



Ukulele Concert Series

Beginner and Advanced Beginner
Instruction Book

Join us for fun ukulele
instruction with a concert at the end!



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

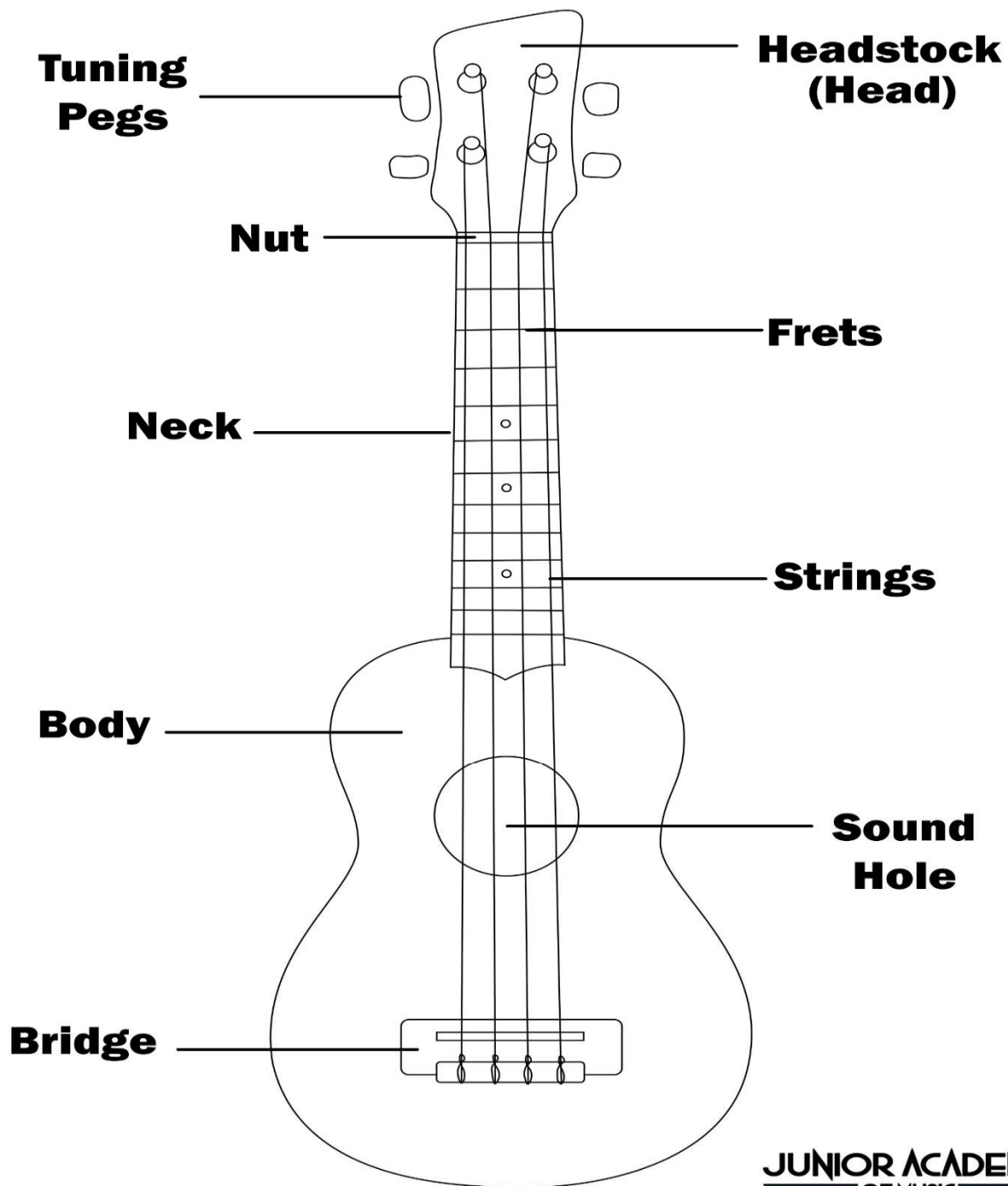
Welcome to the Ukulele Concert Series!

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

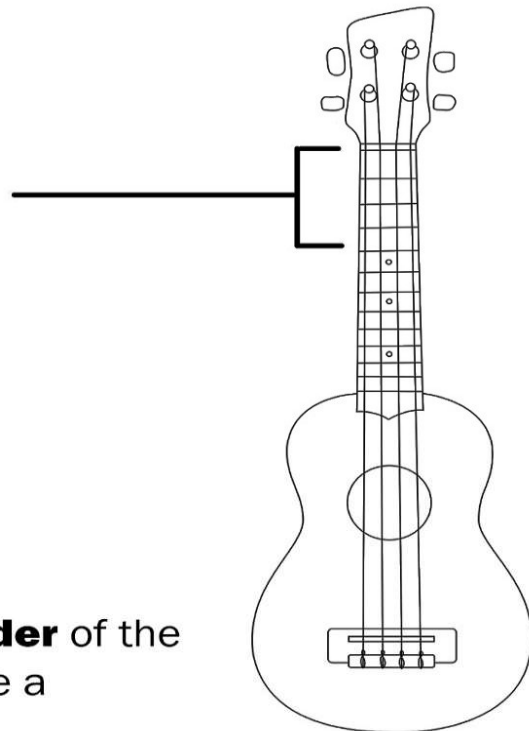
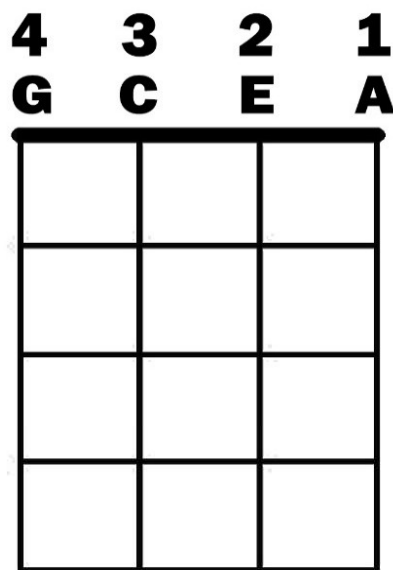
> Ukuleles come in **4** different **sizes**: (smallest to biggest)

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

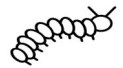
Go, Crazy, Every, Afternoon

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:

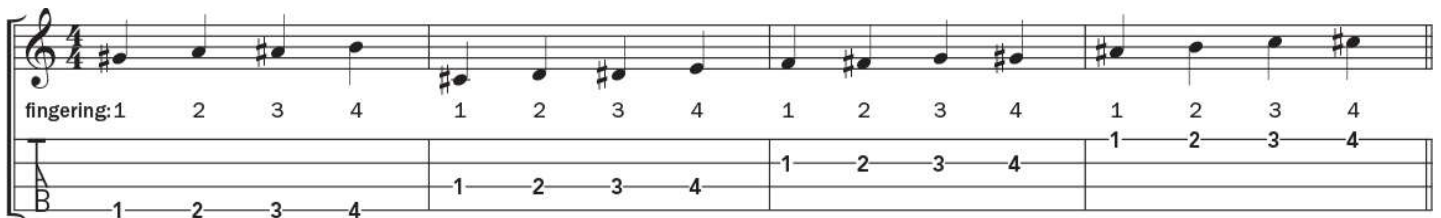
1. Choose a place and time where you can practice each day. Making practice a routine will help fit it into your day.
2. Before practicing or playing, always tune your ukulele.
3. Include warm-up exercises in your practice to get your fingers stretched and flexible.
4. Repeat skill drills or chord progressions until you are comfortable with them. Repetition will help transitions between chords 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.



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.

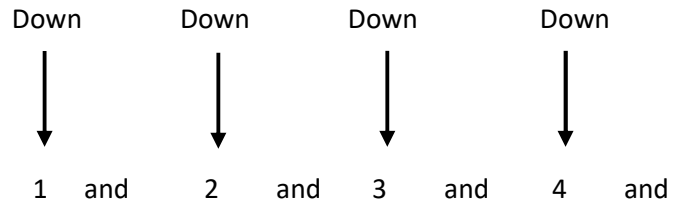
Tip: Start slowly. This warm-up is not a race. As you become more familiar with the warm-up, you can speed up the transitions. How fast can your caterpillar crawl?

