

The School Ukulele Orchestra Tuition Book



2020 Edition, Compiled by Russell Baker

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Introduction

Welcome to the fun of playing the ukulele!

The School Ukulele Orchestra Tuition Book introduces students to playing the ukulele. It is a tool that teachers can use to guide students through their learning. The book can also be used by students to review their learning or to teach themselves new skills.

Included in this book are:

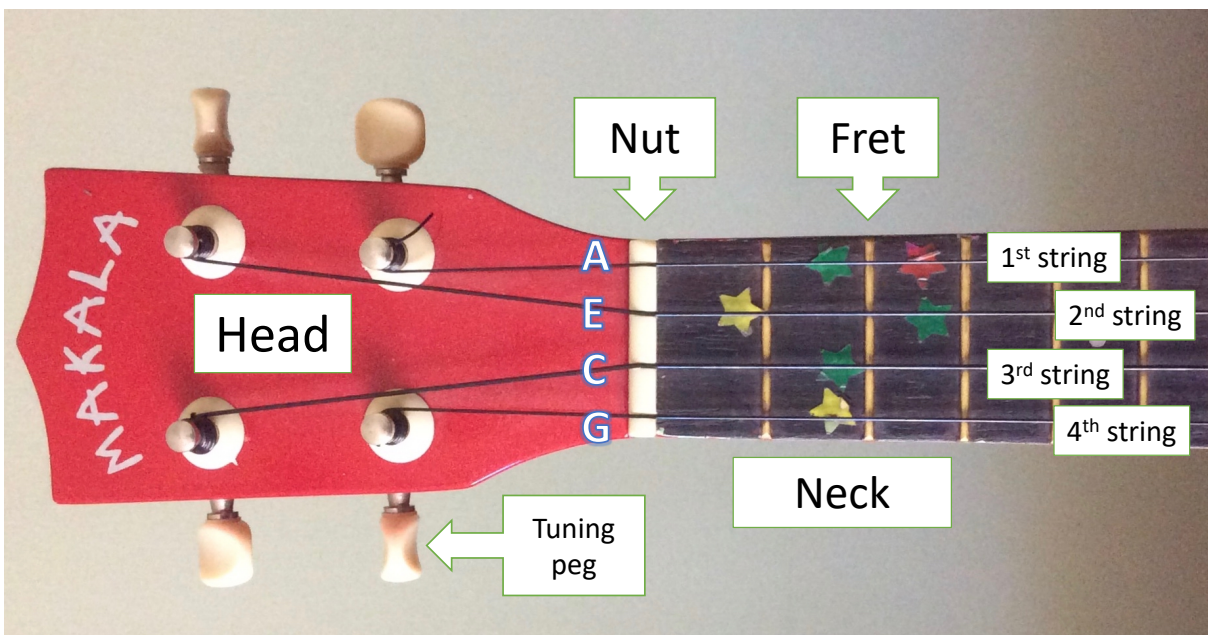
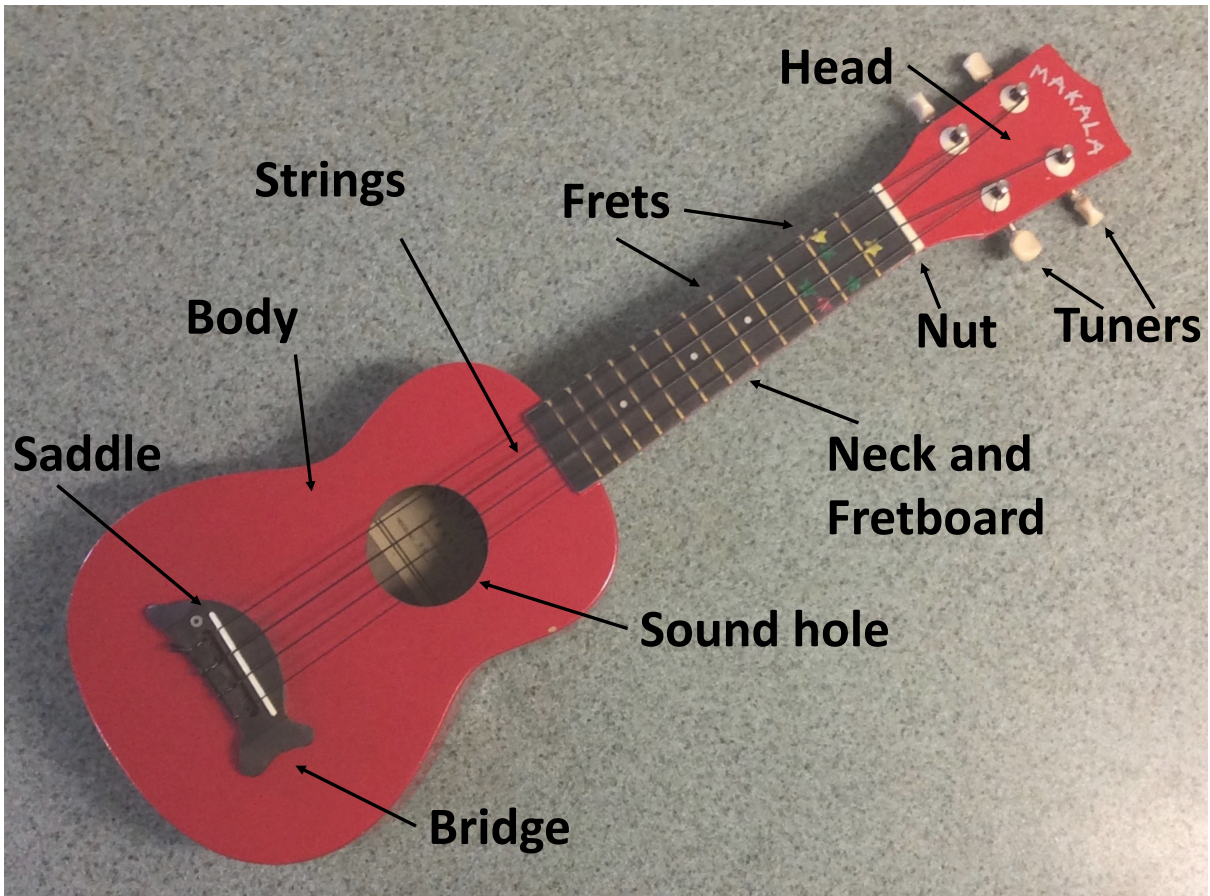
- Learning the parts of the ukulele
- Common ukulele chords
- Ukulele strumming methods and patterns
- Common chord progressions
- Reading ukulele tablature
- Playing melodies on the ukulele
- Songs and tunes to help with practising these skills

This book is the first in a set of three and is complimented by The School Ukulele Orchestra Accompaniment Book and The School Ukulele Orchestra Instrumental Book. There are also lessons that support this tuition book, including audio and video resources. The other books, audio and lessons are available on the website: www.school-ukulele-orchestra.net.



Parts of the Ukulele

Find all these parts on your own ukulele



Task: Do some research on the history of the ukulele.

Holding the Ukulele

It is easiest to sit down when you start learning.



Hold the ukulele with the back of the body against your belly. Rest the bottom corner of the body on your leg. The side of your strumming arm (usually the right arm) can rest lightly on the top corner of the body. Your chord playing hand (usually the left hand) will also help support the neck.



Standing up and playing is easier with a strap. If you don't have a strap, here's what to do.



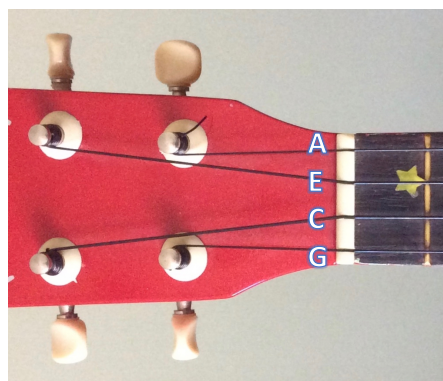
Put the back of the ukulele body on your belly. Hold the ukulele in place with the side of your strumming arm (usually the right arm). Support the neck with your chord playing hand (usually the left hand).

Tuning the Ukulele

The most common ukulele tuning is G, C, E, A. Getting your ukulele in tune is important before you practise and play. You can use an app, a tuner, a piano or an on-line video to tune. Tune by turning the tuning pegs to tighten or loosen the strings.

