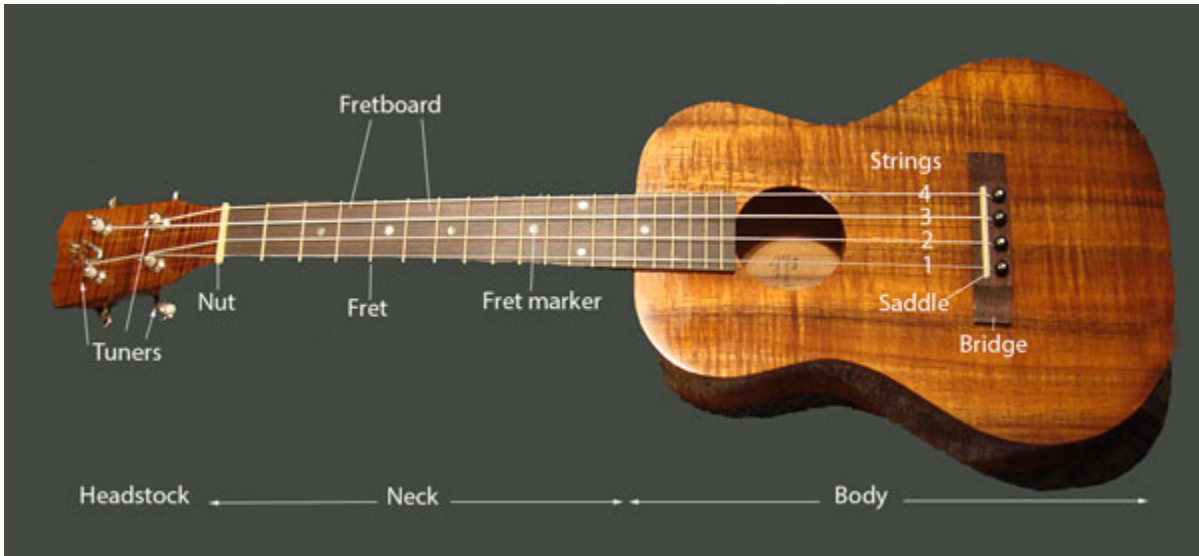


# Ukulele Basics

## Parts of the ukulele

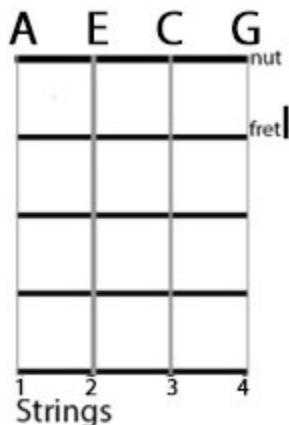


## Open Strings

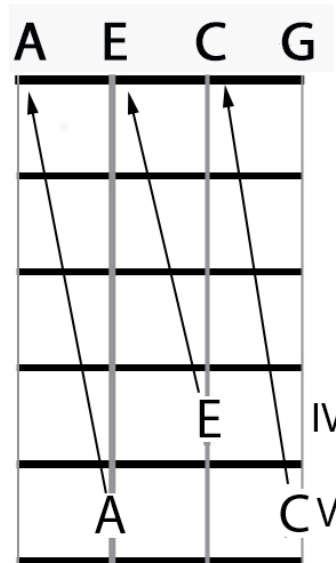


**Goats Can Eat Anything**

Like the first 4 strings of a guitar with a capo at fret V



## Tuning the ukulele to itself



If you don't have an electronic tuner, you can fret the uke strings to tune it to itself as above – fret 4<sup>th</sup> string at fret V and play the C and compare likewise for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> string

Most often, the ukulele string is flat. To tune higher, turn the tuning peg counter-clockwise

THIS IS FOR EDUCATIONAL USE ONLY - NOT FOR SALE



## The C Scale

We will often play in the key of C major. C is the "root" note, we begin there.

This key, C uses a scale consisting of the notes **C D E F G A B C**

You have probably seen the major scale on a piano as the white keys.

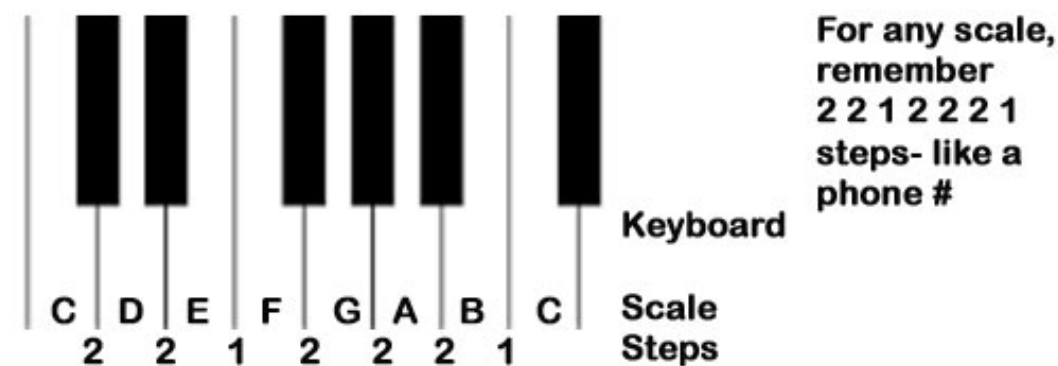
Note the black keys, called sharps or flats – when ascending or descending

These are not played in this scale, but can be counted long with the white key notes

Start at C... C C# D – 2 steps then start with D D# E – 2 steps then E F - 1 step... **221**

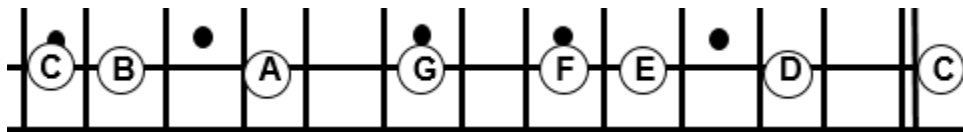
F F# G– 2 steps, G G# A – 2 steps, A A# B – 2 steps, B C - 1 step....**2221**

**This will work for any major scale**

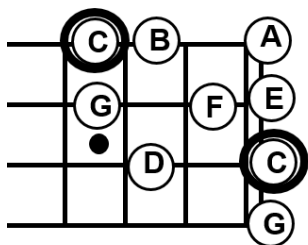


Play the scale using only the third string - C string -frets 0, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11,and 12

Starting at the first fret, go up 2 frets, play. Then, go up 2 more, then 1, 2, 2, 2, 1



You could also find these notes near the nut and play it there to avoid moving your left hand up the neck and keep things compact.



Begin at C on the open 3<sup>rd</sup> string, up 2, then move to the open 2<sup>nd</sup> string for E, then up 1 to the F, up to to G. then play the open first string for A, up 2 for B and lastly up 1 for C. The intervals are exactly the same, we are just using the open strings because they will work for this C scale.

One excellent way to improve is to learn this scale and play it every day until you don't have to look at your left hand. Then some day you will be able to play it without thinking about the notes. Many jazz musicians warm up by playing scales.

