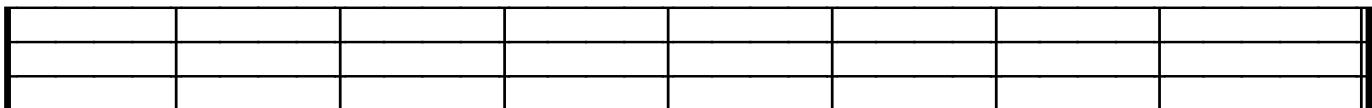
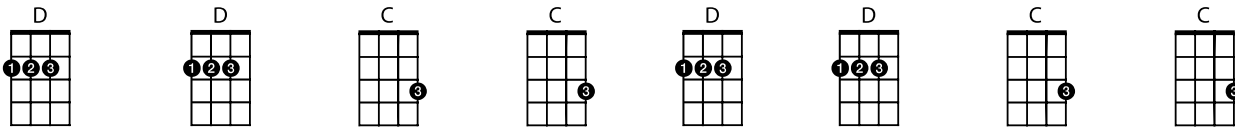
D7
Hawaiian

To play a **D7** Chord, put your:
 1. First finger on the second fret on the fourth string.
 2. Second finger on the second fret of the second string.

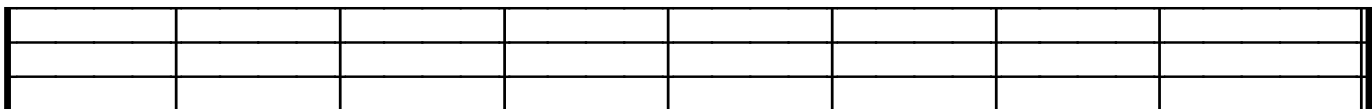
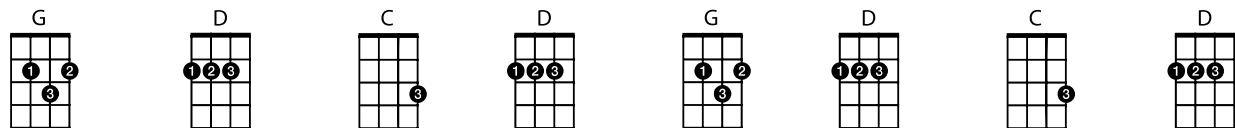
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

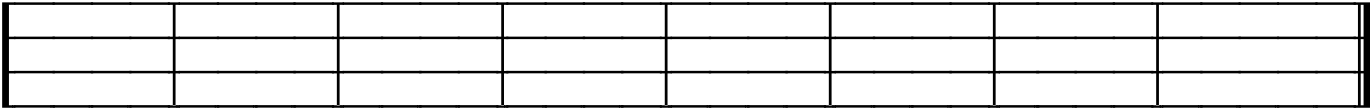
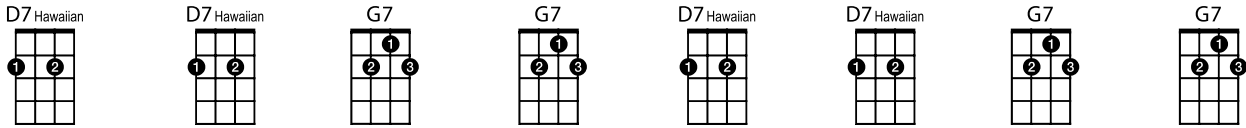


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

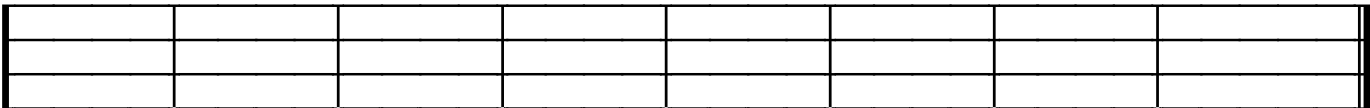
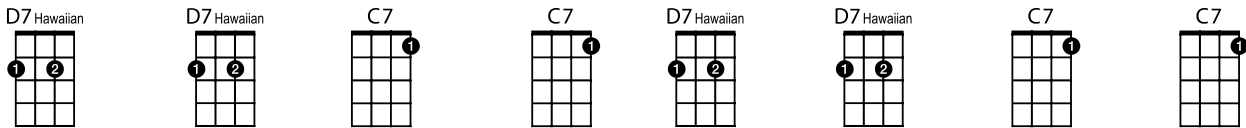