If you use a piano for tuning the notes are:

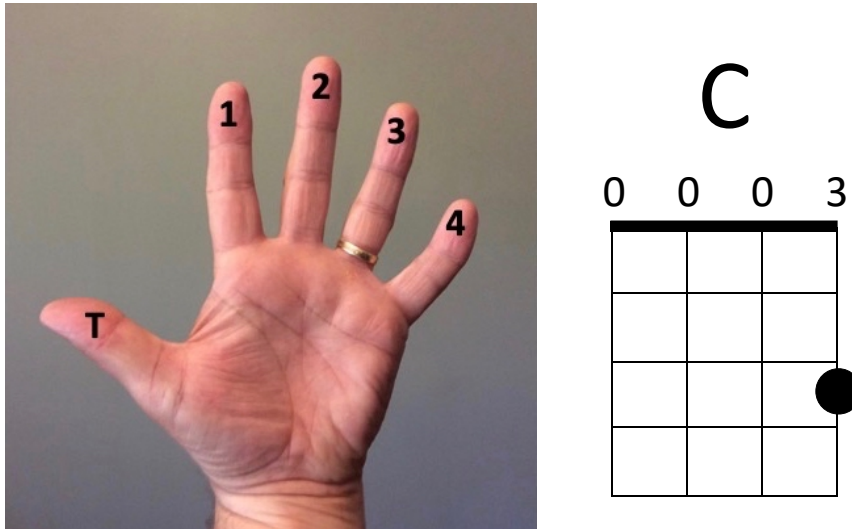
- A above middle C (A4)
- E above middle C (E4)
- Middle C (C4)
- G above middle C (G4)



First Chord: C

A chord is a group of notes that sound “right” together. We say that they “harmonise”.

When you play “right-handed” you use your left hand to hold the chords and your right hand to strum. (Both left handed and right handed people can play “right handed” as we use both hands to make the music.)



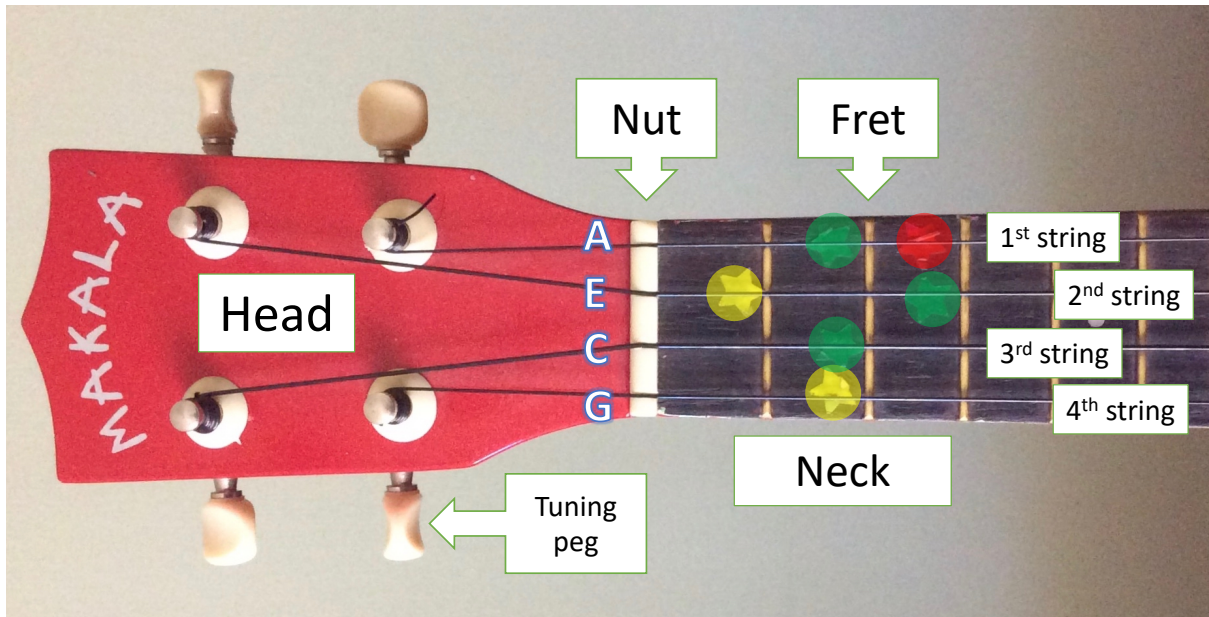
With the third finger of your left hand, press the string onto the fretboard of the ukulele where shown in the diagram and hold it firmly in place. With your right hand thumb or a fingertip, strum all the strings together. (There is more information about strumming on page 20.)

Fretting Strings

As you look closely at the diagram and picture you will see that the finger is *next* to the fret, NOT *on top* of it. Always put your finger next to the fret, pressing firmly but comfortably so the string is held against the fret. For the C chord, the third finger is placed *next* to the third fret on the first string.

Chord Dot Stickers

Using coloured stickers can help you remember the chord positions. Here is one sticker system:

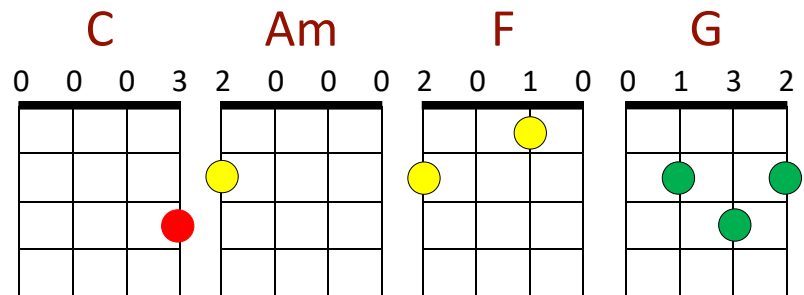


C chord is a red sticker.

Am chord is one of the yellow stickers.

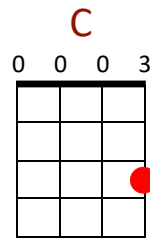
F chord is two yellow stickers.

G chord is three green stickers.



You will learn to use the Am, F and G chords later in this book.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat



C C C C

Row row row your boat gen - tly down the stream.

5 C C C C

Me - rri - ly me - rri - ly me - rri - ly me - rri - ly life is but a dream.

C C C C
Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.

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

C C C C
Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream

C C C C
If you see a crocodile don't forget to scream.

C C C C
Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream

C C C C
You can make it up yourself but please do not be mean.

London's Burning

C
C
C

Lon - don's bur - ning Lon - don's bur - ning Fetch the en - gines Fetch the

5
C
C
C
C
C

en - gines Fi - re fi - re! Fi - re fi - re! Pour on wa - ter Pour on wa ter

C
C

London's burning, London's burning!

C
C

Fetch the engines! Fetch the engines!

C
C

Fire, fire! Fire, fire!

C
C

Pour on water, Pour on water.

(Repeat and sing as a round.)

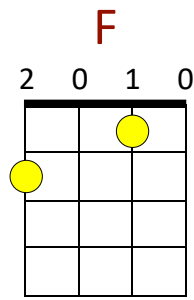


C

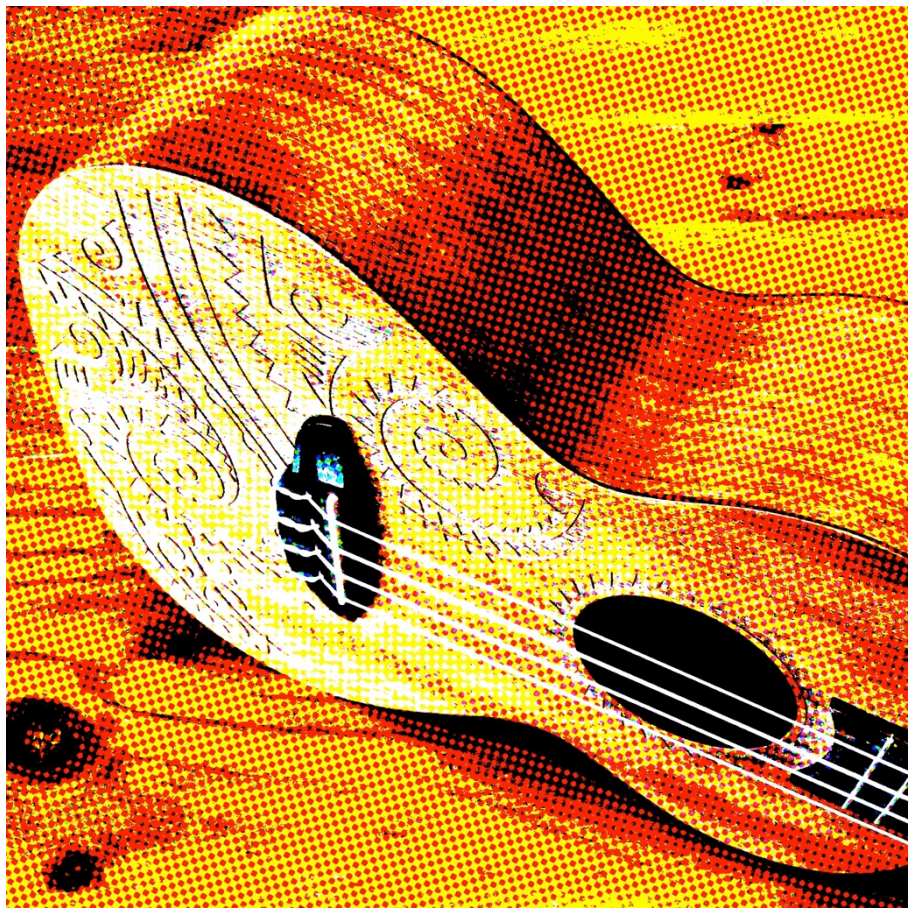
0 0 0 3

			●

Second chord: F



To play the F chord, use your first and second fingers - your “peace sign” fingers. Press the strings firmly as shown in the diagram above. Place your thumb on the back of the ukulele neck.