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.

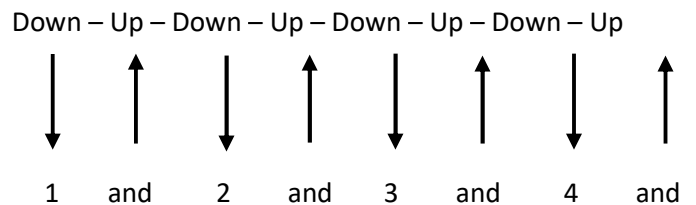
Quarter Note Strum



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.

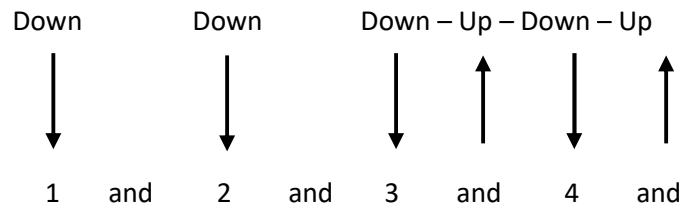
Eighth Note Strum



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.

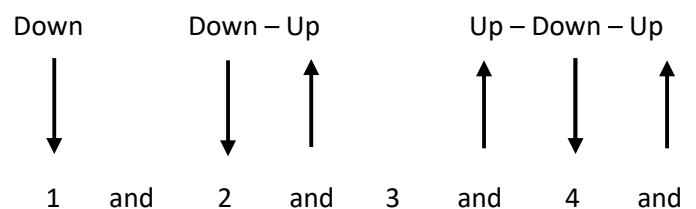
Quarter and Eighth Note Strum



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.

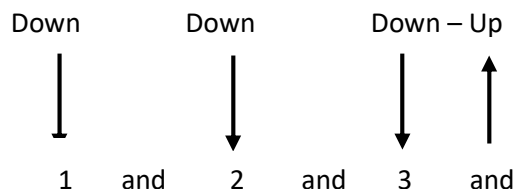
The Island Strum



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.

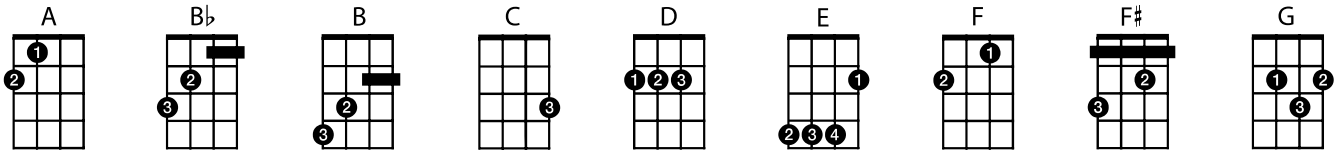
Chord Chart

Finger Numbers:

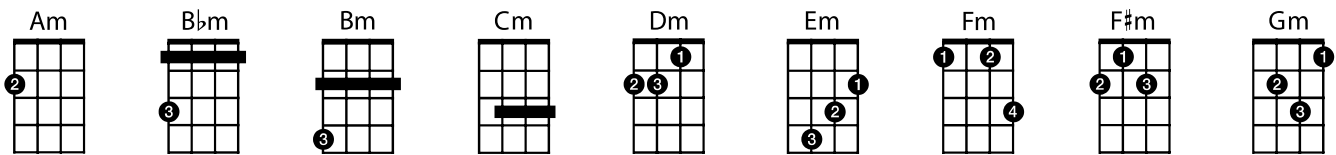


The fingers on the left hand are numbered to help make the chords.
1 = Index Finger, 2 = Middle Finger, 3 = Ring Finger, 4 = Pinky Finger.

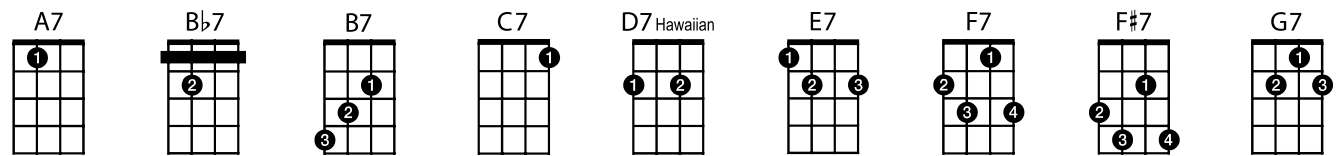
Major Chords



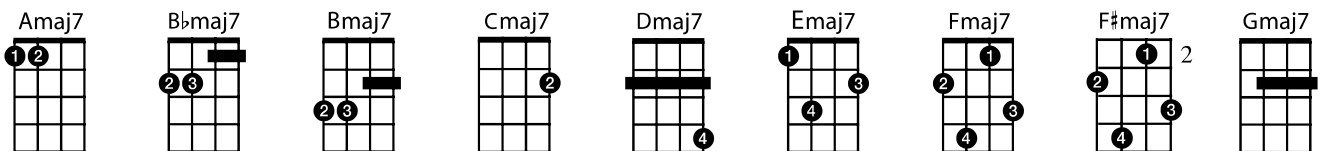
Minor Chords



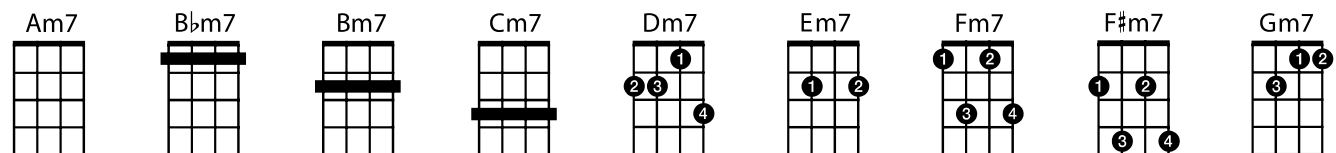
Dominant 7th Chords



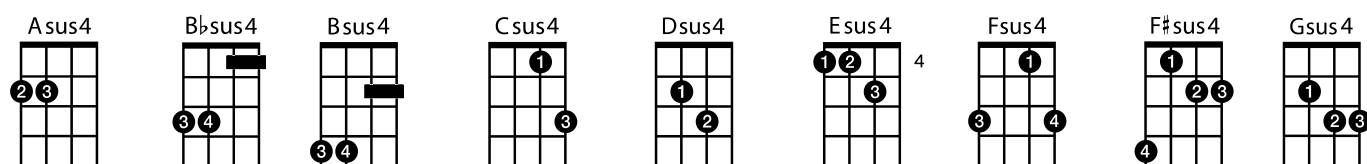
Major 7th Chords



Minor 7th Chords



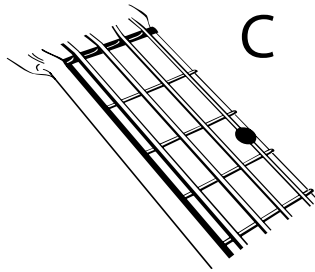
Suspended 4th Chords



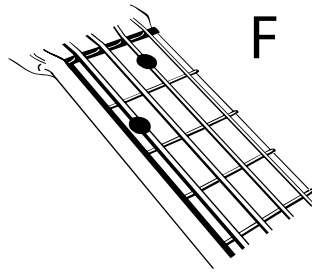
Lesson 1: C and F

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.