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

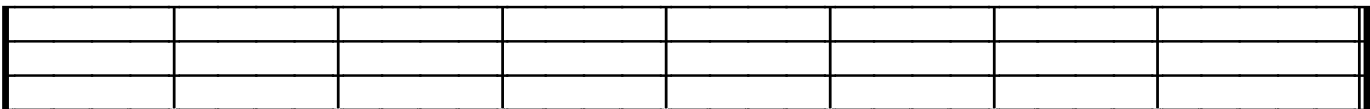
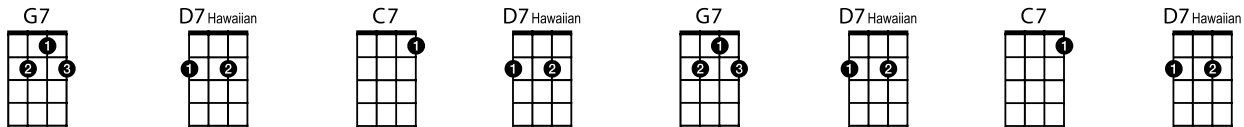
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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.



Songs to practice in D

As It Was by Harry Styles <https://youtu.be/tMEsUgOJPmk>

Cheerleader by OMI <https://youtu.be/WFMYSikmx4g>

Closing Time by Semisonic <https://youtu.be/Yv0ee4Bb40Q>

Free Fallin' by Tom Petty <https://youtu.be/LI34Gpguwel>

I'm a Believer by The Monkees <https://youtu.be/6pSYhU8CNkA>

Love You So by King Khan and BBQ Show <https://youtu.be/qd8KUksoApc>

Pineapple Mango by Daniel Ho <https://youtu.be/V3zAYxXb0is>

Radioactive by Imagine Dragons <https://youtu.be/XO9YisL6HBM>

Royals by Lorde <https://youtu.be/8BSyzd0Fs3c>

Say Something by Justin Timberlake <https://youtu.be/ZANqs4t3eSg>

Songs to practice in D7

Folsom Prison Blues <https://youtu.be/XZrhcNKcGC8>

I'm Yours by Jason Mraz <https://youtu.be/Z7tmCNJZqUM>

In the Jailhouse Now by the Soggy Bottom Boys <https://youtu.be/rZOR20r8LTE>

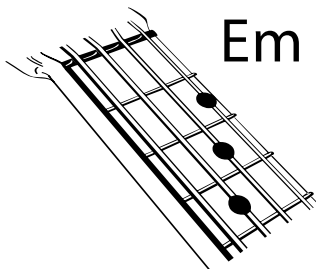
Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash <https://youtu.be/0G-PMkFVmDs>

Lesson 2: Em and Em7

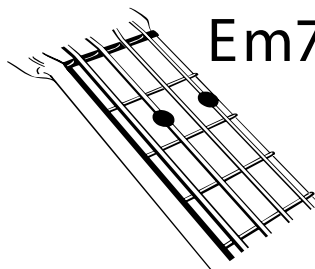
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play an **Em** Chord, put your:

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



Em

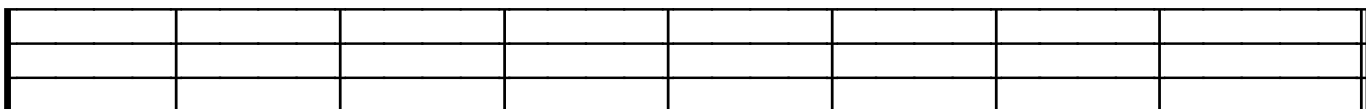
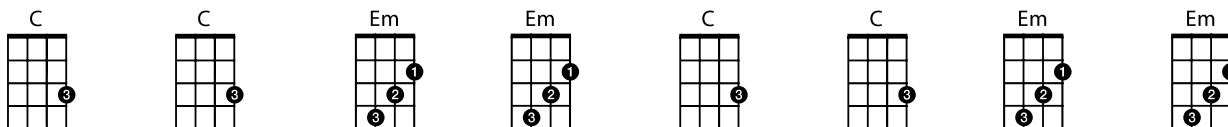