## Introduction to Chords

A chord is a group of notes played at the same time - play strings 4,3 and 2 GCE=C

Remember the C scale with the notes

**C D E F G A B C**

We could assign numbers to each note relative to C

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1**

**C E G C**

If we start at C and choose every other note, we get a **C major chord, C E G - 1,3,5**

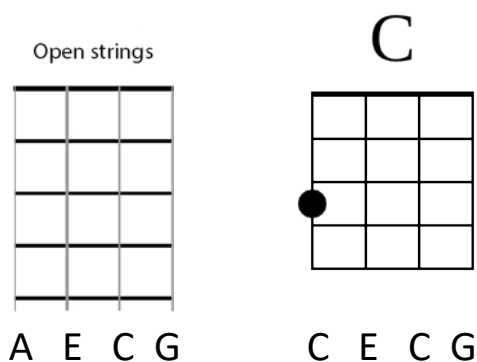
Play one, skip one, play one, skip one - begins again at 1

For the ukulele, we have 4 strings, so you could play are 2 C's in the C chord GCEC

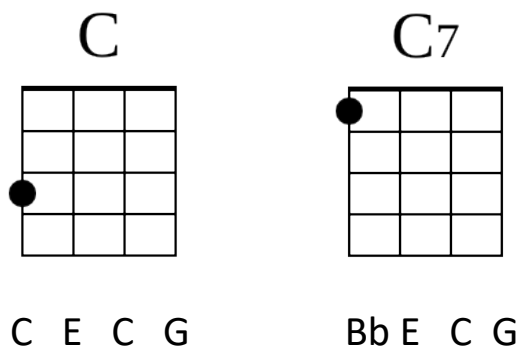
These are in a different order and will have a different sound than CEG

Let's look at your first chord - **C**. Place your right ring finger behind the third fret of the first string as illustrated below - this changes the 1st string A to C for CECG.

Remember the C scale



## Your next chord - C7



When you lower the pitch of the first string to Bb, fretting it at the first fret rather than the 3rd, and add this note to the C chord ECG, it is called a C7 chord BbECG.

**Three Rules:** 1. Smile 2. Just keep strumming 3. Big finish

**Strumming** - left hand - two methods:

1. Hold hand palm towards chest - point index finger at yourself



Strum with index fingernail down

2. Strum with thumb only - best for down only, softer effect

- Strum comes from wrist - keep it loose and easy

- like shaking water off your hand

**C Chord** - Ring finger right hand 3rd fret first string

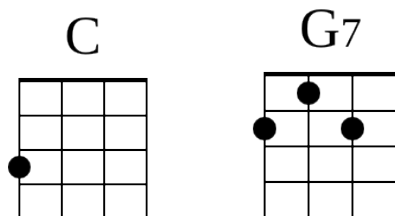
**Strum Patterns:** D=down U=up      Count 1,2,3,4, 1,2,3,4

Tap your foot on all beats- 1, 2, 3, 4 or 1 and 2 and 3 and 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. D D D D | D D D D | D D D D | D D D D | D D D D | D D D D |  
2. D D | D D | D D | D D | D D | D D |  
3. D | D | D | D | D | D |  
4. U U U U | U U U U | U U U U | U U U U | U U U U | U U U U |

There is a practice sheet on strums on the [ukeeducation.org](http://ukeeducation.org) website

## Chord Practice

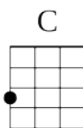


### C to G7

Start with your ring finger (#3) on the third fret for C, then slide it back to the second fret on the first string. Put your long finger on the third string, second fret and then your index finger on the second string first fret.

Practice **C to G7**. Slide ring finger back to 3rd fret to change **G7 to C** - **C x8, G7 x8, C x8, G7 x8, C x4, G7 x4, C x2, G7 x2, C x2, G7 x2**

### Row, Row, Row Your Boat      First note = C      - open 3rd string



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

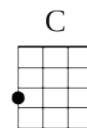


Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream!

### Swing Low, Sweet Chariot      First note=E - open 2nd

C

G7



Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home

C

G7

C

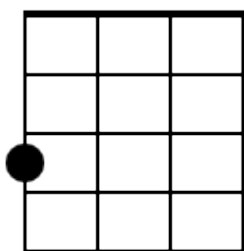


Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home

## Chord Practice - C to F

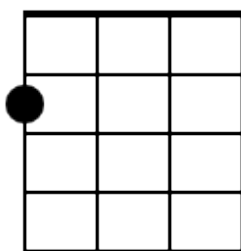
Use 1 finger on your left hand for each fret

### C



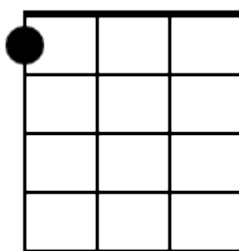
C E C G

### Cmaj7



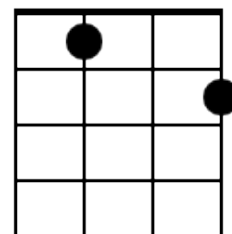
B E C G

### C7



Bb E C G

### F



A F C A

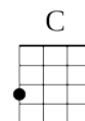
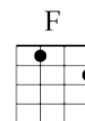
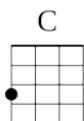
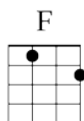
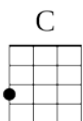
**C to F** Walk down first string - 3rd finger C, 2nd Cmaj7, 1st C7. Then roll your index finger over to second string and stretch your long finger to the fourth string second fret for F. Practice C to F and F to C.

**C x8 strums, Cmaj7 x8, C7 x8 - F x8, then 4 strums each, then 2 then 1**

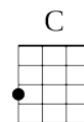
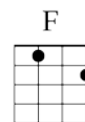
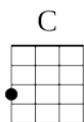
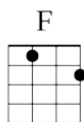
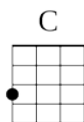
## Do Wah Diddy

Key of C

First note=G



There she was just a-walkin' down the street, singin' "Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do"



snappin' her fingers and shufflin' her feet, singin' "Do wah diddy diddy dum diddy do"

## Melody TAB

|   |               |                |                   |            |                  |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|
| A | -----         | -0-0-0-----    | -----             | -0-0-----  | -----            | -0-0-0-----    |
| E | -3--3-3--3-3- | -----1-3--0-1- | -3--3-3--3-3-3-3- | -----1-3-- | -3-3-3-3--3-3-3- | -----1-3--0-1- |
| C | -----         | -----          | -----             | -----      | -----            | -----          |
| G | -----         | -----          | -----             | -----      | -----            | -----          |
|   | G G G G G     | A A A F G E F  | G G G G G G G     | A A F G    | G G G G G G G    | A A A F G E F  |

The 4 horizontal lines above represent the 4 strings as if the ukulele were laid before you on a table. G C E A fourth string to first string. The numbers show the position that you fret the string. In this example, fret the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret of the second string for G, play it 5 times, then 1<sup>st</sup> string open for A. The vertical lines represent bars between measures – a way of organizing the music. This format is called tablature or TAB for short.

# SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

TRADITIONAL

KEY OF C FIRST NOTE = E

## Chorus

C
F C
G7  
 Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home  
C
F C
G7
C  
 Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home

C
F
C  
 I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,  
C
G7  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

C
F
C  
 A band of angels comin' after me,  
C
G7
C  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

## Chorus

C
F
C  
 If you get there before I do,  
C
G7  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

C
F
C  
 Just tell my friends that I'm a comin' too,  
C
G7
C  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

## Chorus

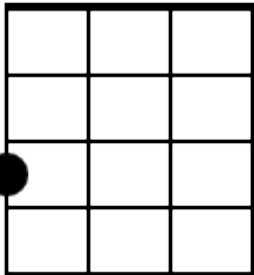
C
F
C  
 I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,  
G7  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

C
F
C  
 But still my soul feels heavenly bound  
C
G7
C  
 Comin' for to carry me home.