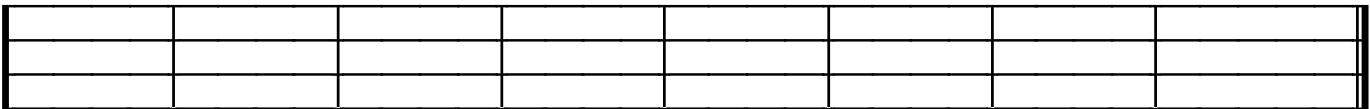
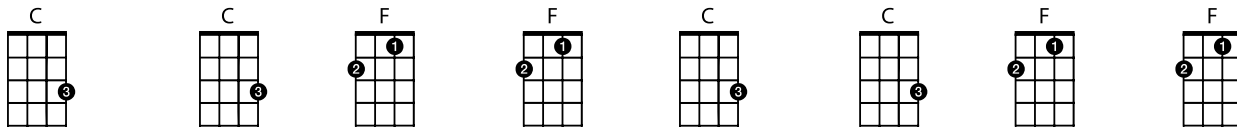


F

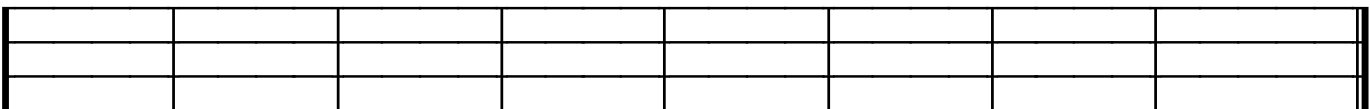
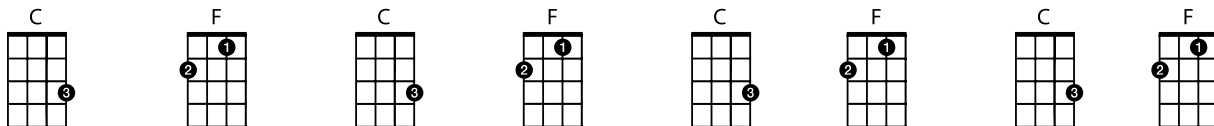


To play an **F** Chord, put your:
1. First finger on the first fret of the second string.
2. Second finger on the second fret of the fourth string.

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

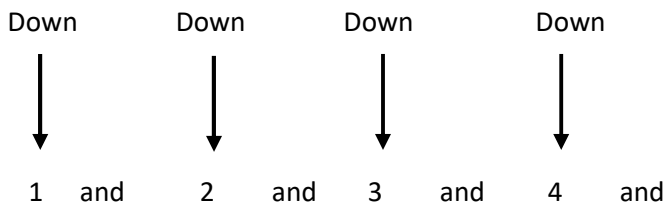


Chord Drill 2: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.

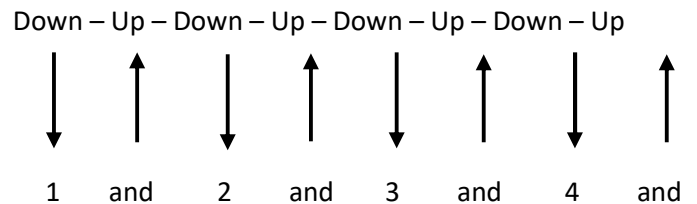


As you are practicing, try different strum patterns.

Basic Quarter Note Strum



Basic Eighth Note Strum



Songs to practice with C and F

[Dance The Night Away](#) by The Mavericks

[Don't Worry Be Happy](#) by Bobby McFerrin

[Dream Baby](#) by Roy Orbison

[Iko Iko \(My Bestie\)](#) by Justin Wellington

[Incy Wincy Spider](#)

[Love Is a Stranger](#) by Eurythmics

[Ten in a Bed](#) by The Kibombers

[The Beat Goes On](#) by Sonny and Cher

[Walk Like An Egyptian](#) by The Bangles

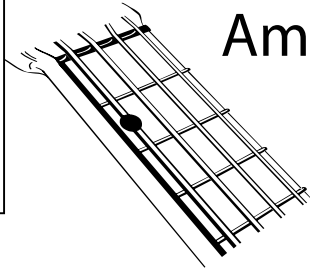
[Where is Thumbkin](#)

Lesson 2: Am and C7

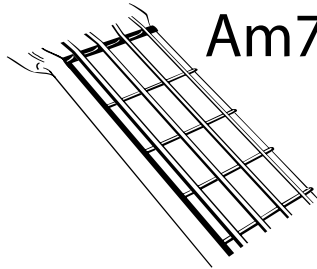
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

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

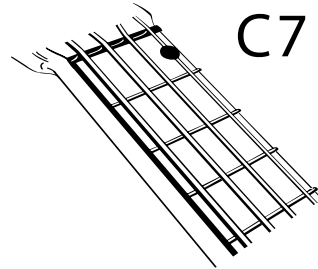
1. Second finger on second fret of the fourth string.



Am



Am7

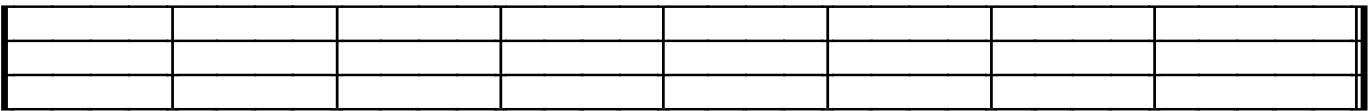
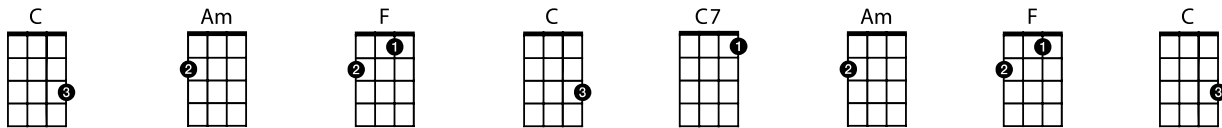


C7

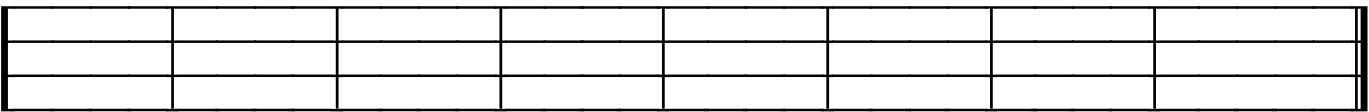
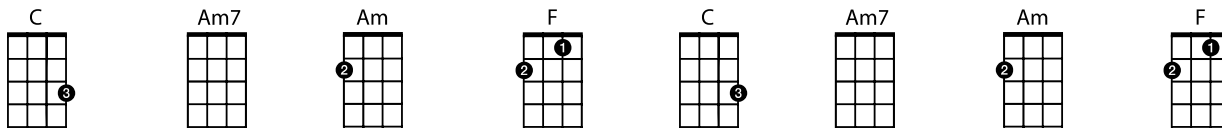
To play a **C7** Chord, put your:

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

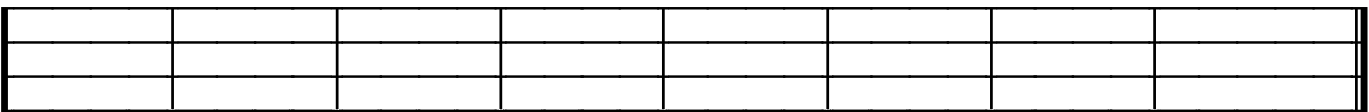
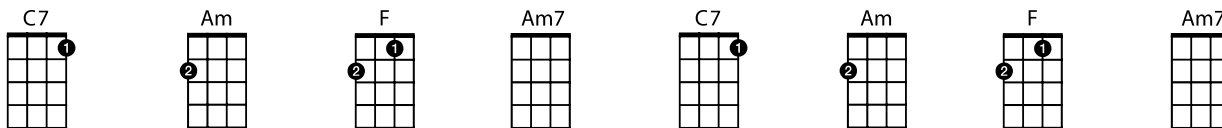
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Notice in the change from Am to F that the second finger stays in the same place. Don't lift the second finger during this chord change.