Frere Jacques

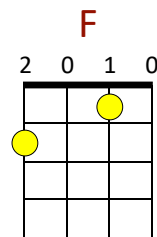
Fre · re Jac · ques Fre - re Jac - ques Dor - mez · vous? Dor - mez · vous?

Sonnez les ma - ti - nes Sonnez les ma - ti - nes Ding dang dong Ding dangdong

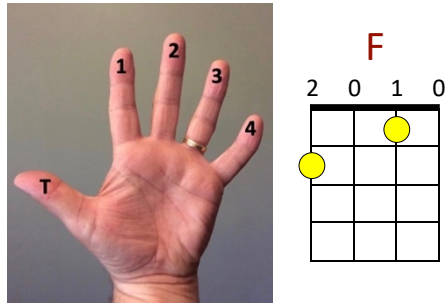
F F F F
 Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
 F F F F
 Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?
 F F F F
 Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les matines!
 F F F F
 Ding, dang, dong. Ding, dang, dong.

F F F F
 Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?
 F F F F
 Brother John, Brother John,
 F F F F
 Morning bells are ringing! Morning bells are ringing!
 F F F F
 Ding, dang, dong. Ding, dang, dong.

(Repeat and sing as a round.)



Hill and Gully Rider



F F

Hill and gu - lly ri - der Hill and gu - lly

F F

Hill and gu - lly ri - der Hill and gu - lly Took my

F F

horse and I'm co - ming down Hill and gu - lly But the

F F

horse done stum - ble down Hill and gu - lly And the

F F

night come and tum - ble down Hill and gu - lly

F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
 F F F F
Took my horse and I'm coming down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
But the horse done stumble down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
And the night come and tumble down (hill and gully)

F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
 F F F F
Oh the moon shone bright down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
Ain't no place to hide around (hill and gully)
 F F F F
And a zombie come a riding down (hill and gully)

F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
F F F F
Hill and gully rider (hill and gully)
 F F F F
Oh, my knees they shake down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
And my heart starts quaking down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
And I run 'til daylight breaking down (hill and gully)
 F F F F
And I never want to hang around (hill and gully)



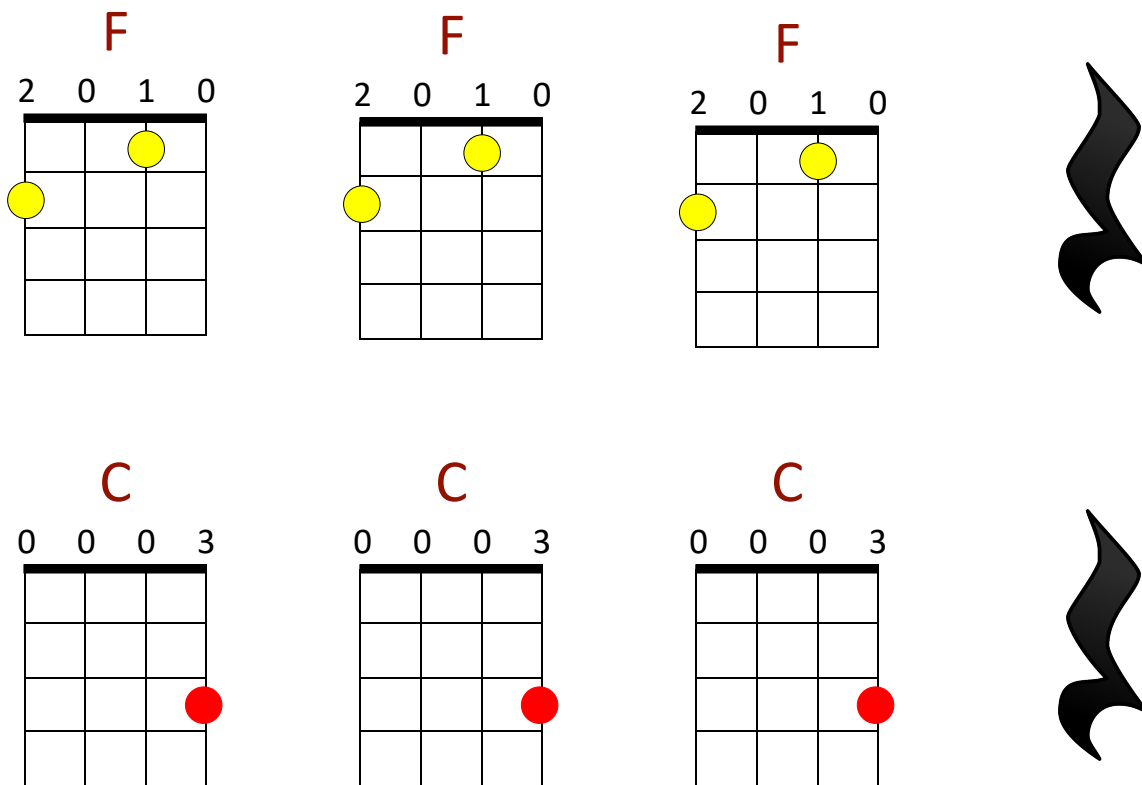
Changing Chords F and C

When you first change chords on the ukulele it can take time for your fingers to move into the right places. You can give yourself time by starting to play slowly. As your fingers get faster you can speed up your playing.

You can also use “rests” to give you time to change. A rest is a place in the music where the “count” or beat continues but you do not play.

In the following pattern there is a rest on the fourth beat. You can use the rest to move your fingers to the next chord. The pattern is shown in two different ways.

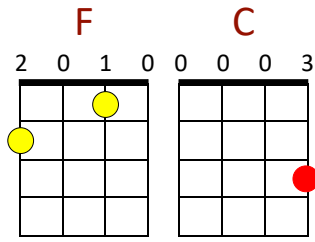
Showing the chord shapes and rests:



Showing the count and chord changes:

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
F	F	F	change	C	C	C	change	F	F	F	change	C	C	C	change

Bumble Bee



F F

I'm bring - ing home my ba - by

C C F

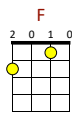
bum - ble bee

Won't my mum - my be so proud of me? I'm bring - ing home my ba - by

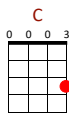
F F F

bum - ble bee Ouch! It stung me!

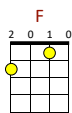
(Last line spoken)



I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee



Won't my mummy be so proud of me?



I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee - OUCH! It stung me!

F

I'm squishing up my baby bumble bee

C

Won't my mummy be so proud of me?

F

I'm squishing up my baby bumble bee - EW! What a mess!

F

I'm licking up my baby bumble bee

C

Won't my mummy be so proud of me?

F

I'm licking up my baby bumble bee - ICK! I feel sick!

F

I'm throwing up my baby bumble bee

C

Won't my mummy be so proud of me?

F

I'm throwing up my baby bumble bee - OH! What a mess!

F

I'm wiping up my baby bumble bee

C

Won't my mummy be so proud of me?

F

I'm wiping up my baby bumble bee - OOPS! Mummy's new towel!

F

I'm wringing out my baby bumble bee

C

Won't my mummy be so proud of me?

F

I'm wringing out my baby bumble bee - Bye-Bye baby bumble bee!

Strumming the Ukulele

You can play with your thumb.



You can play with your finger tip.



The fingertip is often better for playing patterns of down and up strums.

You can steady your finger with your thumb if this is helpful.



Many people prefer to have their hand open rather than in a fist.



Find a method that is smooth and comfortable for you. You can even strum with more than one finger! Relax your hand and let your fingers (or thumb) brush the strings.





Strumming Patterns

Start with a simple down strum – one strum for each beat. Play a C chord for these strums.

