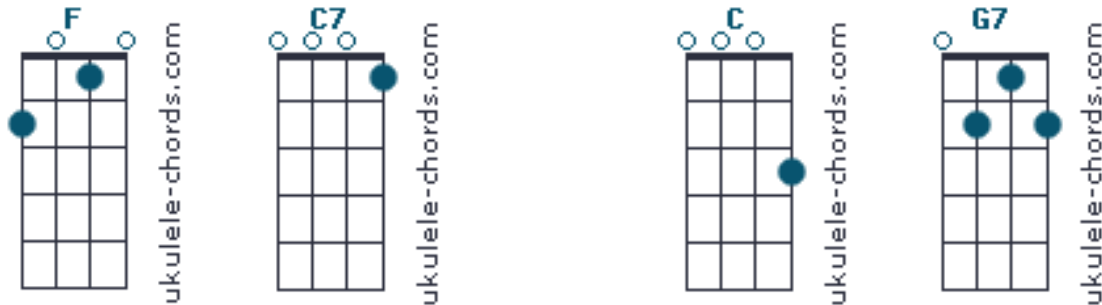
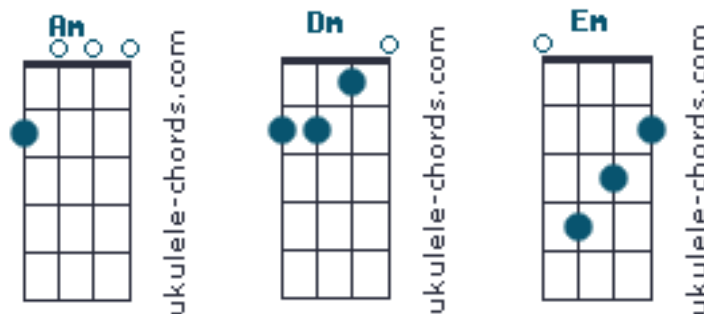


Chords to Start With (a chord is a group of notes played together, heard when you strum or pluck several strings at the same time rather than just hitting one note using one string). These diagrams are called chord charts, showing the top section of the ukulele neck as if you were facing it. Here are chords commonly found in songs in the “Key of C.” C major, F major, C seven, G seven.



Learn F & C7 first. Find the handout “Two Chord Songs Shuffle Strum or Swing Strum” You can try the following songs by ear with two chords (strum the F chord then change to a C7 when the F sounds bad, then back to F, etc): Day-Oh (banana boat song), Iko Iko, Skip To My Lou, Down in the Valley, Simple Gifts, Deep in the Heart of Texas, Clementine, Buffalo Gals, Jambalaya, Taps, Polly Wolly Doodle, Yellow Submarine chorus, Ain’t No Bugs on Me, Hokey Pokey, Rocka My Soul, Hush Little Baby, to name a few oldies. **Then learn C & G7 chords** and play the same songs (substituting C & G7 for the F & C7). Don’t try to learn too many chords at once! Say the chord name as you play it to help you remember. If you don’t know those songs just practice saying and playing two chords at a time until you memorize them.

When you see just one letter for a chord name (like “C”) this is shorthand for “C major.” A little “7” after the letter (as in C7 or G7) means that this major chord is going to have an extra note. Minor chords (below) are similar to major chords with one changed note. Learn those details later, it’s not hard but a little overwhelming now if you are a beginner in music. These minor chords are often found in songs that are in the “Key of C.” So learning these seven chords will allow you to play hundreds of songs!



With these chords, you can play almost any song in the folk, rock, bluegrass, pop world (even some jazz). Some websites will allow you to change any song to the Key of C, giving you the chords you already know (or will know). Songs in other Keys will have different chords to learn.

WWW.AMYCONLEYMUSIC.COM/playshops.html for more handouts.