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

[Apples and Bananas](#) by Raffi

[Banana Boat Song \(Day-O\)](#) by Harry Belafonte

[Best Day of My Life](#) by American Authors

[Circles](#) by Post Malone

[Good To Be Alive](#) by Meghan Trainor

[Ho Hey](#) by The Lumineers

[It's a Beautiful Day](#) by TRINX x Rushawn

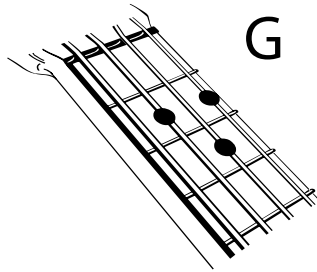
[Thunder](#) by Imagine Dragons

Lesson 3: G and G7

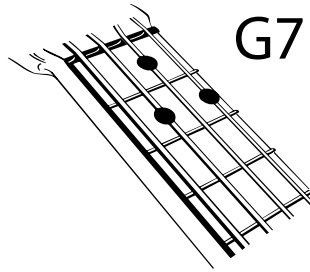
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

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

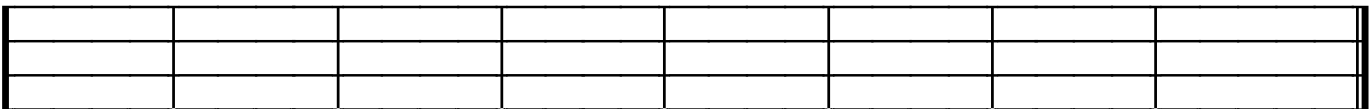
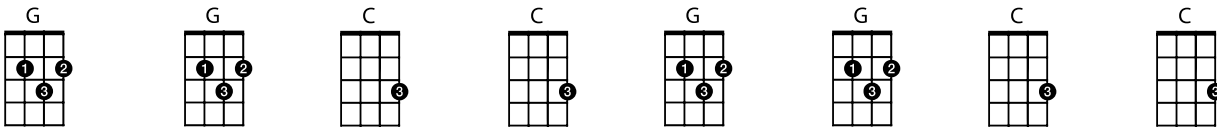


G7

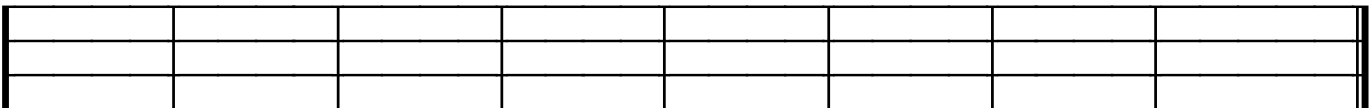
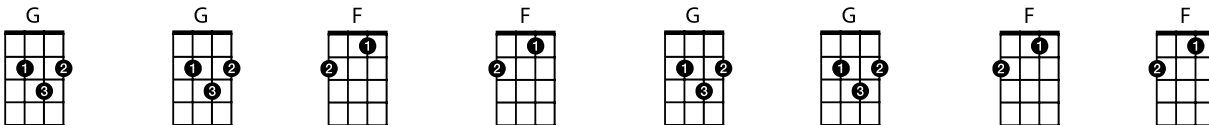
To play a **G7** Chord, put your:

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.

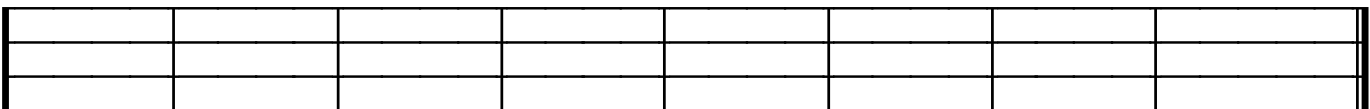
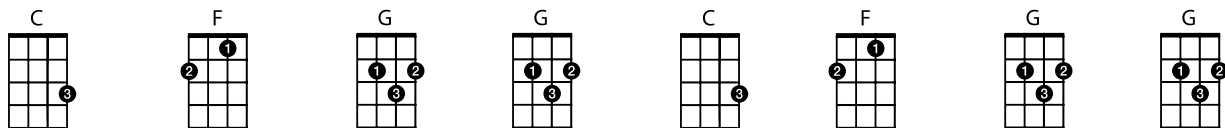
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

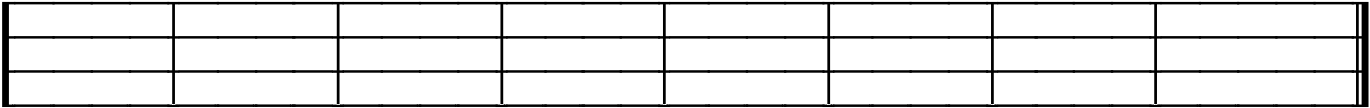
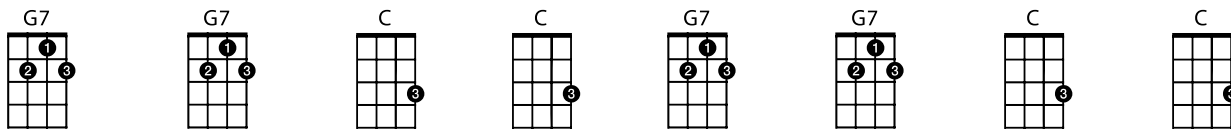


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

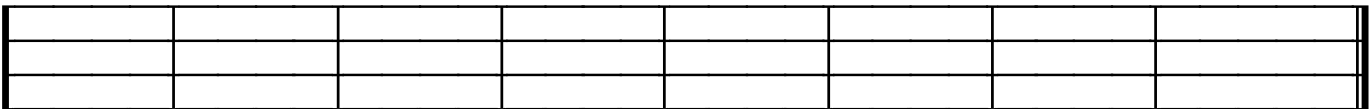
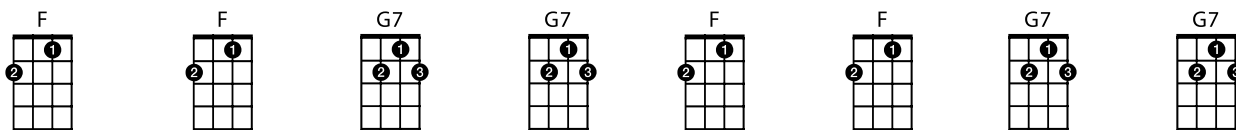


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

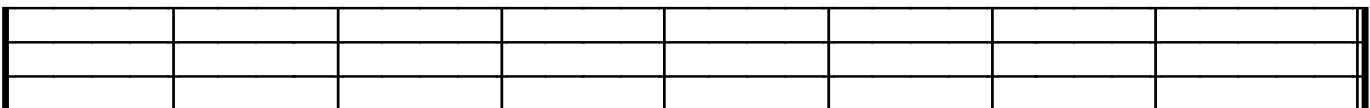
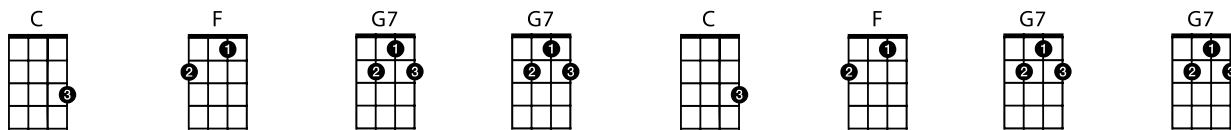
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Notice in the change from G7 to C that the third finger slides up one fret. Lift fingers one and two off the fret board but keep them close.



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.

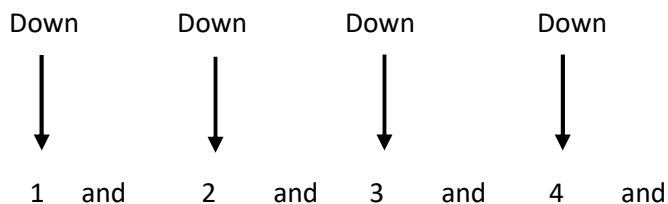


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

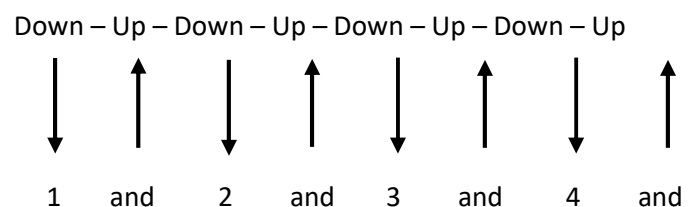


As you are practicing, try different strum patterns.