1	2	3	4
Down	Down	Down	Down

You can extend and repeat the pattern:

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Then try a down-up pattern with the following count:

1	and	2	and	3	and	4	and
Down	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up

You can extend and repeat the pattern:

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑

You can create interesting rhythms by playing or skipping the beats. Pay attention to the count AND ALSO to the strum direction: **down up down, down up down, down up down, down up down.**

1	&	2		3	&	4		1	&	2		3	&	4	
↓	↑	↓		↓	↑	↓		↓	↑	↓		↓	↑	↓	

Here's another pattern: **down up down up down, down, down up down up down, down.**

1	&	2	&	3		4		1	&	2	&	3		4	
↓	↑	↓	↑	↓		↓		↓	↑	↓	↑	↓		↓	

This great sounding rhythm can be tricky at first. Try to keep your hand relaxed and moving.
Down up down up, up down, down up down up, up down.

1	&	2	&		&	4		1	&	2	&		&	4	
↓	↑	↓	↑		↑	↓		↓	↑	↓	↑		↑	↓	

What's the trick?

Your hand should keep moving up and down even when you do not strum.

- When you play “down, down, down, down” your hand moves up between each strum without touching the strings.
- When you play “down up down, down up down” your hand moves up between *some* of the strums without touching the strings.
- When you play “down up down up, up down” your hand sometimes moves *down* without touching the strings. This can be tricky at first, but sounds and feels great when you get it!

Percussive Strum

Another great sounding rhythm is the percussive strum. This is a “down up down up” strum with a difference. On the second “down” rest your palm against the strings and “mute” them as you strum to stop them ringing. Instead of a ringing sound, you will get a short sharp click from the strings. Let the strings ring again when you bring your strum back up.

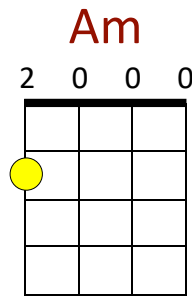
Down up mute up down up mute up down up mute up.

In this diagram the **X** is the muted down strum.

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
↓	↑	X	↑	↓	↑	X	↑	↓	↑	X	↑	↓	↑	X	↑

Try these different strumming patterns with the songs in this book. When you get more comfortable with them you can mix them up for variety in your playing.

Chord: A minor



Use your middle finger - finger 2 - to press at the second fret on the string as shown in the diagram and photo.

Ah, Poor Bird - English folk tune

Am **Am**

Ah poor bird why art thou
 Ah poor bird take your flight
 Ah poor bird as you fly

Am **Am** x3

Ly - ing in the sha - dows of this dark hour?
 Far a - bove the sor - rows of this dark night
 Can you see the dawn of to - mor - row's sky?

Am Am Am Am
 Ah, poor bird, why art thou
 Am Am Am Am
 Lying in the shadows of this dark hour?

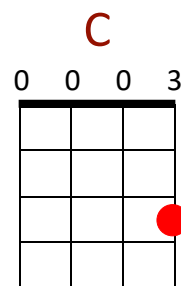
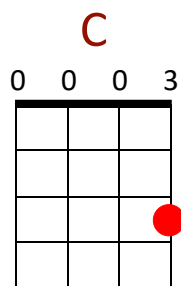
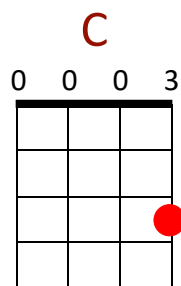
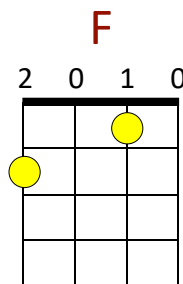
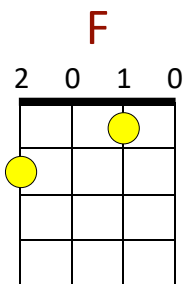
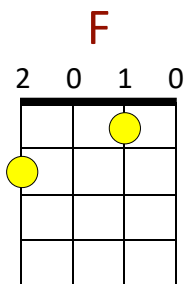
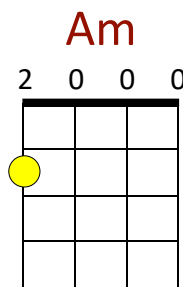
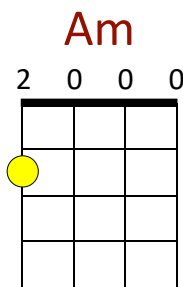
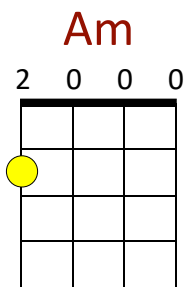
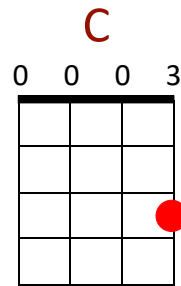
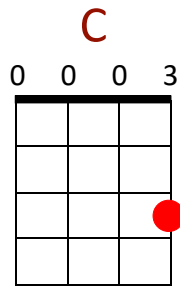
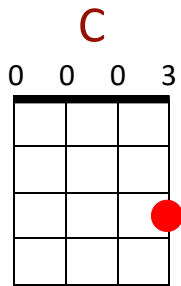
Am Am Am Am
 Ah, poor bird, take your flight
 Am Am Am Am
 Far above the sorrows of this dark night

Am Am Am Am
 Ah, poor bird, as you fly
 Am Am Am Am
 Can you see the dawn of tomorrow's sky?

(Repeat and sing as a round.)

Changing Chords: C Am F C

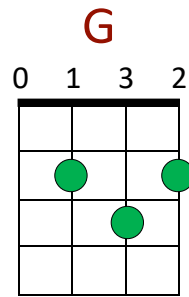
Try the Am chord with the C and F chords. Use the rests to move your fingers.



Showing the count and chord changes:

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
C	C	C	change	Am	Am	Am	change	F	F	F	change	C	C	C	change

Chord: G



Place your three fingers as shown above. This chord takes a little while to get in position at first. Keep practising and it will get easier and smoother.

Ten In The Bed

There were ten in the bed and the li - ttle one said "Roll o - ver"

"Roll o - ver" So they all rolled o - ver and one fell out

There were ten in the bed and the little one said:

"Roll over!" "Roll over!"

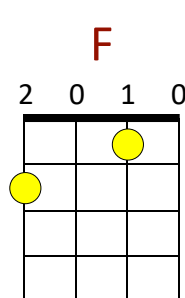
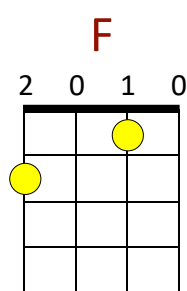
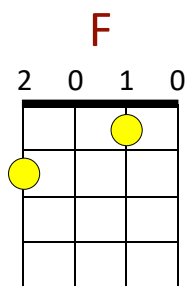
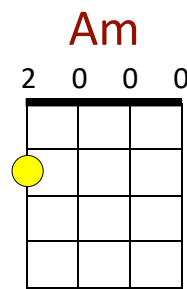
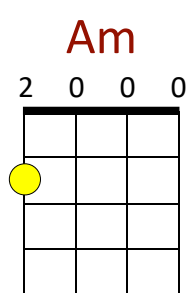
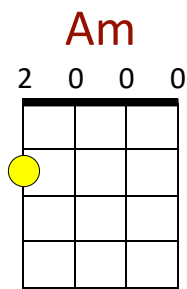
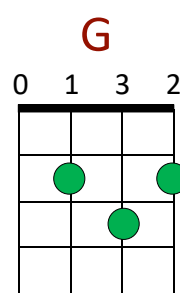
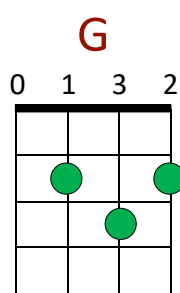
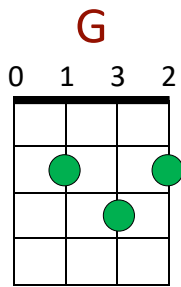
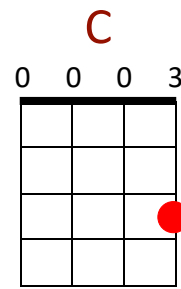
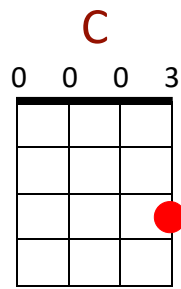
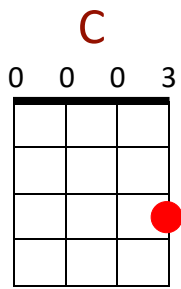
So they all rolled over and one fell out.

There were nine in the bed...

There were eight in the bed...

Changing Chords - C, G, Am, F

Try playing this chord pattern. Use the rests to move your fingers.