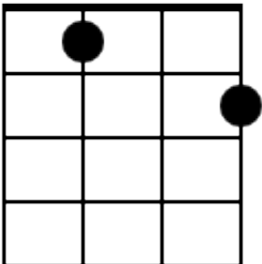
## Chorus

A-----0-----  
 E--0--0-----0-0-3-3-----3-0--3-----0-----  
 C--0--0--0-----0-0-0-0-----0-0-----0-0-----0-0-0-2---0-2-0  
 G-----2-0-----2-0-----  
 E C E C C A G C C C C E E G G A G E G E E A G C C C D E C D C

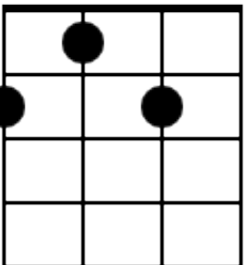
C



F



G7





# YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

C G7 C

C  
The other night dear as I lay sleeping,  
F C  
I dreamed I held you in my arms  
F C  
But when I awoke dear, I was mistaken  
G7 C  
And I hung my head and I cried.

## Chorus

C  
You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.  
F C  
You make me happy, when skies are grey.  
F C  
You'll never know dear, how much I love you  
G7 C  
Please don't take my sunshine a-way.

C  
I'll always love you and make you happy  
F C  
If you will only say the same.  
F C  
But if you leave me and love another  
G7 C  
You'll regret it all someday.

## Chorus

C  
You told me once dear you really love me,  
F C  
And no one else could come between.  
F C  
But if you leave me to love another,  
G7 C  
You would shatter all of my dreams.

## Chorus

C  
But if you stay dear, I'll always love you  
F C  
And then you'll love me one the same  
F C  
We'll have each other and be so happy,  
G7 C  
Our love will burn a brighter flame

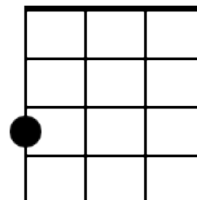
## Chorus

Strum pattern: DD DD DD DD - can strum only 4th string on first down stroke

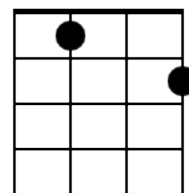
# OLIVER HOOD – NEW VERSE SBG

Key of C First note=G

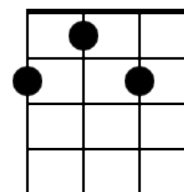
C



F



G7



# This Land Is Your Land

Woody Guthrie

Key of C

First note=C

C F C

This land is your land this land is my land

G7 C

From California to the New York Island

F C

From the Redwood forests to the Gulfstream waters

G7 C

This land was made for you and me

C F C  
As I was walking that ribbon of highway

G7 C

I saw above me an endless skyway

F C

I saw below me a golden valley

G7 C

This land was made for you and me

C F C  
I roamed and rambled and followed my footsteps

G7 C

Through the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts

F C

And all around me a voice was sounding

G7 C

This land was made for you and me

C F C  
This land is your land this land is my land

G7 C

From California to the New York Island

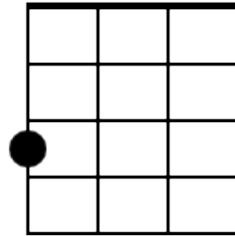
F C

From the Redwood forests to the Gulfstream waters

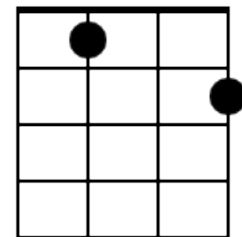
G7 C

This land was made for you and me

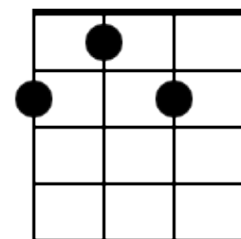
C



F



G7



**Strum pattern: DD DD DD DD**

**First note =C**

# THREE LITTLE BIRDS – BOB MARLEY

Key of C First note = C

C

Chorus:

C

Don't worry, about a thing

F

Cause' every little thing, gonna be alright

C

Singin' don't worry, about a thing

F

Cause' every little thing, gonna be alright

Verse:

C

Rise up this mornin'

G

Smile with the rising sun

C

F

three little birds sit by my doorstep

C

Singin' sweet songs

G

of melodies pure and true

F

C

sayin', this my message to you-oo-oo

Chorus:

C

Don't worry, about a thing

F

Cause' every little thing, gonna be alright

C

Singin' don't worry, about a thing

F

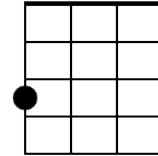
Cause' every little thing, gonna be alright

Repeat Verse

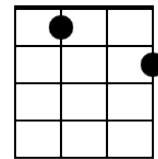
Repeat Chorus

Reggae strum Tap, Up strum, tap Up strum or dD dD - strum on counts 2 and 4

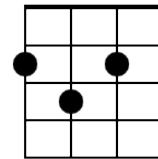
C



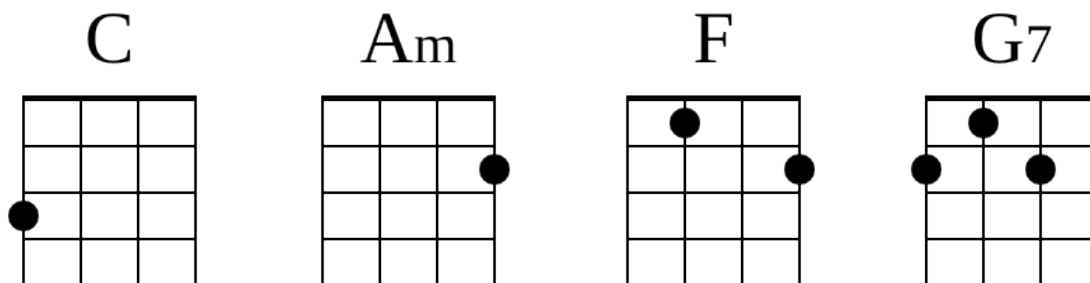
F



G

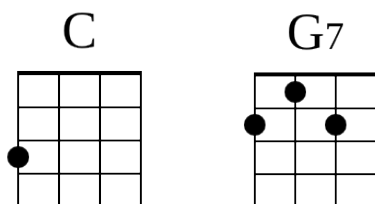


## Chord Practice - a new chord - Am and the C Am F G7 sequence



**C to Am, then to F and G7** Start with your ring finger (#3) on the third fret for **C**. Reach your long finger to the fourth string, second fret for A minor (**Am**). Then place your index finger on the second string first fret for **F**. Then shift your long finger to the third string second fret and put your ring finger down on the first string second fret for **G7** -you may need to rotate your wrist to the left to play G7 comfortably .

Practice **C to Am, Am to F, F to G7, G7 to C** many, many songs use this **C x4, Am x4, F x4, G7 x4, then drop the strums to 2, then 1 – C Am F G7**



### **C to G**

Start with your ring finger (#3) on the third fret for **C**, then move it over to the third fret on the second string. Put your index finger on the third string, second fret and then your long finger on the first string second fret. Practice **C to G**. For G to C, move your ring finger from the second string to the first string, third fret for C.