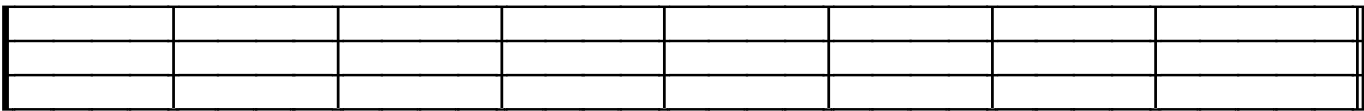
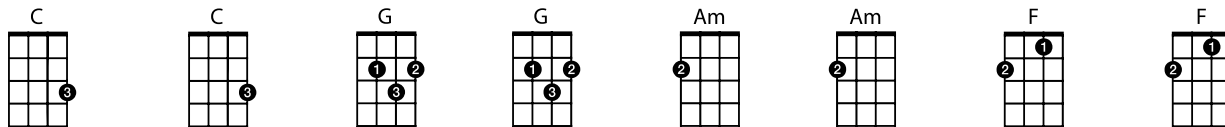
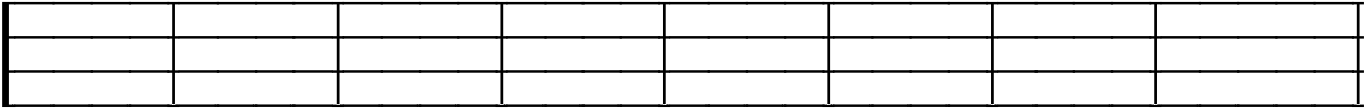
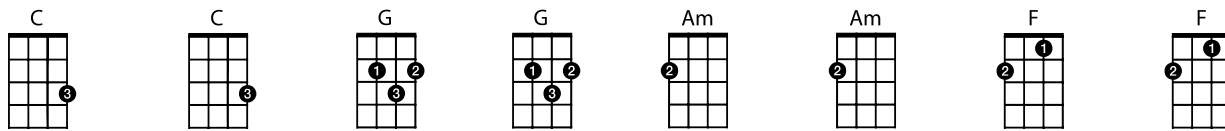
Basic Quarter Note Strum



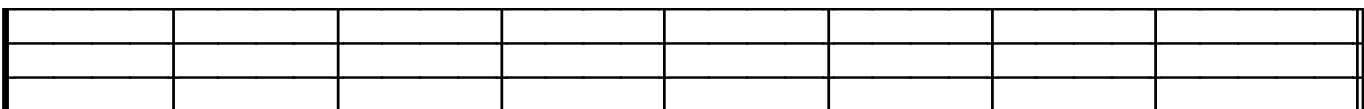
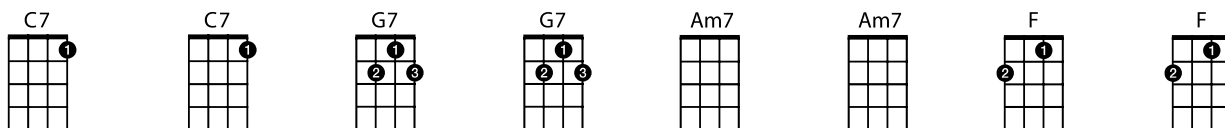
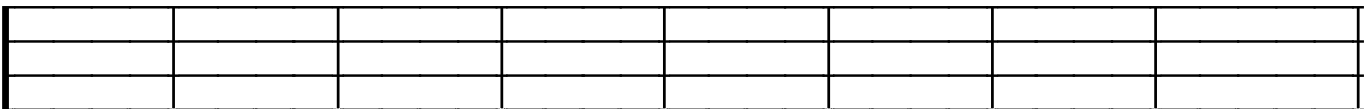
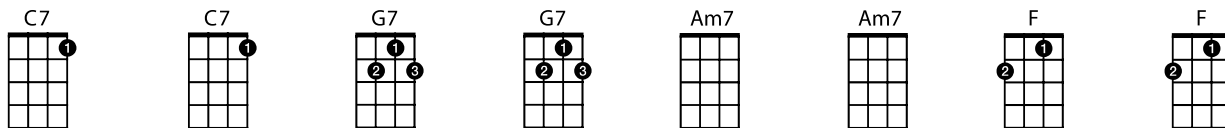
Basic Eighth Note Strum



Chord Drill 1: 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 Drill 2: 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 G and G7

[5 Years Time](#) by Noah and the Whale

[Adore You](#) by Harry Styles

[Angel](#) by U2

[Cool](#) by The Jonas Brothers

[Great Balls of Fire](#) by Jerry Lee Lewis

[Have You Ever Seen](#) The Rain by CCR

[Home](#) by Phillip Philips

[Hot To Go](#) by Chappell Roan

[I Love Rock and Roll](#) by Joan Jett

[Johnny B Goode](#) by Chuck Berry

La Bamba by Ritchie Valens

[Lava](#) (Someone to Lava)

[Me!](#) By Taylor Swift and Brendon Urie

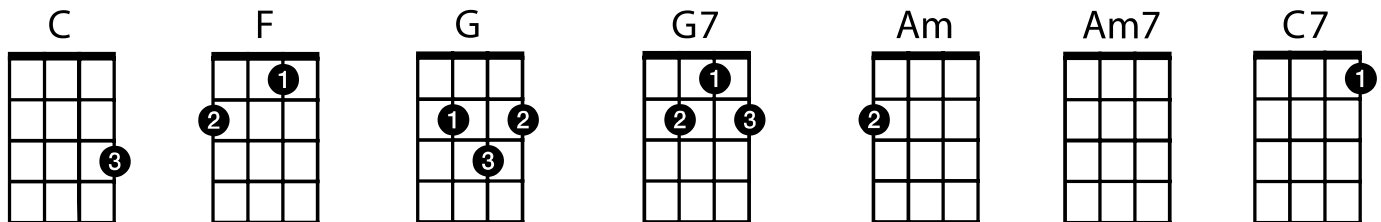
[Riptide](#) by Vance Joy

[Way Less Sad](#) by AJR

Welcome to Advanced Beginner Lessons!

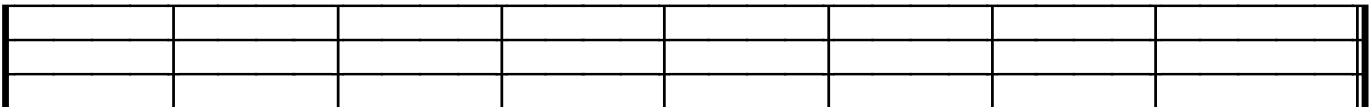
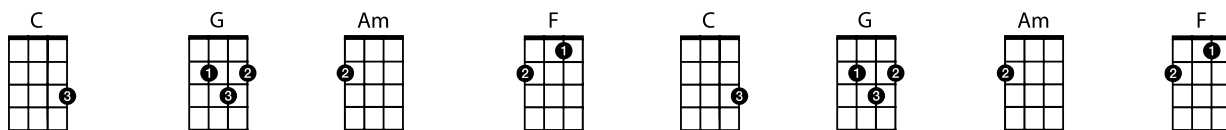
Review of Chords from Beginner Lessons

The Advanced Beginner Concert Series will continue where the Beginner series left off. We'll learn new chords and strumming patterns, but before we start something new, let's review what we already learned. You should already know the following chords:

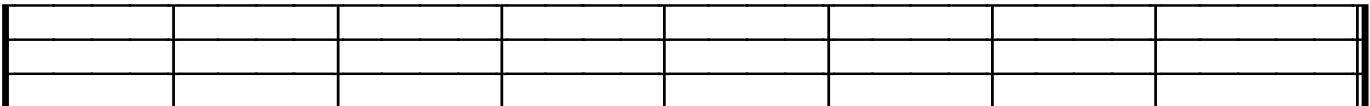
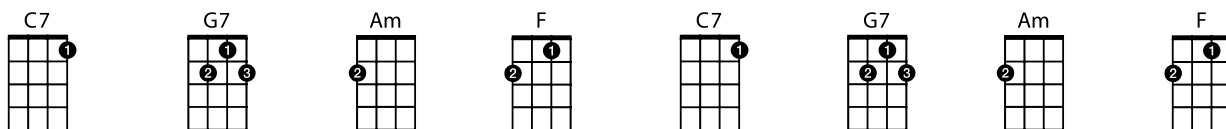


As a refresher, let's play these chord drills:

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.