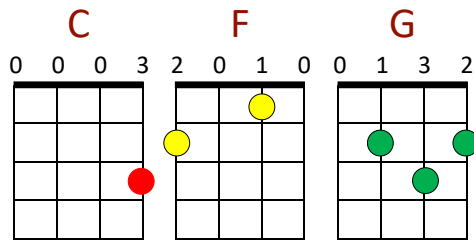


Showing the count and chord changes:

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
C	C	C	change	G	G	G	change	Am	Am	Am	change	F	F	F	change



Tinga Layo



F C G C

Ting a La - yo Come li - ttle don - key come Ting a

6 F C G C

La - yo Come litt - le don - key come My don - key

10 F C G C

eat My don - key sleep My don - key kick with his two hind feet My don - key

14 F C G C

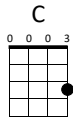
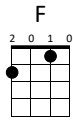
eat My don - key sleep My don - key kick with his two hind feet

F C G C

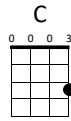
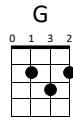
Tinga La - yo! Come little donkey come,

F C G C

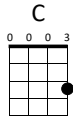
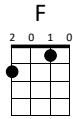
Tinga La - yo! Come little donkey come



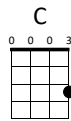
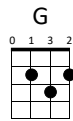
M' donkey eat, m' donkey sleep,



M' donkey kick with his two hind feet.



M' donkey eat, m' donkey sleep,



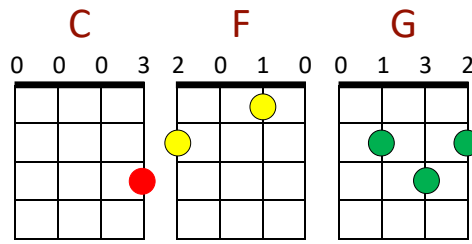
M' donkey kick with his two hind feet.

F C G C
Tinga Layo! Come little donkey come,
F C G C
Tinga Layo! Come little donkey come.

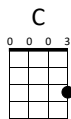
F C
M' donkey walk, m' donkey talk,
G C
M' donkey eat with a knife and fork.
F C
M' donkey walk, m' donkey talk,
G C
M' donkey eat with a knife and fork.

F C G C
Tinga Layo! Come little donkey come,
F C G C
Tinga Layo! Come little donkey come.

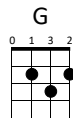
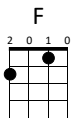
This Old Man



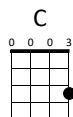
C C F G
 This old man he played one He played nick nack on my thumb with a
 5 C C G C
 nick nack pa - ddy whack give the dog a bone This old man came rolling home



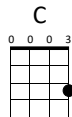
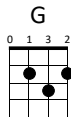
This old man, he played one,



He played knick-knack on my thumb;



With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone,



This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played two,

F G
He played knick-knack on my shoe;

C
With a knick-knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone,

G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played three,
F G
He played knick-knack on my knee;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played four,
F G
He played knick-knack on my door;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played five,
F G
He played knick-knack on my hive;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played six,
F G
He played knick-knack with my sticks;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

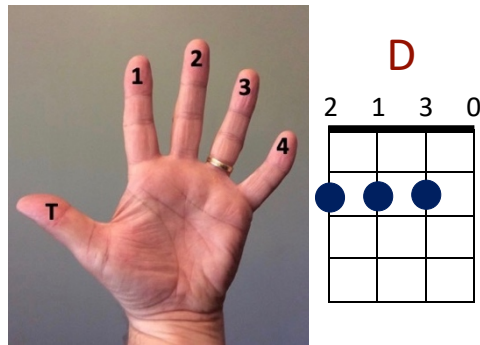
C
This old man, he played seven,
F G
He played knick-knack up in heaven;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played eight,
F G
He played knick-knack on my gate;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played nine,
F G
He played knick-knack on my spine;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

C
This old man, he played ten,
F G
He played knick-knack once again;
C
With a knick-knack paddywhack,
give a dog a bone,
G C
This old man came rolling home.

Chord: D



You can use more stickers for the D chord if you wish, but you might find the fret board is getting crowded. See if you can find this chord without stickers.

London's Burning in the key of D

D D D

Lon - don's bur - ning Lon - don's bur - ning Fetch the en - gines Fetch the

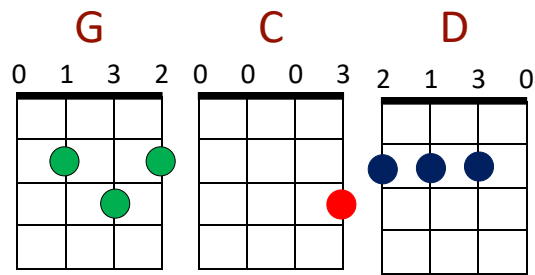
5 D D D D D

en - gines Fi - re fi - re! Fi - re fi - re! Pour on wa - ter Pour on wa - ter

D D
London's burning, London's burning!
D. D
Fetch the engines! Fetch the engines!
D D
Fire, fire! Fire, fire!
D D
Pour on water, Pour on water.

(Repeat and sing as a round.)

Taba Naba



G C D G C D

Ta - ba na ba na - ba no - rem Tu - gei pe - na - sir m - i din - ghy em na - ba - tr - e

5 G C D G G G

Me ko kei mi si - rir em nar - ba - re Ta - ba na - ba no - rem Style!

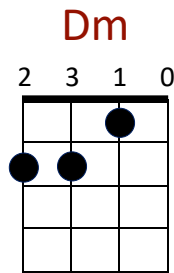
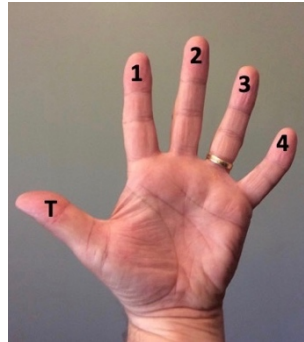
G C
 Taba naba naba norem
 D G C D
 Tugei penaisir mi dinghy em nabatre
 G C
 Me ko keimi sirir em narbare
 D G
 Taba naba norem

Style...

G C
Come, let's go, let's row to the reef
 D G C D
Get into the dinghy when the morning tide is low
 G C
Let's row out to the edge of the reef
 D G
Come, let us go to the reef

Fishing...surfing...

Chord: D minor



Hey, Ho, Nobody Home

Dm
Dm
Dm

4
Dm
Dm
Dm

Dm
Dm

Dm
Dm

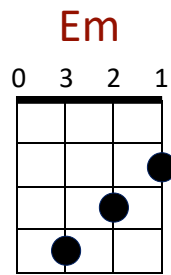
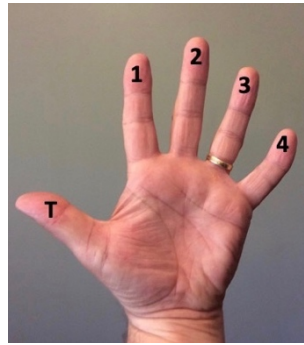
Dm Dm
 Hey, ho, Nobody home
 Dm Dm
 Meat nor drink nor money have I none
 Dm Dm
 Yet will I be very very merry

(Repeat and sing as a round.)

Finish with:

Dm Dm
 Hey, ho, Nobody home

Chord: E minor



Hey, Ho, Nobody Home in the key of E minor

Em Em Em

Hey ho No - bo - dy home Meat nor drink nor

4 Em Em Em

mo - ney have I none Yet will I be ve - ry ve - ry me - rry

Em Em
 Hey, ho, Nobody home
 Em Em
 Meat nor drink nor money have I none
 Em Em
 Yet will I be very very merry

(Repeat and sing as a round.)

Finish with:

Em Em
 Hey, ho, Nobody home



Warami Ngallowah Mittigar with C, Am, Em, F and G chords

C Am

Wa - ra - mi _____ nga - llo - wah _____ mi - tti - gar.

Em F

5

Wa - ra - mi _____ nga - llo - wah _____ mi - tti - gar.

G C F

9

Ba - ya - la, nga - ra - la, ti - a - ti - la.

Am F C G

13

Bu - rri - ya - la! Bu - rri - ya - la! Wara -

G Em F C

18

- Bu - rri - ya - la! Bu - rri - ya - la!

C Am

Warami ngallowah mittigar.

Em F G

Warami ngallowah mittigar.

C F

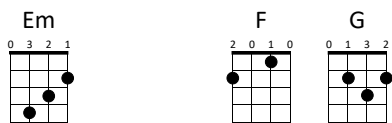
Bayala. Ngarala. Tiatila.

Am F C G

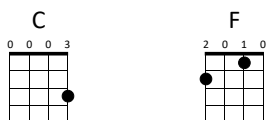
Burriyala! Burriyala!