Practice **G to C, C to G 8 strums each, x 4 then x1 C to G**

# I'm a Believer

# Neil Diamond

Strum D D U U D or D D D D

Key of C

First Note=G

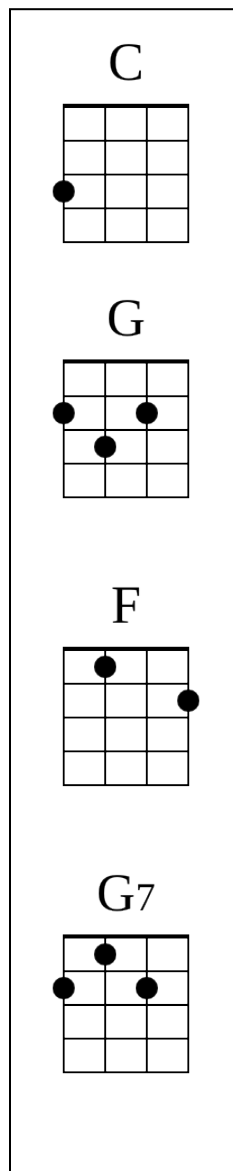
C G C  
I thought love was only true in fairy tales  
C G C  
Meant for someone else but not for me  
F C F C  
Love was out to get me That's the way it seemed  
F C G7  
Disappointment haunted all my dreams

(-----tacet-----) C F C  
Chorus: Then I saw her face  
F C F C  
Now I'm a believer  
F C F C F C F C  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
C F C  
I'm in love, (hmmm) I'm a believer,  
F G7  
I couldn't leave her if I tried  
( riff x 2 )

C G C  
I thought love was more or less a giving thing  
C G C  
Seems the more I gave, the less I got  
F C F C  
What's the use in trying All you get is pain  
F C G  
When I needed sunshine I got rain

Chorus  
F C F C  
Love was out to get me That's the way it seemed  
F C G  
Disappointment haunted all my dreams

Chorus  
(-----tacet-----) C F C F C F C (tacet=sing only)  
Yes I saw her face now I'm a believer  
F C F C F C F C F C F C F C F C  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind well, I'm a believer yea, yea yea yea



Riff- G7 shape

A -----  
E-----1-----1---  
C-0--h2-----0--h2----  
G-----

# Octopus's Garden

Strum D D U U D or D D D D

Ringo Starr

Key of C First Note=G

[C] I'd like to be [Am] under the sea  
In [F] an octopus' garden in the [G7] shade  
[C] He'd let us in, [Am] knows where we've been  
In [F] his octopus' garden in the [G7] shade.

[Am] I'd ask my friends to come and see  
[F] An octopus' [G7] garden with me  
[C] I'd like to be [Am] under the sea  
In [F] an octopus' [G7] garden in the [C] shade.

[C] We would be warm [Am] below the storm  
[F] In our little hideaway beneath the [G7] waves  
[C] Resting our head [Am] on the sea bed  
In [F] an octopus' garden near a [G7] cave

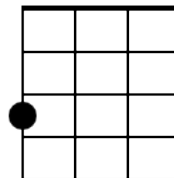
[Am] We would sing and dance around  
[F] Because we know we [G7] can't be found  
[C] I'd like to be [Am] under the sea  
In [F] an octopus' [G7] garden in the [C] shade

[C] We would shout [Am] and swim about  
[F] The coral that lies beneath the [G7] waves  
[C] Oh what joy for [Am] every girl and boy  
[F] Knowing they're happy and they're [G7] safe

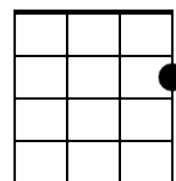
[Am] We'd be so happy you and me  
[F] No one there to tell us what to [G7] do  
[C] I'd like to be [Am] under the sea  
In [F] an octopus' [G7] garden with (C)you.

In [F] an octopus' [G7] garden with [C] you. [Am]  
In [F] an octopus' [G7] garden with [C] you [F] [C]

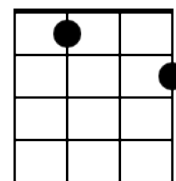
C



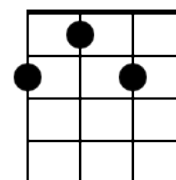
Am



F



G7

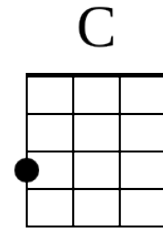


# The Bird Song - Victoria Vox

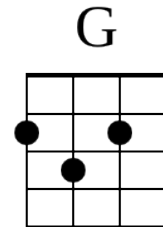
DDUDU

Key of C First Note=C

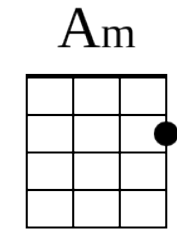
**C** **G**  
 I'm gonna sing, sing like a bird  
**Am** **F**  
 A bird in the sky, the sky so high  
**C** **G**  
 And I'm gonna send, send you a song  
**F** **C**  
 A song from my heart, my heart full of love



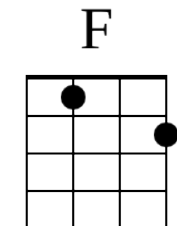
**C** **G**  
 When you look in the mirror, tell me what do you see?  
**Am** **F**  
 Do you see me in your eyes?  
**C** **G**  
 Although I can't be there every day  
**Am** **F**  
 You can hear me if you try



Solo



**C** **G**  
 I'm gonna sing, sing like a bird  
**Am** **F**  
 A bird in the sky, the sky so high  
**C** **G**  
 And I'm gonna send, send you a song  
**F** **C**  
 A song from my heart, my heart full of love



**F** **G** **C**  
 A song from my heart, my heart full of love

A-----0-0---0---3-3-2-0-----0-----  
 E---3---3---0-3---3---3---3---0-3---0-----  
 C--0-2-0---0-2-0-----2---2-0-0---0---2-0-0---  
 G-----  
 C D C G C D C G E G A A G A G C C B A G E G A D E D C C C E D C C

A-----0-----0-----0-----  
 E--3-3-3-1-0---0---3-3-3-3---0---0---3-3-1-0---0---3---0---0---  
 C-----2-----2---0-2---0-2-----2-----2---0-2---0-2---  
 G-----2-----  
 G G G F E E G G G G A C D E C D E A G G F E D E G A D C D E C D E

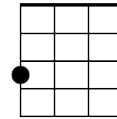
# A SUMMER SONG

Chad and Jeremy

C Am F G                      C              Am F  
 Trees swayin' in the summer breeze  
 G                                      C              Am  
 Showin' off their silver leaves  
 F G                      C              Am F G  
 As we walked by

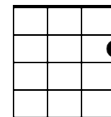
Key of C    1st note= C

C



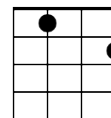
C Am F G7                      C              Am F  
 Soft kisses on a summer's day  
 G7                                      C              Am  
 Laughing all our cares away  
 F G7                      C              Am F G  
 Just you and I

Am



C Am F G7                                      C              Am              F  
 Sweet sleepy warmth of summer nights  
 G7                                      C              Am  
 Gazing at the distant lights  
 F G7                      C  
 In the starry sky

F

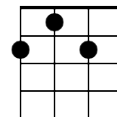


## Bridge

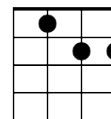
1st note= A

F                      G7                                      C              Am  
 They say that all good things must end some day  
 Dm              G                                      Am  
 Autumn leaves must fall  
 G C    Am  
 But don't you know that it hurts me so  
 Dm                      Am -G  
 To say goodbye to you  
 Am    G  
 Wish you didn't have to go  
 Am              G  
 No no no no

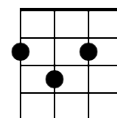
G7



Dm



G



C Am F  
 And when the rain  
 G7                                      C              Am F  
 Beats against my window pane  
 G7                                      C              Am  
 I'll think of summer days again  
 F G7                      C  
 And dream of you

Can arpeggio strings 4,1,2,3 throughout except strum bridge



## What Key are we in? Always try to determine before playing the song

Why would you want to take the time to sort this out? To this point, we have almost exclusively played in the key of C. This key uses chord shapes at the nut that are relatively easy to form. What if you found your vocal range could not sing all of the notes in the melody? One could remain mute, or change the key (transpose) to one that is manageable.

