

Essential Beginners Guide...

Ukulele



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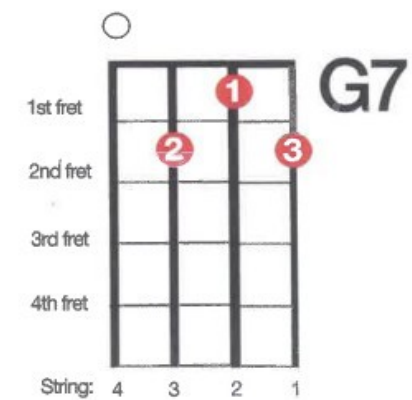
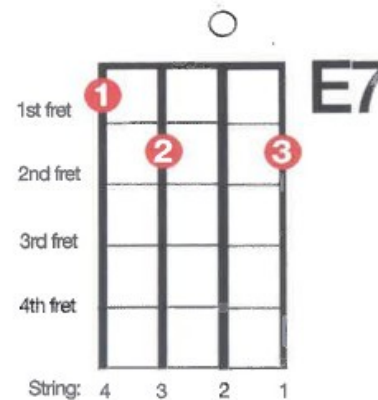
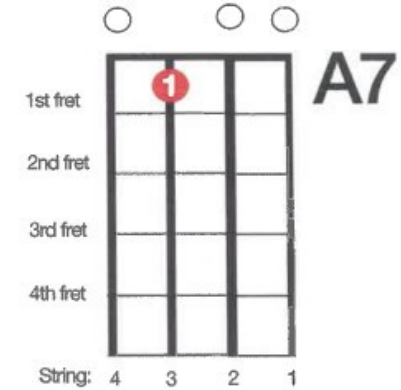
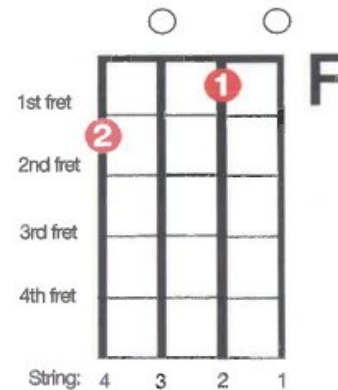
8 Strings

9 Bridge

Important Information

Nylon strings may take time to settle. This can make the ukulele de-tune more frequently when new. This does not mean there is a problem with your ukulele.

Once you have practiced the **C** chord, and you are happy with how to play it, it's time to look at a few more chords. Below are the chord charts for **F**, **A7**, **E7**, & **G7**. **Remember** to press down firmly on the strings or you may find the sound is not clean and clear. This may not come easily straight away but don't worry, with a bit of practice you will have it playing crisply without having sore fingers.



Tuning The Ukulele

The Ukulele can be tuned into various keys but the most popular tuning is:

G C E A

The image right shows the strings in order.

It is also worth remembering that the 1st string (A) is the bottom string and the 4th string (G) is top.

TIP: Unlike many string instruments, these strings are not tuned in order of pitch. The C will be a lower pitch than the G but the E will be a higher pitch than both G and C. If you get stuck, a good idea is to visit www.youtube.com and type 'ukulele tuning' into the search for help with the pitch differences.



Direction for tightening
4th - anti-clockwise
3rd - anti-clockwise
2nd - clockwise
1st - clockwise

There are a number of ways you can tune each string to the correct note. From using the G, C, E, & A keys on a piano to pitch pipes and a tuning fork, but we advise using an electronic tuner. These small devices pick up the sound you are playing when you pluck a string and tell you what note you are playing.

Tightening the strings by turning the relevant tuning peg will increase the pitch. e.g. if you're tuning the 4th string to G and the electronic tuner shows F on the display when you pluck the string, turn the tuning peg a small amount and then pluck the string again. Repeat these steps until the tuner display reads G. Once it does, that string is ready and it's time to move on to the next one. See image left for tuning peg information.

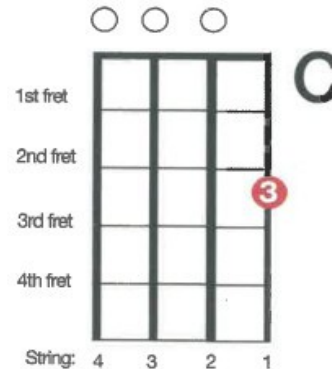
Don't have a tuner? There are many helpful tuning videos available on Youtube. Visit www.youtube.com and search 'ukulele tuning'

First Five Chords

Now your ukulele is tuned up, it's time to learn some chords. Some may seem tricky at first, but this is only because your fingers aren't used to applying pressure to the strings. In time, with practice, your finger tips will harden and it'll become easier to press down the strings.