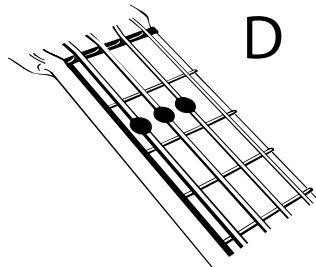


Lesson 4: D and D7

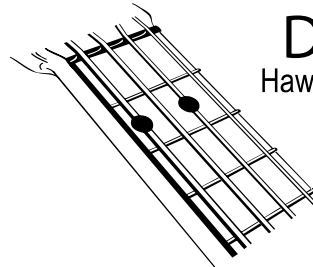
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

To play a **D** Chord, put your:
2. 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

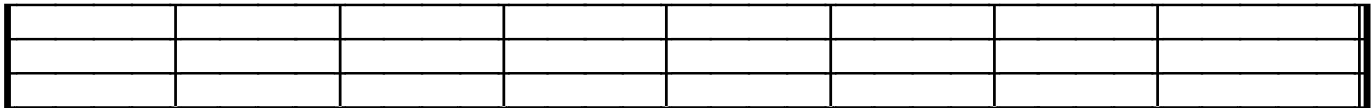
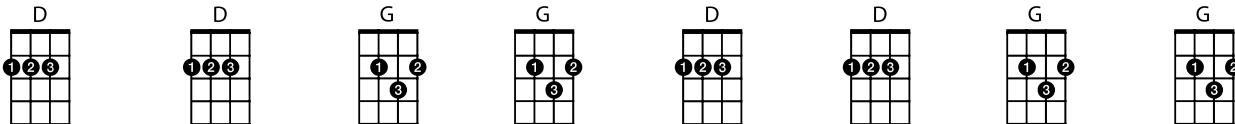


D7
Hawaiian

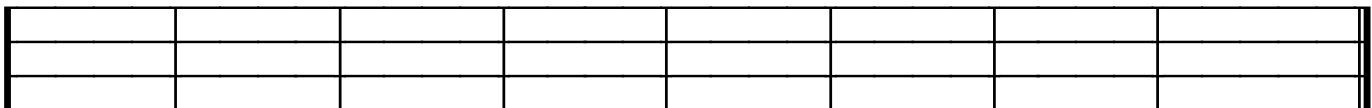
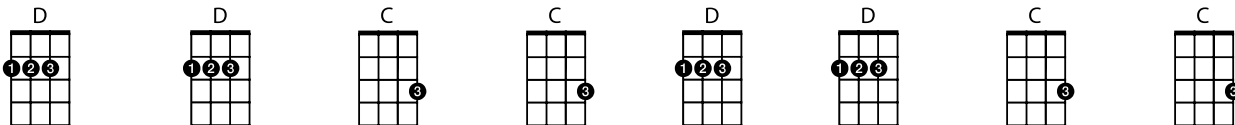
To play a **D7** Chord, put your:

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

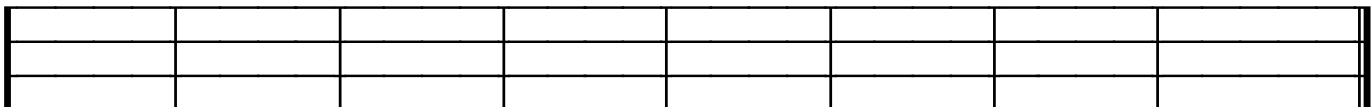
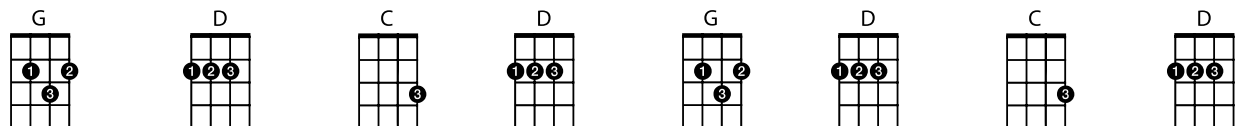
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

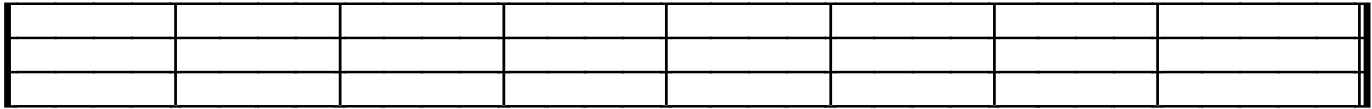
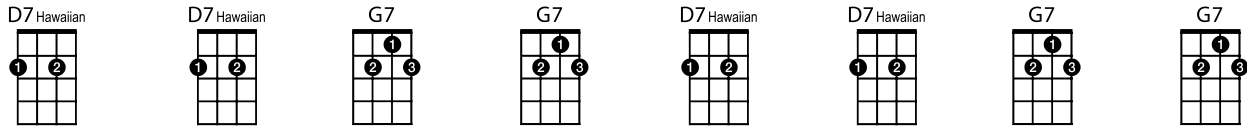


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

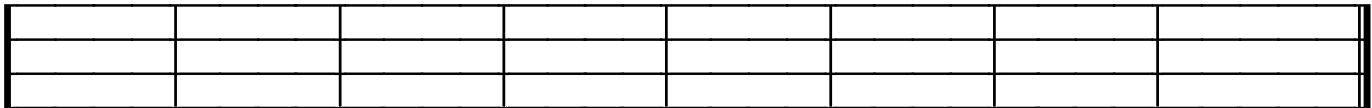
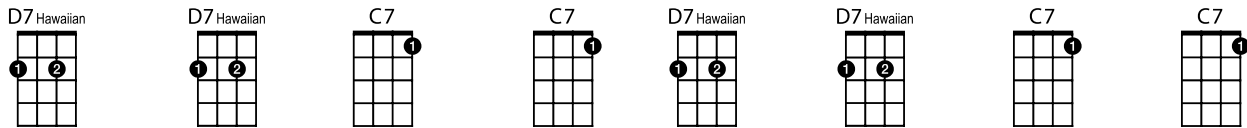


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

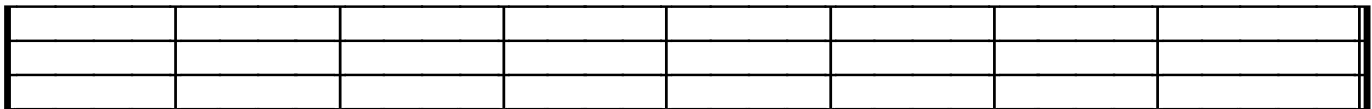
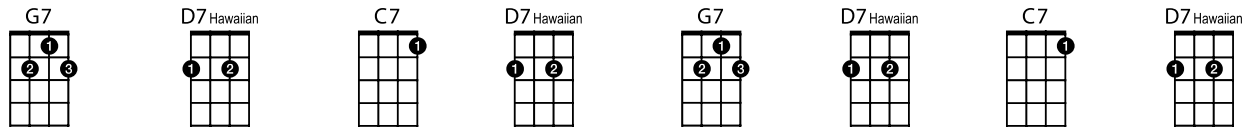
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