The **key** determines the **scale** and a group of chords that work well together. The key is also the root note. You can use the scale to determine the chords used in the key. You already know how to determine the scale (221-2221). Let's look at the chords in the key of C major. Write the scale. Then, to number chords, start from the root C and count –using roman numerals for chords (2, 3 and 6 are minor chords and usually denoted as lower case. 7 is a diminished chord.

So... C=I, D=ii, E=iii, F=IV, G=V, A=vi, B=VII<sup>0</sup>. You can use your fingers to count the I, IV and V. Let's look at a chart with the chords from the C scale. You will see some of these in more complex songs.

| Key | I     | ii     | iii    | IV    | V     | vi     | vii <sup>0</sup> | #/b's |
|-----|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|-------|
| C   | C<br> | Dm<br> | Em<br> | F<br> | G<br> | Am<br> | Bdim<br>         | None  |

If you look at the songs we've played, mostly, we've used the I, IV and V chords – C, F and G – each has its own character – I is the home chord, IV is the away chord and V is the tension chord that wants to resolve back to the home. We've also used the minor chords, vi and ii, and we are ready to get to the iii. Minor chords tend to have a wistful or sad character.

### How to tell the key of a song - for major keys

The key is often the chord that the song ends with and sometimes begins. Or, find the major chords and look for the one farthest separated from the others. You can read the key if you are reading music from a staff- C has no sharps or flats, - F has Bb, G has F#, - A mnemonic - F= 1 Flat For sharps, GDA=1,2,3 sharps (Green Dopey Alligator)

If you work out the scale for each using 221-2221, you'd find the sharps and flats

Key of F



Key of G



Try to find the key of every song as you begin to look it over.

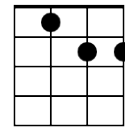
Then look for any unexpected chords. Also, the structure of the song – is there a chorus? Sung many times or once at beginning? Is there a bridge? Look over the piece first, and you'll learn more and understand what to do when you get there

## Three new minor chords - **D minor G minor** an easy **B7**

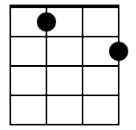
**Dm** easy from F - just put your ring finger on the third string second fret

**F x4, Dm x4, F x4, Dm x4 F x2, Dm x2, F x1, Dm x1**

Dm

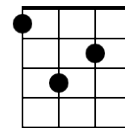


F

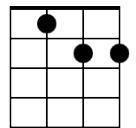


**Gm** from Dm, move ring finger to third fret of second string, then slide long finger over to third string second fret, then put index finger on first string first fret **Play Gm x4, Dm x 4, repeat then Gm x2, Dm x2**

Gm

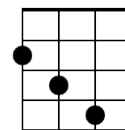


Dm

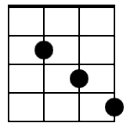


**Em** Place your ring finger (#3) on the fourth fret of the third string, then put your long finger on the second string, third fret and then your index finger on the first string second fret. Remember, you can play a **F#7** just by moving this shape toward you. These 2 chords are often paired in songs like the bridge in Elvis's Can't Help Falling in Love with You

Em



B7



Minor chords have a flatted 3<sup>rd</sup>

So for a C m chord, let's look to the C scale **C D E F G A B C**

Assign numbers relative to C

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1**

C chord is

**C E G**

C minor chord has flat 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eb

**C Eb G**

Now, challenge yourself to sort out the notes of an Dm chord

D scale is D E F# G A B C# D – using 221-2221 to select scale notes

D chord D F# A 1 3 5

Dm D F A 1 b3 5

How are we playing the Dm? (E A C E) – Don't worry, be happy

# Don't Worry, Be Happy

Bobby McFerrin 1986

Intro: 2 measures of each [C] [Dm] [F] [C] Till Ready [D DU UDU UDU UDU UDU] Key of C First note = E

[C] Here's a little song I wrote,  
[Dm] you might want to sing it note for note,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy

[C] In every life we have some trouble,  
[Dm] when you worry you make it double,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy / / /

(Chorus) (Ooh's) [C] [Dm] [F] [C] X 2

[C] Ain't got no place to lay your head,  
[Dm] Somebody came and took your bed,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy

[C] The landlord says your rent is late,  
[Dm] He may have to litigate,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy / / /

(Chorus) (Ooh's) [C] [Dm] [F] [C] X 2

[C] Ain't got no cash, But I've got style,  
[Dm] Playin' my ukulele makes me smile,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy

[C] 'Cause when you worry, your face will frown,  
[Dm] And that will bring everybody Down, So  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy / / /

(Chorus) (Ooh's) [C] [Dm] [F] [C] X 2

[C] Now there's the little song I wrote,  
[Dm] I hope you learned it note for note,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy

[C] In your life expect some trouble,  
[Dm] but when you worry you make it double,  
Don't [F] worry, Be [C] happy / / /

(Chorus) (Ooh's) [C] [Dm] [F] [C] X 2

C

Dm

F

## Chorus Melody

A -3--0--0-----  
E-----3---0-3-0-----0-----  
C-----2-0-2---2---  
G-----

A -----  
E-3-0-----0-----0-----  
C-----2-0-2-2-----2-0-2---0-  
G-----2---

# Somewhere Over the Rainbow

C Em F C F E7 Am F  
 Oooo,oooo,oooo... Oooo, oooo, oooo...

C Em  
 Somewhere over the rainbow  
 F C  
 Way up high  
 F C  
 And the dreams that you dream of  
 G Am F  
 Once in a lullaby...

C Em  
 Oh, somewhere over the rainbow  
 F C  
 Blue birds fly  
 F C  
 And the dreams that you dream of  
 G Am F  
 Dreams really do come true...

C  
 Someday I'll wish upon a star  
 G Am F  
 Wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
 C  
 Where trouble melts like lemon drops  
 G  
 High above the chimney tops  
 Am F  
 That's where you'll find me

C Em  
 Oh, somewhere over the rainbow  
 F C  
 Blue birds fly  
 F C  
 And the dream that you dare to  
 G Am F  
 Why oh why can't I...

C G  
 Well I see trees of green  
 F C  
 And red roses too  
 F C E7 Am  
 I watch them bloom for me and you  
 F  
 And I think to myself  
 G Am F  
 What a wonderful world

## Intro

-----  
 3-3-3-3-3-3-3-5-5-3-3-3-3-3-5-5-5-5-7-7-10-5  
 -4-4-4-4-5-5-5-5-5-----4-4-4-4-6-6-6-6-----  
 -----

Key of C First Note= C  
 C G

Well I see skies of blue  
 F C  
 And I see clouds of white  
 F C  
 And the brightness of day  
 E7 Am  
 I like the dark  
 F  
 And I think to myself  
 G C F C  
 What a wonderful world

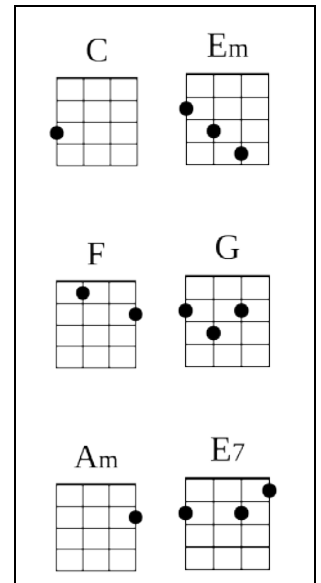
G  
 The colors of the rainbow  
 C  
 So pretty in the sky  
 G C  
 Are also on the faces of people passing by  
 F C  
 See friends shakin hands saying  
 F C  
 "How do you do?"  
 F C Dm G  
 They're really sayin, 'I, I love you."