The image right shows the correct numbering of the fingers on your left hand. remembering this order will become useful when looking at the charts below.

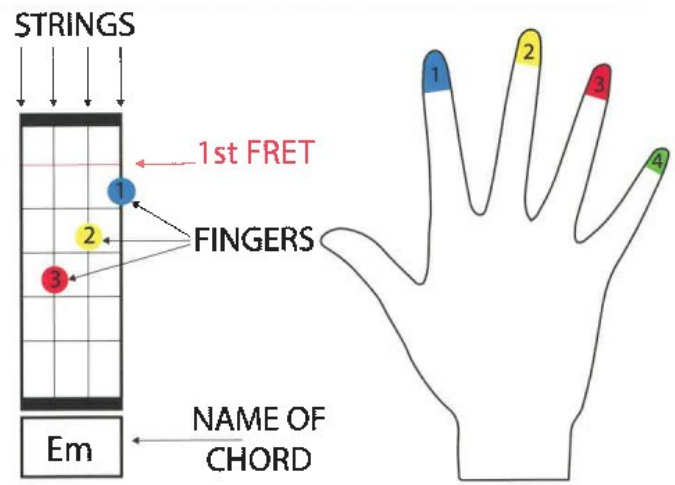


The chord chart left shows how to play the chord of C.

- The lines running vertically represent the strings starting with the 4th (G) on the left, through to the 1st (A) on the right.
- The lines running horizontally represent the frets.
- The red dots show you which strings to play and on which fret and the number inside show which finger to use to press that string down.
- the O symbol above the chart indicates that the string does not need to be pressed down. These are called open strings.

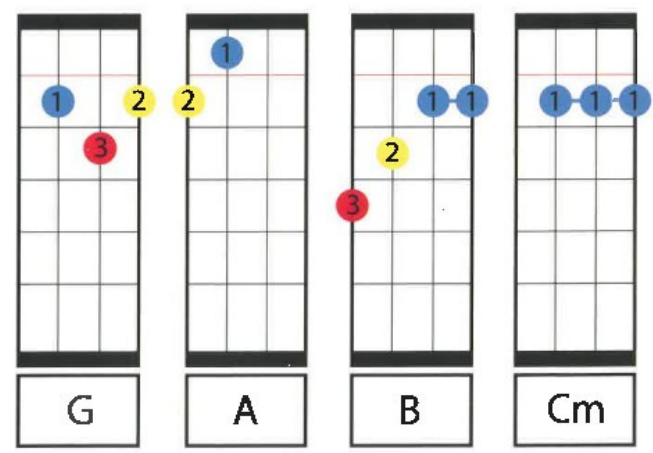
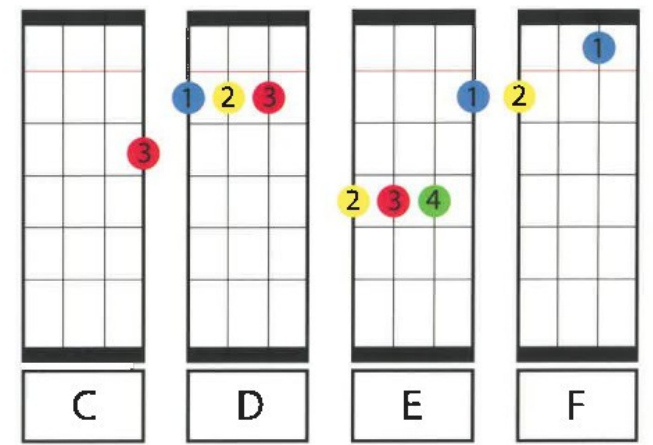
Now lets try to play the C Chord. The chart above indicates that we use our 3rd finger to press down the 1st string on the 3rd fret. Remember to press down on the fretboard and not actually on the fret wire. As all the other strings are open strings, they do not need pressing down. Using the outside edge of your thumb strum all strings in once smooth downward action. You have just played your first chord!





- This guide makes it easy to find the right chords to your favourite songs!
- Each of the Chords are shown on a chord frame, with dots to indicate where to place your finger.
- Below each frame is the name of the chord played.

1



2