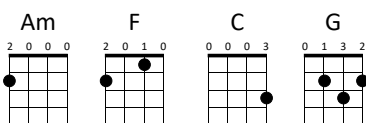
Warami ngallowah mittigar.



Warami ngallowah mittigar.



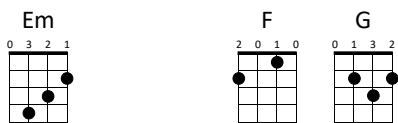
Bayala. Ngarala. Tiatila.



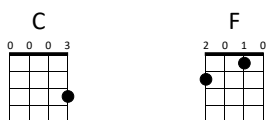
Burriyala! Burriyala!



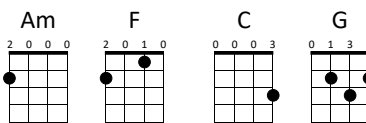
Warami ngallowah mittigar.



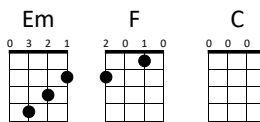
Warami ngallowah mittigar.



Bayala. Ngarala. Tiatila.



Burriyala! Burriyala!



Burriyala! Burriyala!

Translation:
 Hello, come sit down, friend.
 Hello, come sit down, friend.
 Let's talk, Let's listen. Let's learn.
 Let' sing. Let's sing.

Common Chord Patterns - Twelve Bar Blues

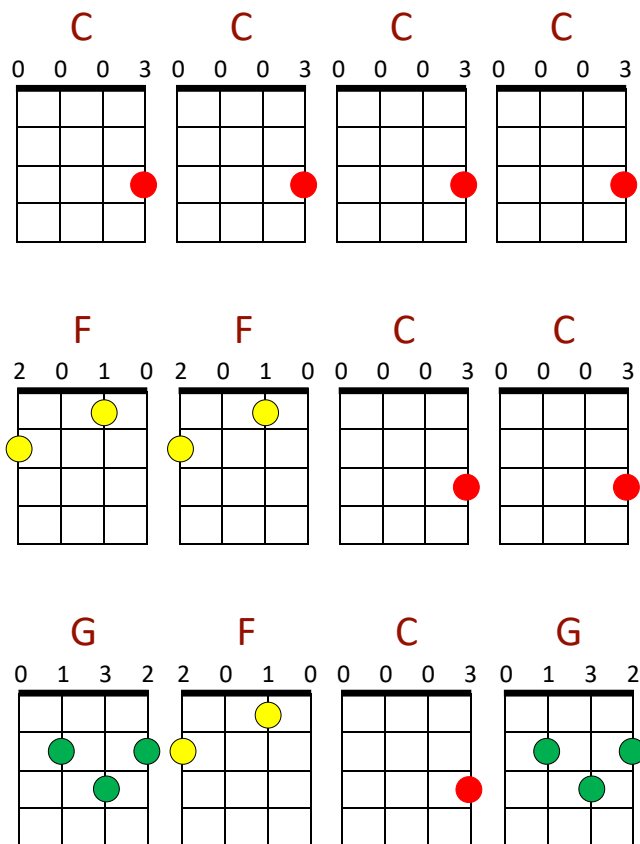
The following chord patterns have been used in many songs and continue to be used by song writers today. Learning to recognise and play these chord patterns will help you to learn new songs. You can also use these patterns to help you write songs of your own.

A “Twelve Bar Blues” usually only uses three chords. Thousands of songs have been written using a twelve bar blues pattern. These include:

- Hound Dog - Elvis Presley
- I Got You (I Feel Good) - James Brown
- Rock and Roll Music - The Beatles
- Sweet Home Chicago - Robert Johnson
- We’re Going To Be Friends - The White Stripes
- Mustang Sally - Wilson Pickett
- Rock Around The Clock - Bill Haley and the Comets

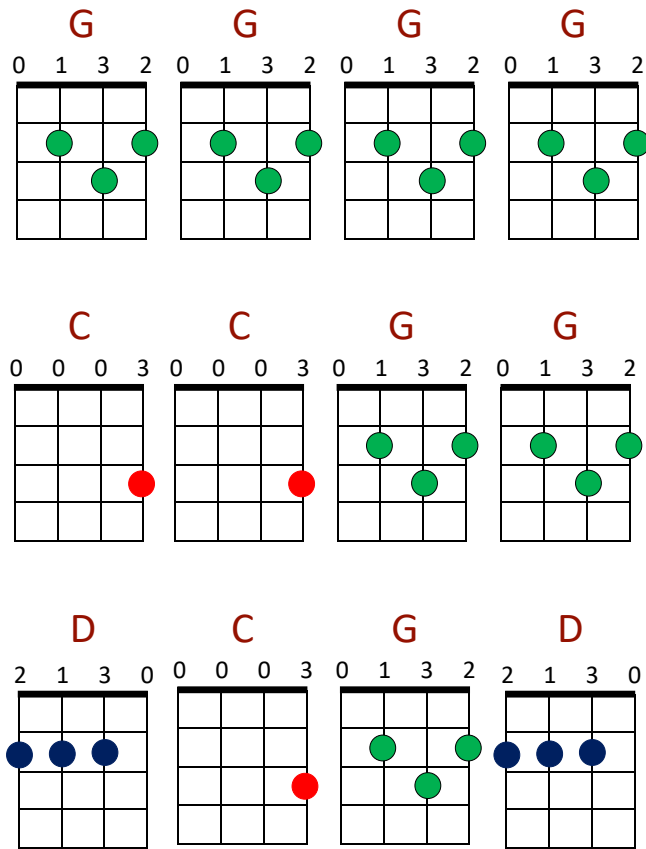
This blues is in the key of C and starts with a C chord. Each chord diagram represents one bar, or one count of four beats.

Blues in C



A twelve-bar blues can start in any key. This blues is in the key of G and starts with a G chord.

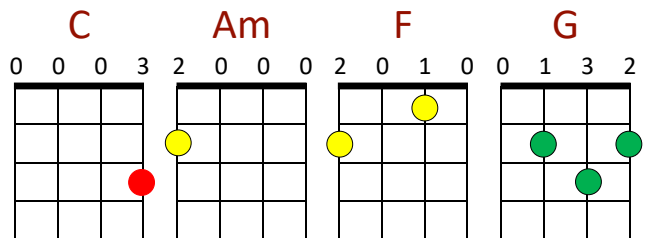
Blues in G



Common Chord Patterns - Four Chord Progressions

A pattern of chords is often called a “progression”. The “50s progression” was used in many popular songs during the 1950s and 1960s and can still be found in music today. In some songs each chord is played for one bar (usually a count of four). Other songs might have longer or shorter chords but follow the same pattern. This pattern will usually repeat for a section of a song, or even for a whole song.

Example Progression One

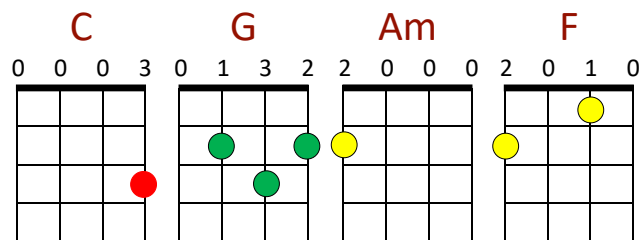


Songs that use progression one include:

- A Million Reasons - Lady Gaga
- Stand By Me - Ben E. King
- Me! - Taylor Swift
- Baby - Justin Bieber
- Octopus's Garden - The Beatles
- Girl On Fire - Alicia Keys

Example Progression Two

This progression is very popular in rock, pop and folk music styles. See if songs come to mind as you play the pattern of chords.

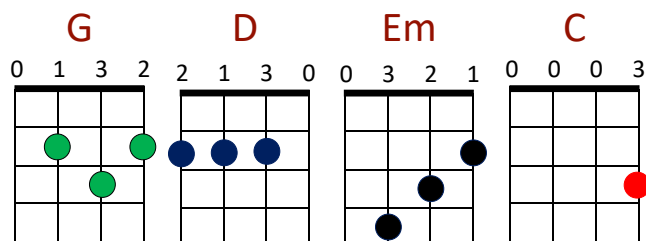


Songs that use this progression include:

- Flashlight - Jessie J
- Bad Liar - Imagine Dragons
- Bridge of Light - Pink
- With or Without You - U2
- Someone Like You - Adele
- Photograph - Ed Sheeran

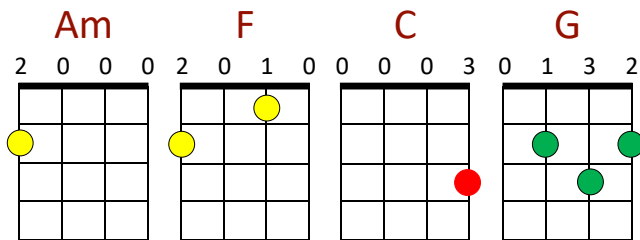
Example Progression Three

Progressions can be played in any key. This example is in G and starts with a G chord. The chords are different, but the pattern is the same as example progression two.