C G  
 I hear babies cryin'  
 F C  
 And watch them grow  
 F C E7 Am  
 They'll learn much more than we'll ever know  
 F  
 And I think to myself  
 G Am F  
 What a wonderful world

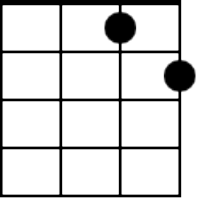
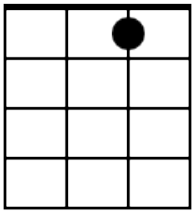
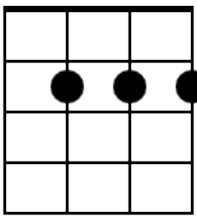
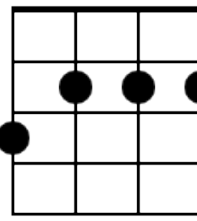
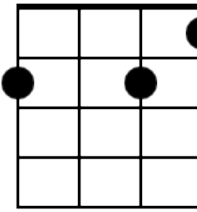
C  
 Someday I'll wish upon a star  
 G Am F  
 Wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
 Where trouble melts like lemon drops  
 G  
 High above the chimney tops  
 Am F  
 That's where you'll find me

C Em  
 Oh, somewhere over the rainbow  
 F C  
 Way up high  
 F C  
 And the dreams that you dare to  
 F G Am F  
 Why oh why can't I

C Em F C F E7 Am F  
 Oooo,oooo,oooo... Oooo, oooo, oooo...



## Chord Practice - New Chords - A D E7

|  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>A</b></p>  <p><b>A E C# A</b></p> | <p><b>A7</b></p>  <p><b>A E C# G</b></p> | <p><b>D</b></p>  <p><b>A F# D A</b></p> | <p><b>D7</b></p>  <p><b>C F# D A</b></p> | <p><b>E7</b></p>  <p><b>B E D G#</b></p> |
|--|---|--|---|---|

**A** is similar to **Am**, but with your index finger added on the third string, first fret. **A7** has the E down 2 steps to D, so remove the long finger.

To play **D**, rotate your wrist to the right and move your long finger over to the third string, second fret and put your index on fourth string second fret and ring on second string second fret. Play **A7** by not fretting the 3<sup>rd</sup> string.

Then to play **E7**, move your index finger back to the fourth string, first fret and your ring finger over to the first string second fret.

Play **A**, **D**, **E7** These chords work well together and are particularly useful for playing blues songs. Try plucking each string to make sure you are playing clean.

Perhaps try some new strums like down/down/up/up/down

**A x8, D x8, E7 x8. A x4, D x4, E7 x4. A, D and E7 then play**

**AAAA A7A7A7A7 DDDD D7D7D7D7 E7E7E7E7 DDDD**

7<sup>th</sup> chords made by adding a flatted 7<sup>th</sup> with the 1 3 5 triad

For instance, the scale is A B C# D E F# G# A

So A7 includes 1 3 5 b7 A C# E and **G** (the flatted 7<sup>th</sup>)

# HOW LONG BLUES

BY LEROY CARR

Key of A First note=A

**A** **A7**  
How long, baby how long,

**D** **D7**  
Has that evening train been gone?

**A** **E7** **A**  
How long, how how long, baby how long?

Went to the [A] station, didn't see no [A7] train.  
Down in my [D] heart, I have an aching [D7] pain.  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [A] long?

I feel dis[A]gusted, I feel so [A7] bad  
Thinking 'bout the [D] good time that I once had [D7] had.  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [A] long?

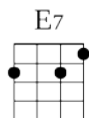
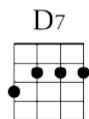
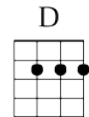
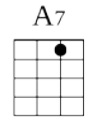
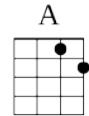
I could see the [A] green grass growing on the [A7] hill;  
I ain't seen no [D] greenback on a dollar [D7] bill.  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [A] long?

You're gonna be [A] sorry you'll feel so [A7] blue.  
When you want [D] me, baby, I declare I want, want [D7] you.  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [A] long?

Solo on Verse – start on E

Don't have no [A] money for to ride the [A7] train.  
I would ride the [D] rails, baby, to be with you a[D7]gain.  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [E] long?

How [A] long, baby how [A7] long  
Must I [D] keep my, my watching [D7] point?  
How [A] long, how how [E7] long, baby how [A] long?



# KEY TO THE HIGHWAY

BY BIG BILL BROONZY

**A** **E7**  
I got the key to the highway

**D** **D7**  
Billed out and bound to go

**A7**  
I'm gonna leave here running  
**E7** **A** **E7**  
Walking is most too slow

**A** **E7**  
I'm going back to the border,  
**D** **D7**  
Where I'm better known

**A7**  
You know you haven't don't nothing,  
**E7** **A** **E7**  
But drove a good man away from home

**A** **E7**  
When the moon peeps over the mountain  
**D** **D7**  
I'll be on my way.

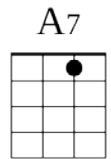
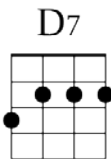
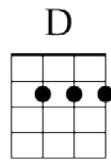
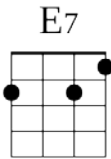
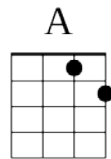
**A7**  
I'm gonna roam this old highway  
**E7** **A** **E7**  
Until the break of day

**A** **E7**  
So give me one, one more kiss mama

**D** **D7**  
Just before I go.

**A7**  
Cause when I leave this time,  
**E7** **A** **E7**  
I won't be coming back no more.

REPEAT FIRST VERSE



Intro/ Turnaround/ (for Ending no E7)

WALKDOWN

E7

A ----0-----0-----0-----| -22-22-22-22|

E---3---3-2---2-1---1---| -----|

C --4---4-3---3-2---2-h1| -22-22-22-22|

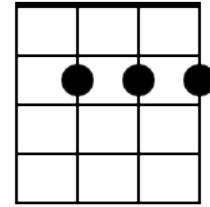
G -----| -11-11-11-11|

# Jambalaya • Hank Williams

## INTRO

A D A D A D A D Key of D First note= F#

D



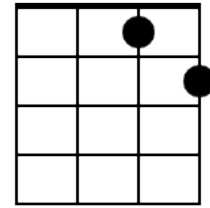
D A  
Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh my oh

D  
Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the bayou

A  
My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh my oh

D  
Son of a gun, we'll have good fun on the bayou

A



## CHORUS:

D A  
Jambalaya, a-crawfish pie and-a fillet gumbo

D  
'Cause tonight I'm gonna see my cher a mio

A  
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be gay-oh

D  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

## Solo - verse

E-----  
B-----2-2-----2-2-----3-  
G---2-4---2-4---2---2---22---4-2-4-22---2-4---2-4---2---2---22---4-2-4-22---  
D-4---4---4---4---2-----4-----4-----4-----2-----

D A  
Thiba-deaux, Fontaineaux, the place is buzzin'

D  
Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the dozen

A  
Dress in style, go hog wild, me oh my oh

D  
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou.