[August](#) by Taylor Swift

[Closing Time](#) by Semisonic

[Free Fallin'](#) by Tom Petty

[I'm a Believer](#) by The Monkees

[Knockin' on Heaven's Door](#) by Bob Dylan

[Pineapple Mango](#) by Daniel Ho

[Radioactive](#) by Imagine Dragons

[Royals](#) by Lorde

[Say Something](#) by Justin Timberlake

[Sweet Home Alabama](#) by Lynyrd Skynyrd

Songs to practice in D7

[Folsom Prison](#) Blues

[I'm Yours](#) by Jason Mraz

[Ring of Fire](#) by Johnny Cash

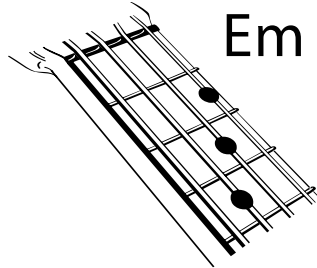
[Save the Last Dance](#) for Me by The Drifters

Lesson 5: Em and Em7

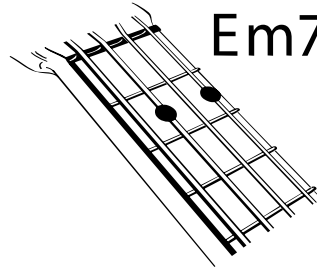
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

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

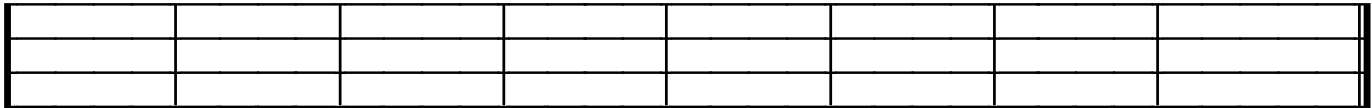
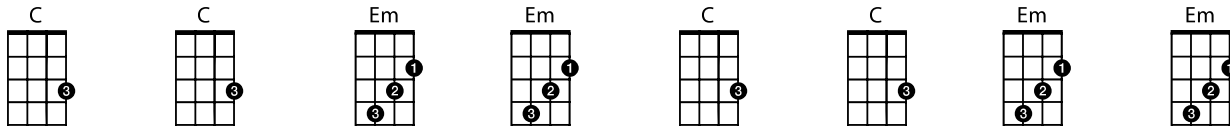


Em7

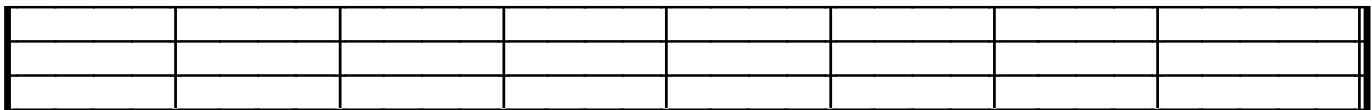
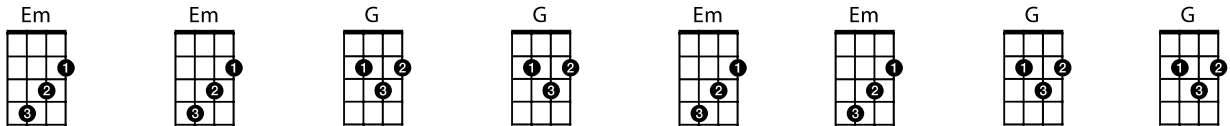
To play an **Em7** Chord, put your:

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

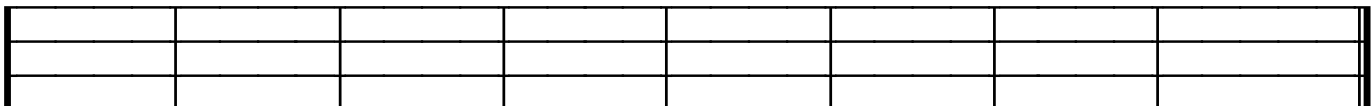
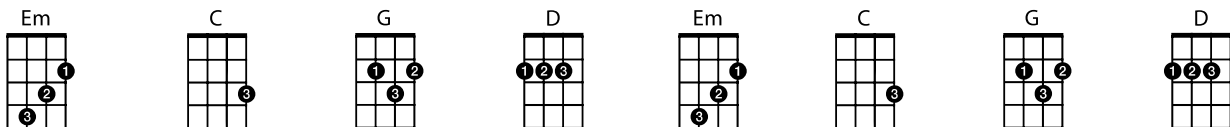
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

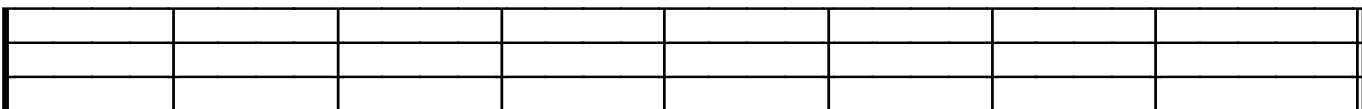
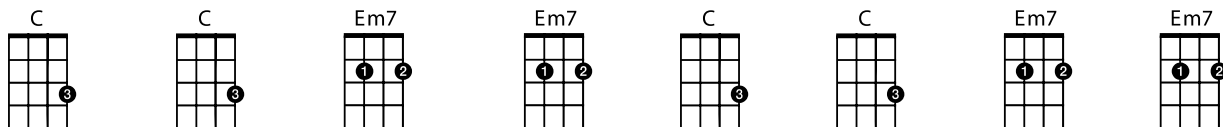


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

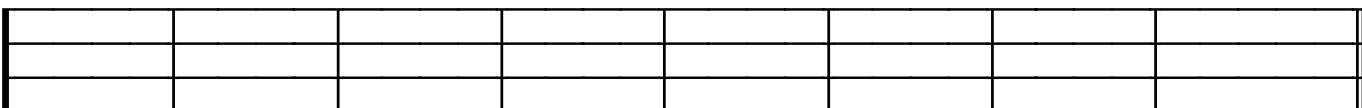
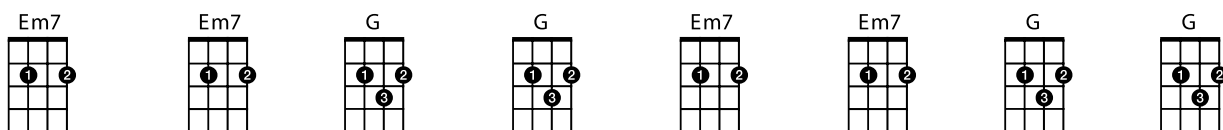


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

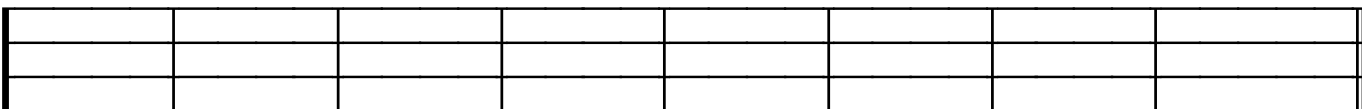
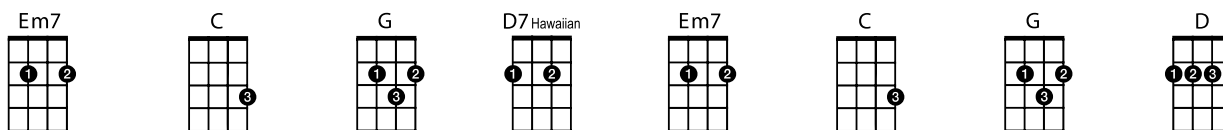
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

[Beat It](#) by Michael Jackson

[Cheap Thrills](#) by Sia

[Complicated](#) by Avril Lavigne

[Cool Kids](#) by Echosmith

[Fireworks](#) by Katy Perry

[It's Corn](#) by Schmoyoho

[Never Gonna Give You Up](#) by Rick Astley

[Pink Pony Club](#) by Chappell Roan

[Sunflower](#) by Post Malone

[What About Us](#) by Pink

[Zombie](#) by The Cranberries

Songs to practice with an Em7

[Fight Song](#) by Rachel Platten

[Million to One](#) by Camila Cabello

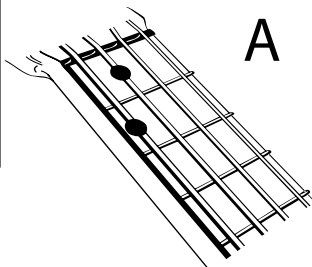
[Someday](#) by Michael Buble and Meghan Trainor