Em7

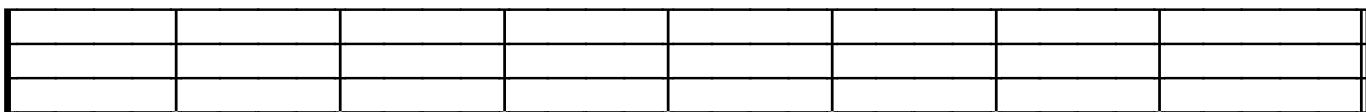
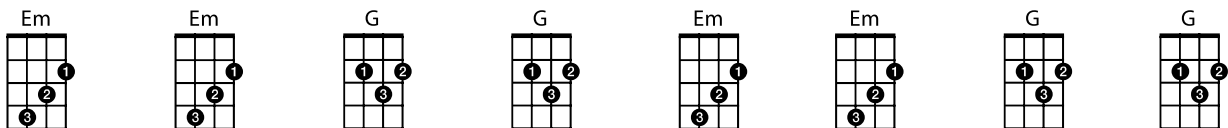
To play an **Em7** Chord, put your:

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

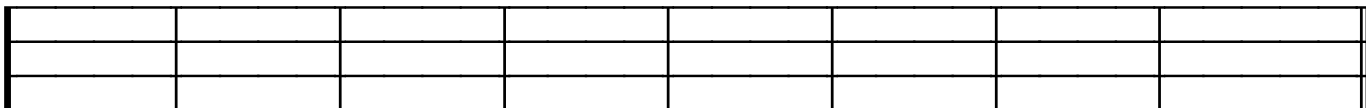
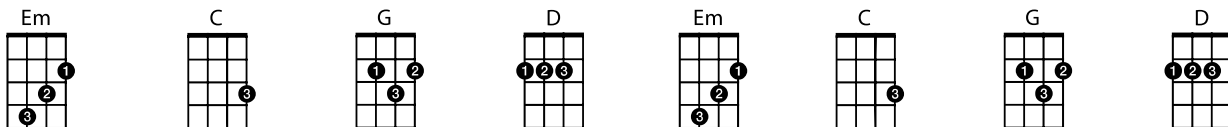
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

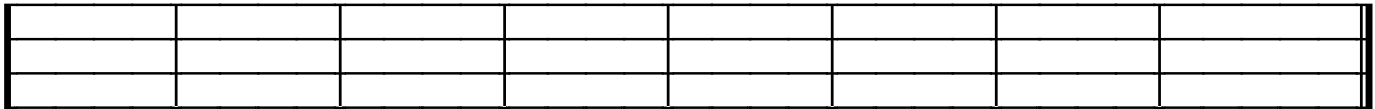
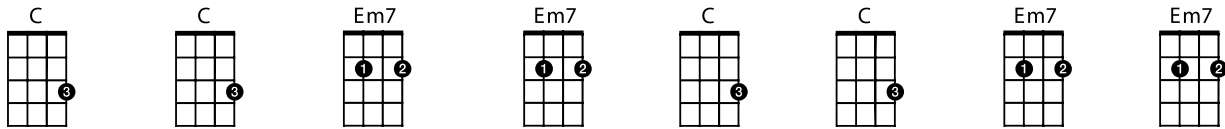