## REPEAT CHORUS



# LOVE IN VAIN

Robert Johnson

## Intro

Key of C First note= G

**C** **C7**  
 Well I followed her to the station with a suitcase in my hand  
**F** **C G7 C**  
 Yea, I followed her to the station with a suitcase in my hand  
**G7**  
 Whoa, it's hard to tell it's hard to tell  
**F** **C turnaround**  
 But all your love's in vain

**C** **C7**  
 When the train come in the station I looked her in the eye  
**F** **C G7 C**  
 Well the train come into the station and I looked her in the eye  
**G7** **F** **C**  
 Whoa, I felt so sad, so lonesome that I could not help but cry  
**C turnaround**  
 All your love's in vain  
**SOLO**

**C** **C7**  
 When the train left the station, it had two lights on behind  
**F** **C G7 C**  
 Yea, when the train had left the station, it had two lights on behind  
**G7** **F** **C**  
 Whoa, the blue light was my baby, and the red light was my mind  
**C turnaround**  
 All my love's in vain

## Intro:

**C** **G7**  
 A -3-3-3---3-3-3---3-3-3---3-----2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-----  
 E -----1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-----  
 C -----2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-----  
 G--3-----2-----1-----0-----

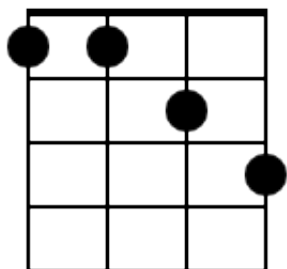
## Variants for turnaround:

**C** **C** **G7**  
 A -3---3---3---3---or---3-----3-----3-----2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2  
 E -----1-1--1-1--1-1--1-1-----  
 C -----2-2--2-2--2-2--2-2-----  
 G--3---2---1---0-----3---3---2---2---1---1---0-----

Can "pinch" the strings between right thumb and index finge

Congratulations! You have arrived – at the crossroads – you now need to choose whether you will languish in a state of uke Bb ignorance, or take on a challenge – **the Bb chord** – believe me, it’s worth it. This will enable you to play in the key of F – many uke songs are in F – and this is the first step towards moving up the neck.

## Bb



Bb F D Bb

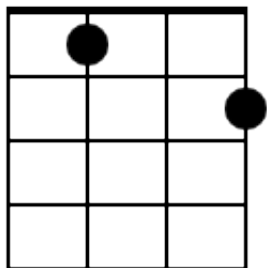
The key to getting this chord is the pinch on the first 2 strings with your index finger – you may need to move your thumb more to the back of the neck. Once you have it, play these 2 strings to see if the sound is clear. Adjust until it is.

Then, just place your long finger on the third string second fret and ring finger on the fourth string third fret.

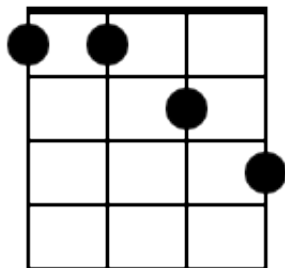
Again, play each string individually to seek out a plunker. If it’s a bit off, play it that way for now, but practice getting this chord to ring clear. Move it up a fret to play F# - pretty easy? You could play it at the 5<sup>th</sup> fret for A.

This is the great thing about moveable chords – we will learn others too. For now, let’s learn a chord progression in key of F - F Bb C – and a new way to play C – at the III fret – slide the Bb up to the III fret

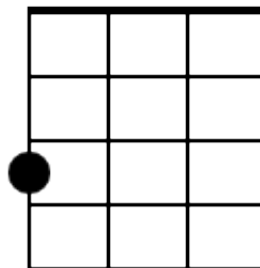
## F



## Bb



## C



Play 8 strums on each chord, then 4 strums per chord

# I'LL BE YOUR BABY TONIGHT

BOB DYLAN

F

Close your eyes, close the door,

G

You don't have to worry any more.

Bb C F

I'll be your baby tonight.

F

Shut the light, shut the shade,

G

You don't have to be afraid.

Bb C F

I'll be your baby tonight.

Bb

Well, that mockingbird's gonna sail away,

F

We're gonna forget it.

G

That big, fat moon is gonna shine like a spoon,

C

But we're gonna let it,

[no chord]

You won't regret it.

F

Kick your shoes off, do not fear,

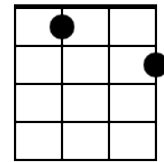
G

Bring that bottle over here.

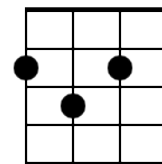
Bb C F

I'll be your baby tonight.

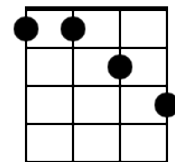
F



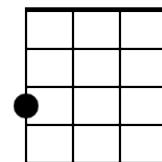
G



Bb



C



# Let It Be Me

# Everly Brothers

Key of F

First note = A

F C Dm Am  
I bless the day I found you I want to stay around you

Bb F Gm C F C  
And so I beg you Let it be me

F C Dm Am  
Don't take this heaven from one if you must cling to someone

Bb F Gm C F  
Now and forever, Let it be me

\*

Bb Am  
Each time we meet love

Bb F  
I find complete love

Gm Am  
Without your sweet love

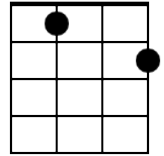
Bb A A7  
What would life be . .

F C Dm Am  
So never leave me lonely, tell me you love me only

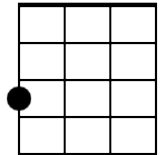
Bb F Gm C F  
And that you'll always, Let it be me

Repeat from \*

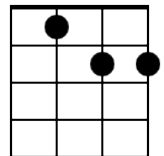
F



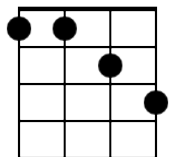
C



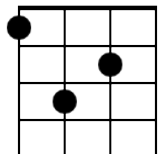
Dm



Bb



Gm



# My Girl

Intro: [F] [Bb] [F] [Bb]

Key of F First note=F

I've got [F] sunshine [Bb] on a cloudy [F] day [Bb]

When it's [F] cold outside

[Bb] I've got the [F] month of May [Bb]

[F] I [Dm] guess [Bb] you'd [C] say

[F] What can [Dm] make me [Bb] feel this [C7] way

[F] My girl.....talkin' 'bout [Bb] my girl [C]

I've got [F] so much honey [Bb] the bees envy [F] me [Bb]

I've got a [F] sweeter song

[F] Than the birds in the [Bb] trees [F]

[F] I [Dm] guess [Bb] you'd [C] say

[F] What can [Dm] make me [Bb] feel this [C7] way

[F] My girl.....talkin' 'bout [Dm] my girl [C7]

[F] [Bb] [F] [Bb] [Dm] [C7] [Am7] [D]

I don't [G] need no money [C] fortune or [G] fame [C]

I've got [C] all the riches baby

[C] One man can [G] claim [C]

[G] I [Am] guess [C] you'd [D] say

[G] What can [Am] make me [C] feel this [D] way

[G] My girl.....talkin' 'bout [Am] my girl [D]