Example Progression Four

By playing the same chord pattern, but starting in a different place, a slightly different feel can be created. This progression uses the same pattern as example two but starts on the Am chord.



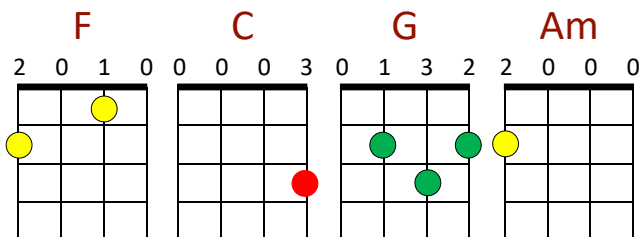
Here are a few songs that use this progression:

- Who You Are - Jessie J
- Poker Face - Lady Gaga
- Grenade - Bruno Mars
- The Scientist - Coldplay
- Amazing - Alex Lloyd
- If I Were A Boy - Beyoncé

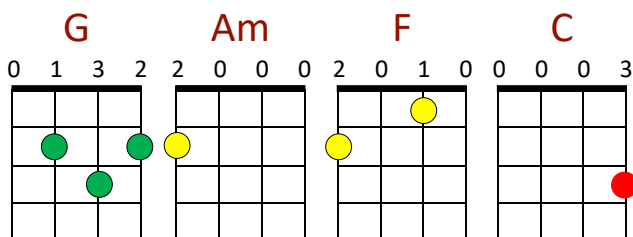
Variations

You can vary these progressions by simply changing where you start and finish. The following two examples follow the same pattern as example progressions two and four but start in different places.

Example Five



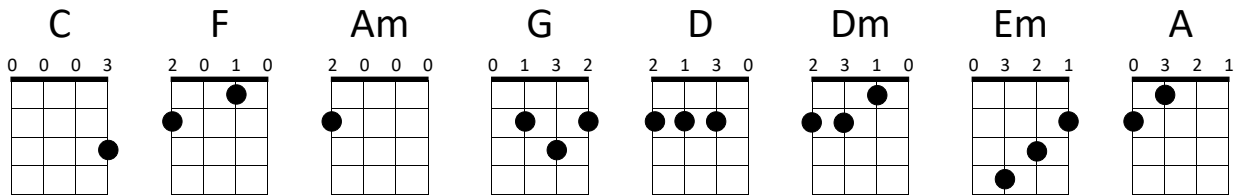
Example Six



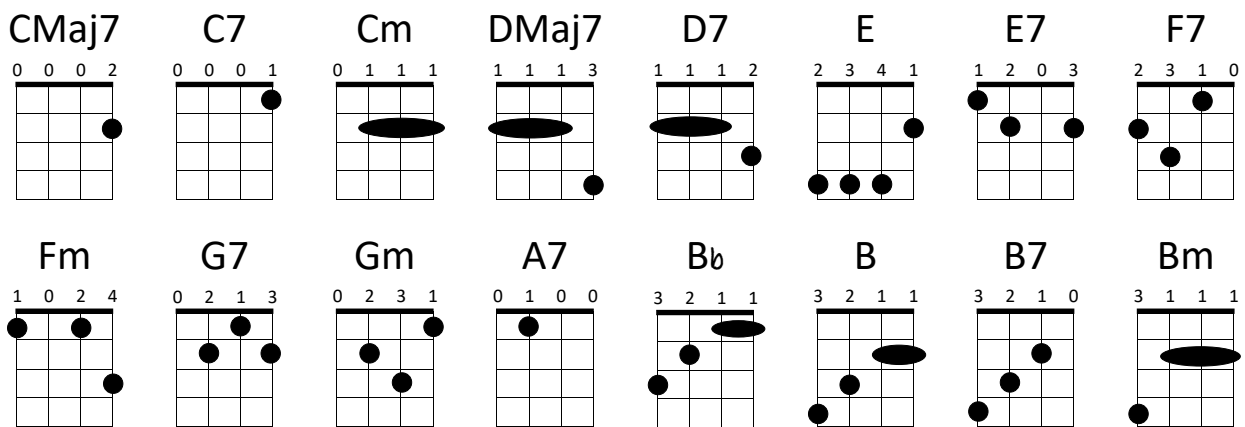


Chord Chart

Chords we have learned in this book:



There are many other chords you can learn. Here are some common ones you will find in music books for the ukulele.



You will find these and other chords in The School Ukulele Orchestra Accompaniment Book, available for download on www.school-ukulele-orchestra.net.

Playing Melodies, Reading Tablature

Notes on the ukulele are written in two ways; as standard notes and as tablature.

T — 0 — 0 — 0 — 2 — 2 — 2 — 3 — 3 — 3 —

A B C

Tablature is like a diagram of the fret board. The four lines represent the four strings as viewed when you are holding your ukulele and looking down. The numbers represent the frets.



Why Learn Tablature?

Reading standard notes is a valuable skill and is worth learning. Tablature is also important for players of fretted instruments and is a much easier place to start.

On the ukulele there can be two, three or even four different places that a note can be played. This is not like a piano, where each note is only found in one place. Standard notes do not show the player the best place to play a note.

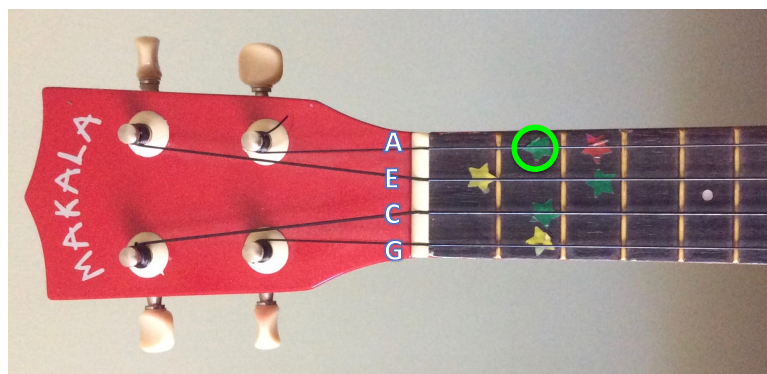
Tablature is a common form of notation for fretted instruments and has been used for hundreds of years. Many players use tablature to read and write music for ukulele, guitar and other fretted instruments.

This A note is played on the open A string. Play the note three times as shown below. Only play the one string.



Musical notation for playing the A note on the open A string. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first three measures show the A note on the A string, with pink circles around the fret numbers 0, 0, and 0. The next three measures show the B note on the A string, with fret numbers 2, 2, and 2. The final three measures show the C note on the A string, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3. The strings are labeled T, A, B from top to bottom.

This B note is played by holding the first string at the second fret. Only play the one string. Play the B note three times. You can use your thumb or a fingertip to play the note.



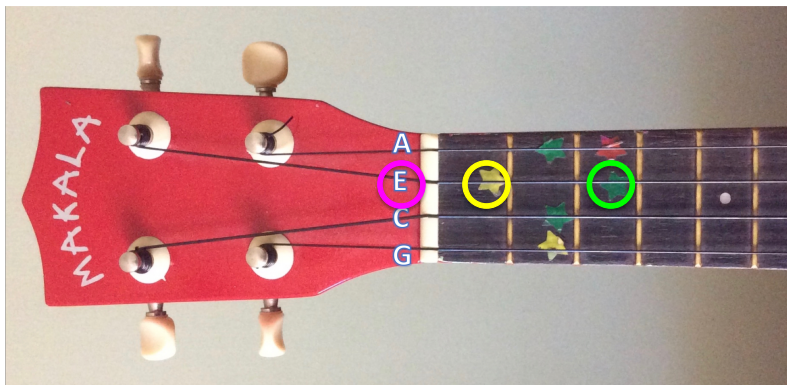
Musical notation for playing the B note on the A string at the second fret. The piece is in 4/4 time. The first three measures show the A note on the A string, with fret numbers 0, 0, and 0. The next three measures show the B note on the A string, with green circles around the fret numbers 2, 2, and 2. The final three measures show the C note on the A string, with fret numbers 3, 3, and 3. The strings are labeled T, A, B from top to bottom.

This C note is played by holding the first string at the second fret. Only play the one string. Play the C note three times.