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

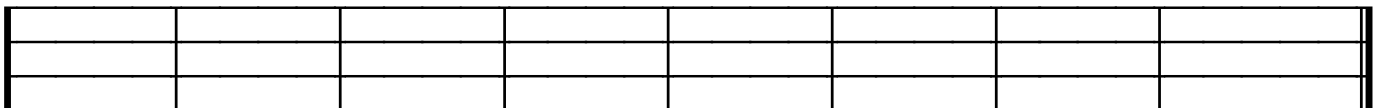
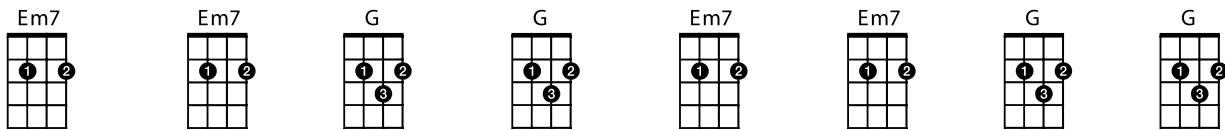


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

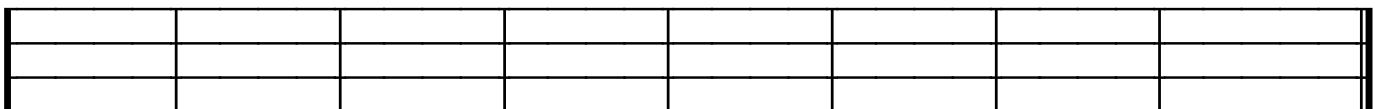
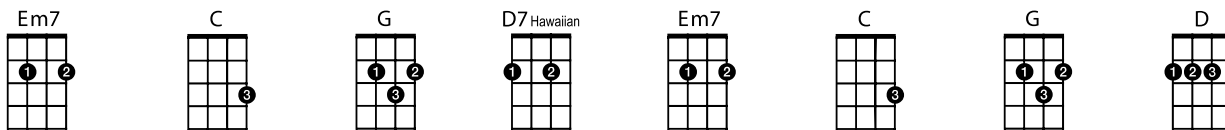
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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.



Songs to practice with an Em

Be Kind by Marshmello and Halsey <https://youtu.be/AyZQiCeiaOw>

Beat It by Michael Jackson https://youtu.be/JnRulag2_4E

Broken and Beautiful by Kelly Clarkson https://youtu.be/A6Zw-_lkvmU

Cheap Thrills by Sia <https://youtu.be/zTDYXH0B9Ns>

Complicated by Avril Lavigne <https://youtu.be/PtXhN4I6sBU>

Cool Kids by Echosmith <https://youtu.be/oaKRzf3nasM>

Fireworks by Katy Perry <https://youtu.be/7dWVe9ijX10>

Lost Boys by Ruth B <https://youtu.be/fM0UsV6P7vk>

Most Girls by Hailee Steinfeld <https://youtu.be/iXqL-o6kYWU>

Perfect by Ed Sheeran <https://youtu.be/krwaRNkTH1s>

What About Us by Pink https://youtu.be/XPc3wY_aqhI

Zombie by The Cranberries <https://youtu.be/sFtkBD9QfVc>

Songs to practice with an Em7

Fight Song by Rachel Platten <https://youtu.be/k7BA4idnSeU>

Million to One by Camila Cabello <https://youtu.be/l6OoYWCTN8I>

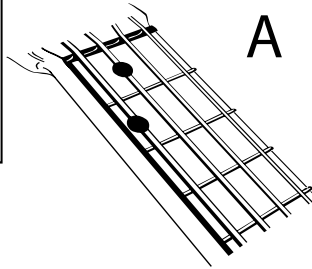
Someday by Michael Buble and Meghan Trainor <https://youtu.be/FyEeAEpkb38>

Lesson 3: A and A7

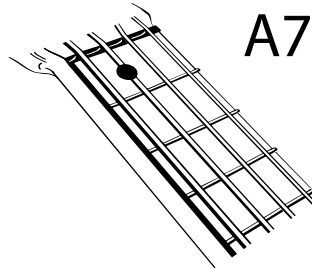
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play an **A** Chord, put your:

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



A

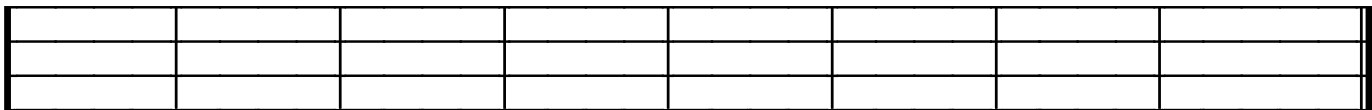
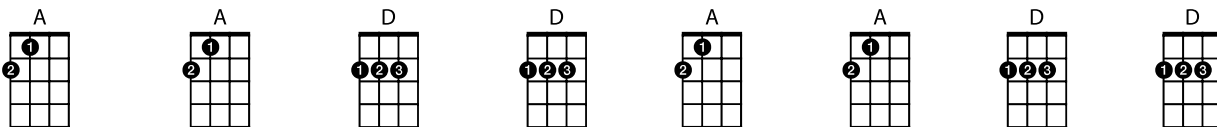


A7

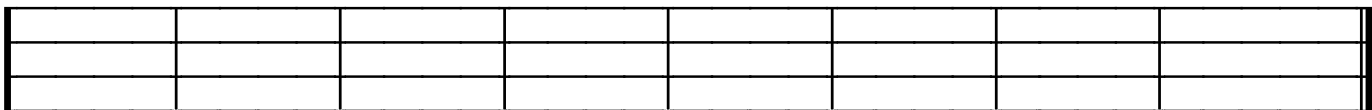
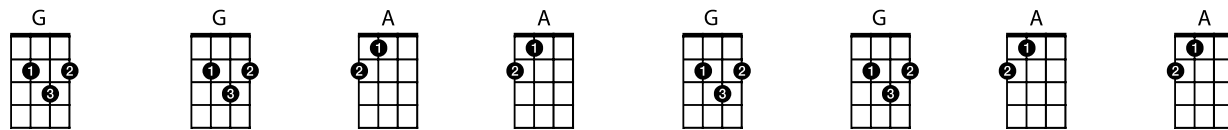
To play an **A7** Chord, put your:

1. First finger on the first fret of the third string.

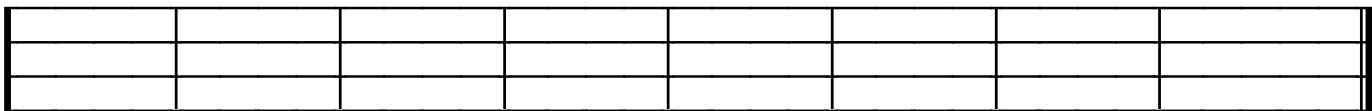
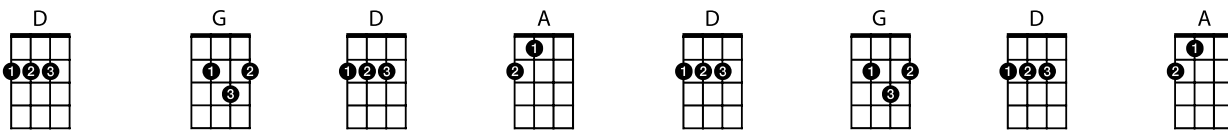
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Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.

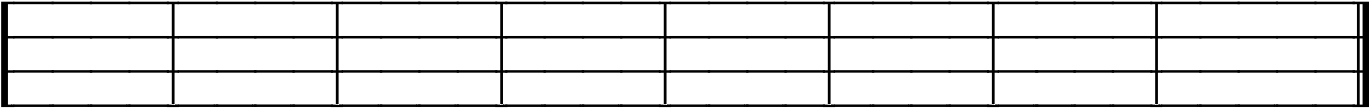
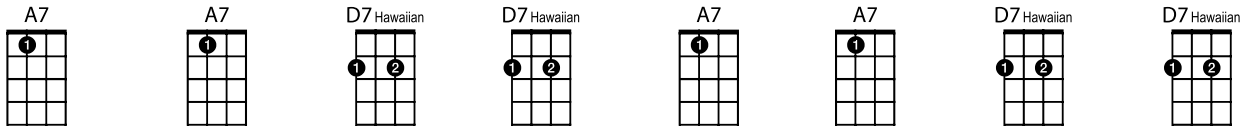