Lesson 6: A and A7

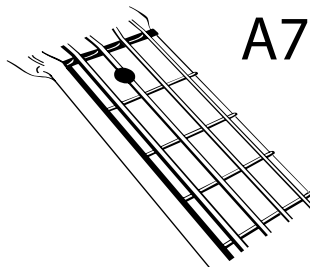
Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

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

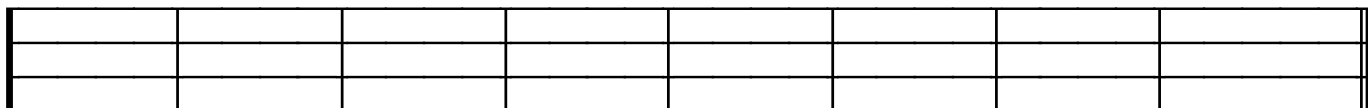
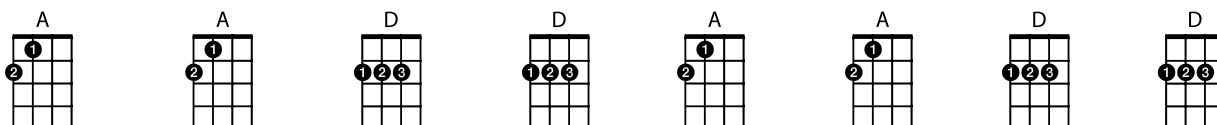


A7

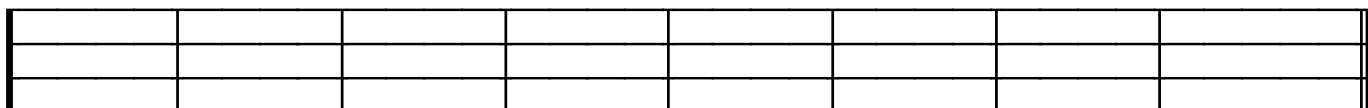
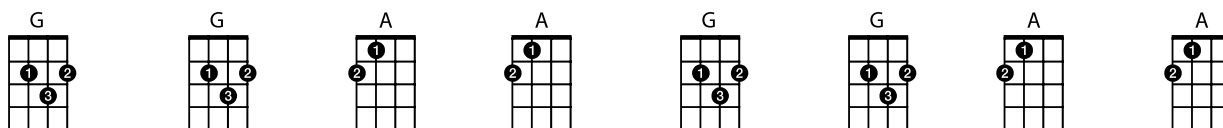
To play an **A7** Chord, put your:

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

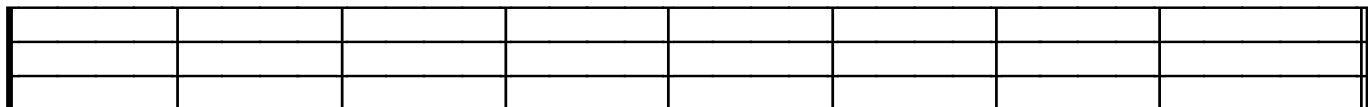
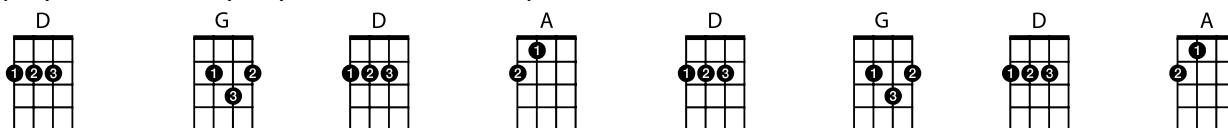
Chord Drill 1: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord.



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

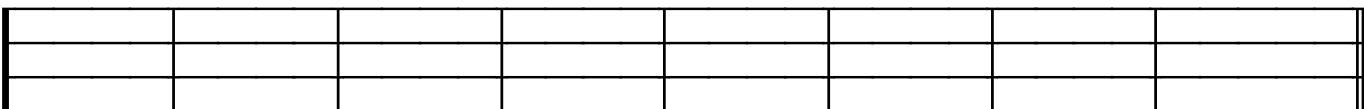
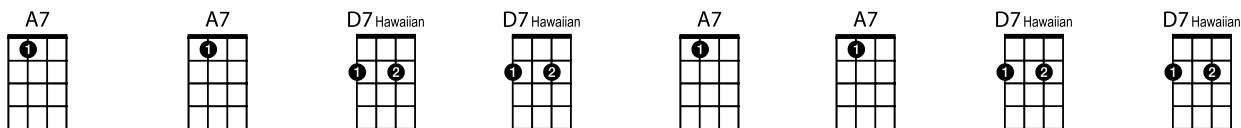


Chord Drill 3: Play four beats per measure. To make it easier, play one strum per chord. Once you can play this smoothly, try a different strum pattern.

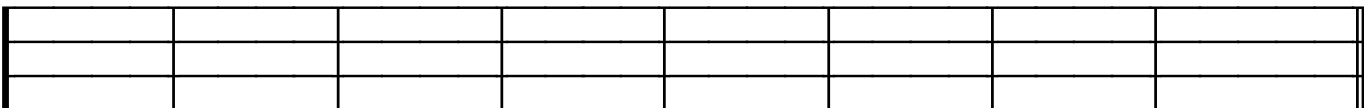
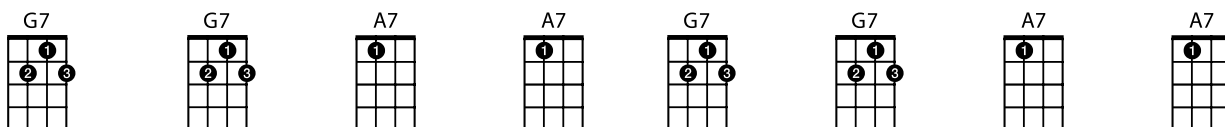


Chord drills will help you master the changes between new chords. The key is to hold a steady tempo while changing chords. Start slowly and build up to a faster tempo.

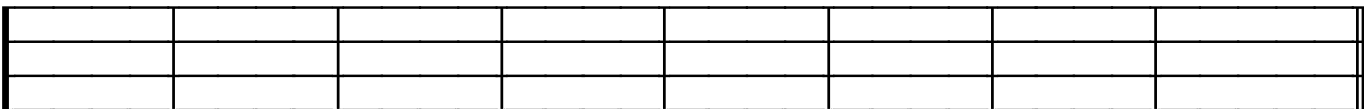
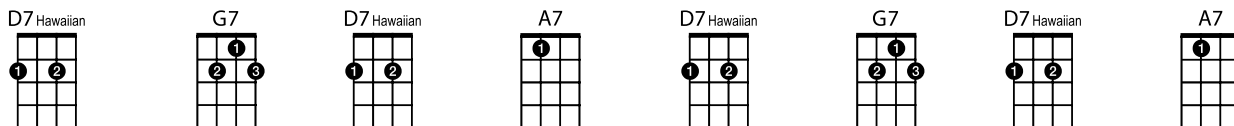
Chord Drill 1: Follow the pattern, playing one strum every four beats.



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

[Bad Moon Rising](#) by CCR

[Better When I'm Dancing](#) by Meghan Trainor

[Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) by Deep Blue Something

[Last Dance](#) by Tom Petty

[Margaritaville](#) by Jimmy Buffett

[Memories](#) by Maroon 5

[The Gambler](#) by Kenny Rogers

[The Middle](#) by Jimmy Eat World

[When You Say Nothing](#) at All by Alison Krauss

Songs to practice with an A7

[All Star](#) by Smash Mouth

[Earth Angel](#) by The Penguins

[I Got You \(I Feel Good\)](#) by James Brown

[Pineapple Princess](#) by Annette Funicello

[Wonderwall](#) by Oasis

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