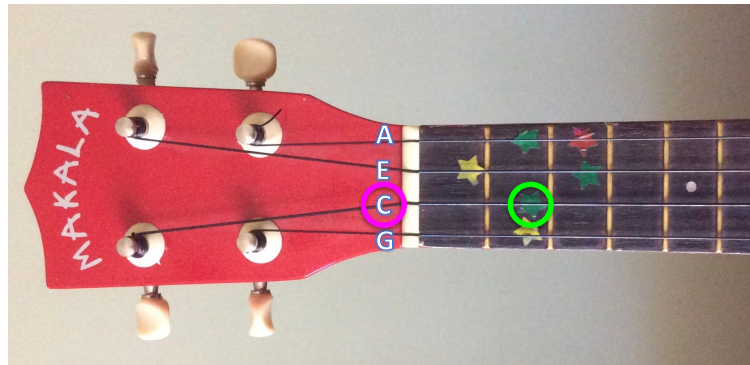
Musical notation for the first exercise. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing three measures of quarter notes. The bottom staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The first measure has three '0's on the T line, the second has three '2's, and the third has three '3's. The notes A, B, and C are written below the tablature.

Now try playing these notes - E, F and G - on the second string. Play them as they are written in the tablature.



Musical notation for the second exercise. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing three measures of quarter notes. The bottom staff is a tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The first measure has three '0's on the A line, the second has three '1's, and the third has three '3's. The notes E, F, and G are written below the tablature.

Now try playing these notes - C and D - on the third string. Play them as they are written in the tablature.



C C C D D D

This pattern of notes is a C major scale. It uses three different strings on the ukulele.

C D E F G A B C

Turn the page for more help with playing the C major scale.

Use the pictures following to help you play the notes of the C Major scale. As you play, try using your thumb, then using different fingertips. As you become more comfortable, you will find ways to alternate your fingers and thumb so you can play smoothly.

C



C D E F G A B C

D



C D E F G A B C

E



C D E F G A B C

F



C D E F G A B C

G



Musical notation for the G chord. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The bass clef staff shows the fretting sequence: 0-2-0-1-3-0-2-3. The number 3 is circled in green, corresponding to the green circle in the photograph above.

C D E F G A B C

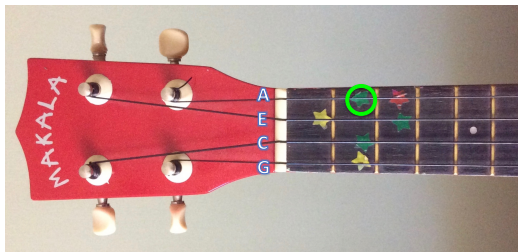
A



Musical notation for the A chord. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The bass clef staff shows the fretting sequence: 0-2-0-1-3-0-2-3. The number 0 is circled in pink, corresponding to the pink circle in the photograph above.

C D E F G A B C

B



Musical notation for the B chord. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The bass clef staff shows the fretting sequence: 0-2-0-1-3-0-2-3. The number 2 is circled in green, corresponding to the green circle in the photograph above.

C D E F G A B C

C



Musical notation for the C chord. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C. The bass clef staff shows the fretting sequence: 0-2-0-1-3-0-2-3. The number 3 is circled in red, corresponding to the red circle in the photograph above.

C D E F G A B C

Try playing "Mary Had A Little Lamb" using just one string.

Ma - ry had a	lit - tle lamb
T 4 2 0 2	4 4 4
A	
B	

lit - tle lamb	lit - tle lamb
2 2 2	4 4 4

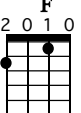
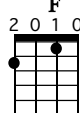
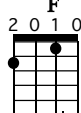
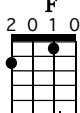
Ma - ry had a	lit - tle lamb its
4 2 0 2	4 4 4 4

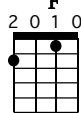
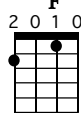
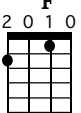
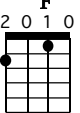
fleece was white as	snow
2 2 4 2	0

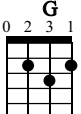
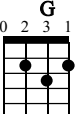
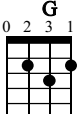
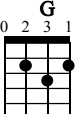
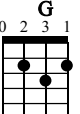
Use the tablature to work out this Mystery Tune. You will know it when you play it.


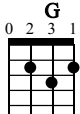

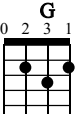
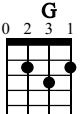
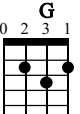
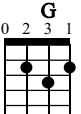
Now try the same tune in a different “key”.

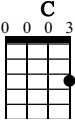
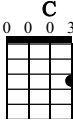
Try playing these tunes, using the tablature. You will find more music to play in The School Ukulele Orchestra Instrumental Book, available for download: www.school-ukulele-orchestra.net.


			
Fre - re Jac - ques		Fre - re Jac - ques	
Dor - mez - vous?		Dor - mez - vous?	
1 3 0 1	1 3 0 1	0 1 3	0 1 3

			
Sonnez les ma - ti - nes		Sonnez les ma - ti - nes	
Ding dang dong		Ding dang dong	
3 5 3 1 0	3 5 3 1 0	1 0 1	1 0 1

					
There were	ten in the	bed and the	li - ttle one	said "Roll	o - ver"
2 2	3 3 3	3 2 2	3 3 3	3 5	2 3

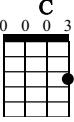
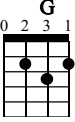
						
"Roll	o - ver"	So they	all rolled	o - ver and	one fell	out
5 2	3	2 2	3 3	3 3 2	3 3	3







Head shoul - ders knees and toes knees and toes

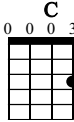
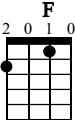
T 0 3 2 3 0 3 3 3
 A 3 3 2 3 0 3 3 3
 B

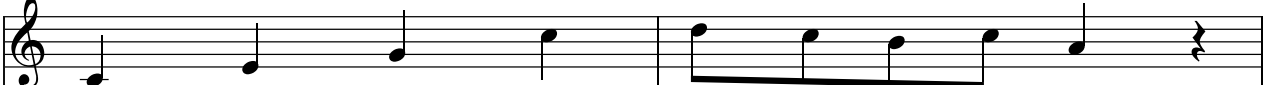





Head shoul - ders knees and toes knees and toe - s An - d

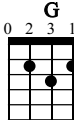
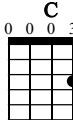
3 0 3 2 3 2 3 3 3 1 0 2
 3 3 2 3 2 3 3 3 1 0 2
 2 2







eyes and ears and mou - th an - d nose

0 0 3 5 3 2 3 0
 0 0 3 5 3 2 3 0
 0








Head shoul - ders knees and toes knees and toes

2 2 0 2 3 0 0 0
 2 2 0 2 3 0 0 0
 3 0 0 0


If you are playing with others, you can try this tablature in three parts. One part plays the chords, using a rhythm that suits the song. The second part plays the blue notes and the third part plays the replying red notes.


2 0 1 0 F


2 0 1 0 F


Hill and gu - lly ri - der Hill and gu - lly


3 3 3 5 3 0 1 1 1 1


2 0 1 0 F


2 0 1 0 F


3 Hill and gu - lly ri - der Hill and gu - lly Took my


3 3 3 5 3 0 1 1 1 1 1 3


2 0 1 0 F


2 0 1 0 F


5 horse and I'm co - ming down Hill and gu - lly But the


0 1 1 2 2 0 1 1 1 1 1 3


2 0 1 0 F


2 0 1 0 F


7 horse done stum - ble down Hill and gu - lly And the

0 1 2 2 0 1 1 1 1 1 3

2 0 1 0 F


2 0 1 0 F


9 night come and tum - ble down Hill and gu - lly

0 1 1 2 2 0 1 1 1 1

About the Music Used in this Book

- Row Row Row Your Boat - English children's song
- London's Burning - English folk song
- Frere Jacques - French folk song
- Hill and Gully Rider - Jamaican working song
- Bumble Bee - From a song by Colonel Sanford C Faulkner (1806-1874)
- Ah Poor Bird - English folk song
- Ten In The Bed - Traditional children's counting song
- Head Shoulders Knees and Toes - 20th century children's song
- Tinga Layo - Caribbean children's song
- This Old Man - English children's song
- Taba Naba - From Murray Island in the Torres Strait. This song celebrates reef travel via the "taxi of the Torres Strait", the dinghy. Dalassa Pau, originally from Darley Island, shared this song with Frank York, who published it in "Children's Songs of the Torres Strait Islands". Dalassa Pau was the principal of Coconut Island State School. The verse in English is arranged by Russell Baker, based on the translation in Frank York's book.
- Hey Ho Nobody Home - English children's song
- Warami Ngallowah Mittigar - Dharug Dalang greeting song by Russell Baker, with thanks to Jacinta Tobin, Corina Norman and Uncle Colin Locke.
- Mary Had A Little Lamb - American children's song
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star - Traditional European lullaby