[G] [C] [G] [C] [G] [C] [G]

## Bass line

|-----5--8-|

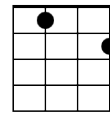
|-----5--8-----|

|-5--7-----|

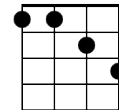
|-----|

# Temptations

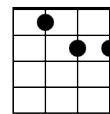
F



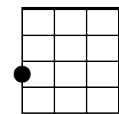
Bb



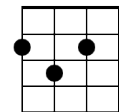
Dm



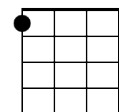
C



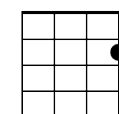
G



C7



Am



# SITTIN' IN LIMBO

CLIFF/BRIGHT

Reggae strum

Key of G

First note=G

**G**  
Sitting here in limbo, but I know it won't be long.

**C** **G**  
Sitting here in limbo, like a bird without a song.

**D**  
Well they're putting up resistance,

**C** **D** **G**  
But I know that my faith will lead me on.

**G**  
Sitting here in limbo, waiting for the dice to roll.

**C** **G**  
Sitting here in limbo, got some time to search my soul.

**D**  
Well they're putting up resistance

**C** **D** **G**  
But I know that my faith will lead me on.

**C** **G**  
I don't know where life will lead me,

**C** **G**  
But I know where I've been.

**C** **G**  
I can't say what life will show me,

**C** **G**  
But I know what I've seen.

**B7** **Em**  
Tried my hand at love and friendship,

**B7** **Em**  
But all that is passed and gone.

**A** **D**  
This little boy is moving on.

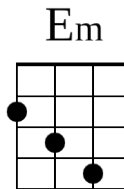
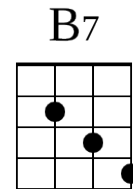
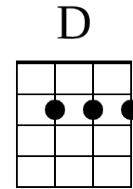
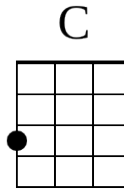
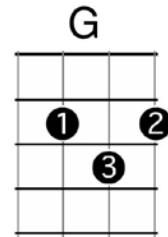
**G**  
Sitting here in limbo waiting for the tide to flow.

**C** **G**  
Sitting here in limbo knowing that I have to go.

**D**  
Well they're putting up resistance,

**C** **D** **G**  
But I know that my faith will lead me on.

**G**  
Sitting in limbo...



# America the Beautiful

Katherine Lee Bates / Samuel A. Ward

Key of G 1st note=D

Scale = G-A-BC-D-E F#G

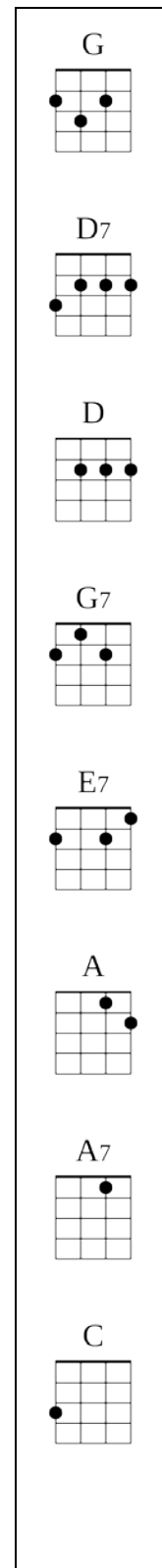
**G D7**  
O beautiful for spacious skies,  
**G D7**  
For amber waves of grain,  
**G D**  
For purple mountain majesties  
**E7 A A7**  
Above the fruited plain!

## Chorus:

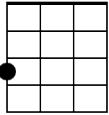
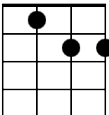
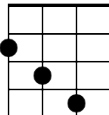
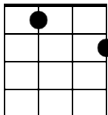
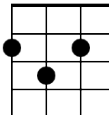
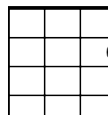
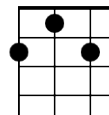
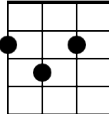
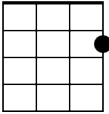
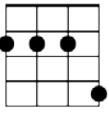
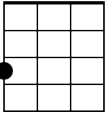
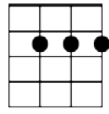
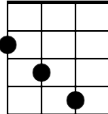
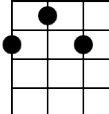
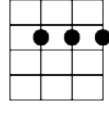
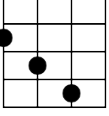
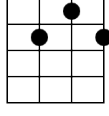
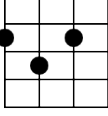
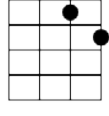
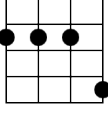
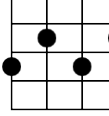
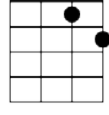
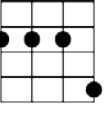
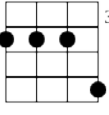
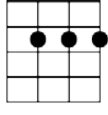
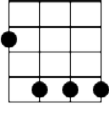
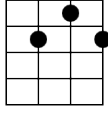
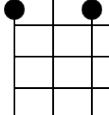
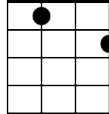
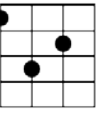
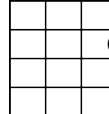
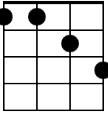
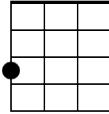
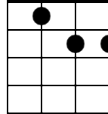
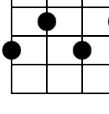
**G D7**  
America! America!  
**G G7**  
God shed His grace on thee,  
**C G**  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
**C D7 G**  
From sea to shining sea!

**G D7**  
O beautiful for patriot dream  
**G D7**  
That sees beyond the years  
**G D**  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
**E7 A A7**  
Undimmed by human tears.

**G D7**  
America! America!  
**G G7**  
God shed His grace on thee,  
**C G**  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
**C D7 G**  
From sea to shining sea!



# Chorded Scales for the Most Common Keys

| Key      | I  | ii  | iii  | IV  | V  | vi   | vii <sup>0</sup>   | #/b's             |
|----------|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>C</b> | C<br>   | Dm<br>   | Em<br>    | F<br>    | G<br>   | Am<br>    | Bdim<br>    | None              |
| <b>G</b> | G<br>   | Am<br>   | Bm<br>    | C<br>    | D<br>   | Em<br>    | Fdim<br>    | #<br>F#           |
| <b>D</b> | D<br>   | Em<br>   | Gbm<br>   | G<br>    | A<br>   | Bm<br>    | Cdim<br>    | ##<br>F#C#        |
| <b>A</b> | A<br> | Bm<br> | Dbm<br> | D<br>  | E<br> | Gbm<br> | Gdim<br>  | ###<br>F#C#<br>G# |
| <b>F</b> | F<br> | Gm<br> | Am<br>  | Bb<br> | C<br> | Dm<br>  | Ebdim<br> | b<br>Bb           |

We have played songs in the keys of C, A, F and G. I play America the Beautiful in G because it fits my vocal range, meaning I can sing those notes. If you wanted to play it in C, because the chords were more manageable or your vocal range were different, you could identify each chord as its number and substitute a different key's corresponding chords. Again, once you have found the key, (I chord), sort out what the IV and V chords (use fingers if necessary) so you will know what will fit. Find some uke tab to songs you like and find the key, then the I, IV and V.