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

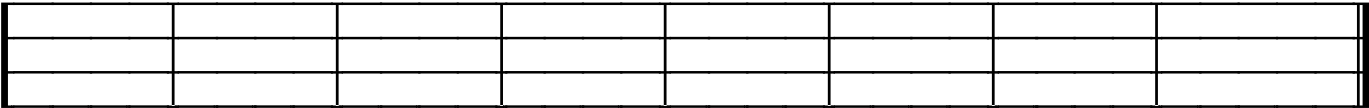
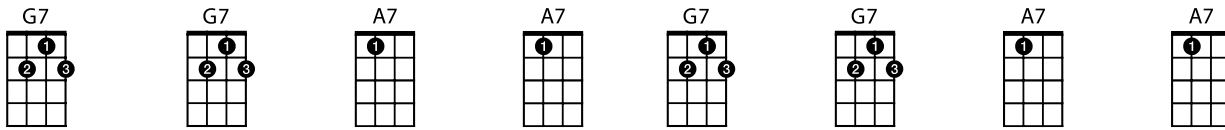


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

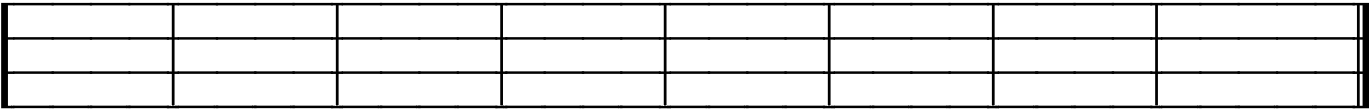
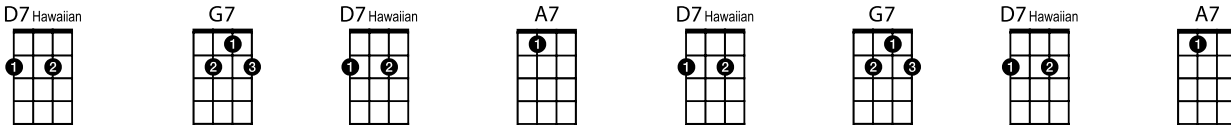
Chord Drill 1: Follow the pattern, playing one strum every four beats.



Chord Drill 2: Play one strum every two beats.



Chord Drill 3: Play one strum each beat. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.



Songs to practice with an A

Accidentally In Love by Counting Crows https://youtu.be/plkT_Zak-KQ

Bad Moon Rising by CCR <https://youtu.be/gN5sa9WOrFs>

Better When I'm Dancing by Meghan Trainor <https://youtu.be/Qi2tk7Pdquo>

Breakfast at Tiffany's by Deep Blue Something https://youtu.be/_0bB6W7a_2g

Memories by Maroon 5 <https://youtu.be/J1aOSSHwIxA>

Old Town Road (Clean) by Lil Nas X <https://youtu.be/0hdgX3DwBGM>

The Gambler by Kenny Rogers https://youtu.be/bF0J3gZ_0FA

The Middle by Jimmy Eat World <https://youtu.be/7Ooqso64GXA>

When You Say Nothing at All by Alison Krauss https://youtu.be/p7xoKon4_f0

Last Dance by Tom Petty <https://youtu.be/2EkQM5ftAxw>

Songs to practice with an A7

All Star by Smash Mouth <https://youtu.be/a02eAHOtjFw>

Earth Angel by The Penguins <https://youtu.be/j4YqU8biP3E>

I Got You (I Feel Good) by James Brown <https://youtu.be/kQZI8cfhxMk>

Pineapple Princess by Annette Funicello https://youtu.be/wzmQCm41V_w

Wonderwall by Oasis <https://youtu.be/CwAwx2CZ40g>

Online Resources

As you progress on your ukulele journey here are some additional resources to help you:

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