

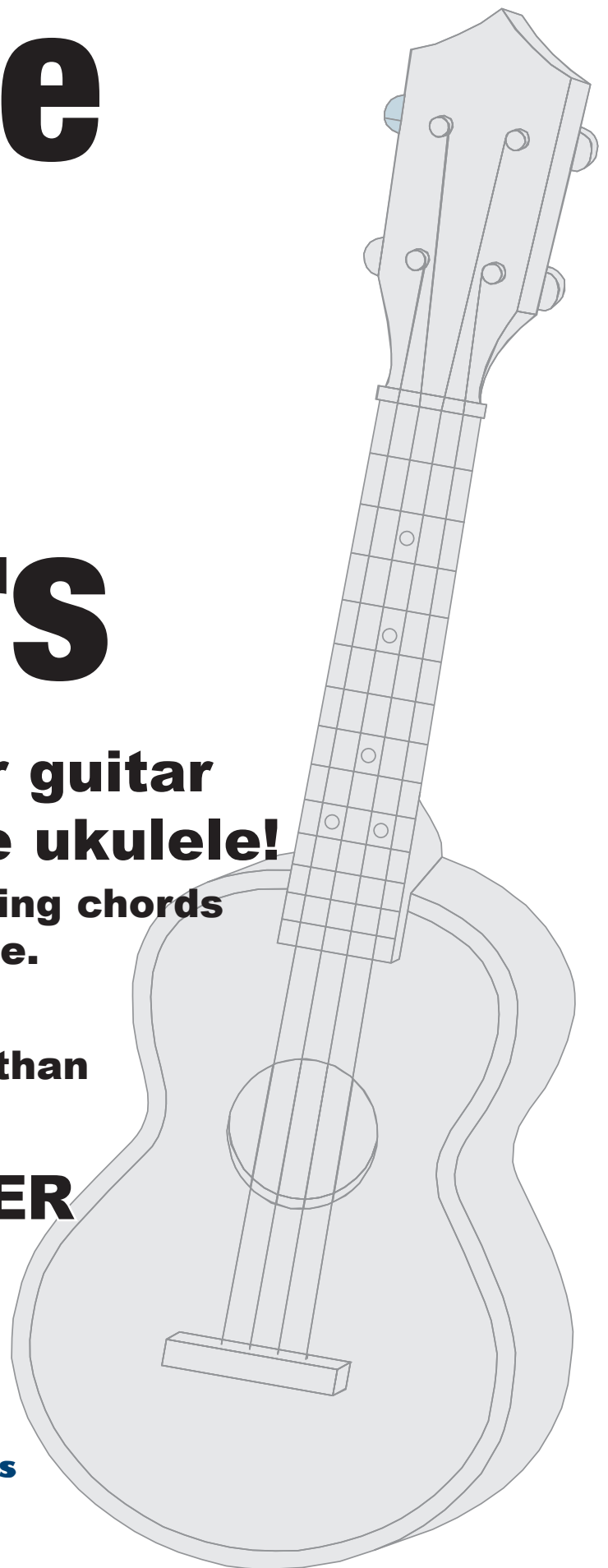
Ukulele for Guitar Players

**Transferring your guitar
knowledge to the ukulele!**

**Get a head start on playing chords
and scales on the ukulele.**

**You already know more than
you think.**

by CURT SELLER



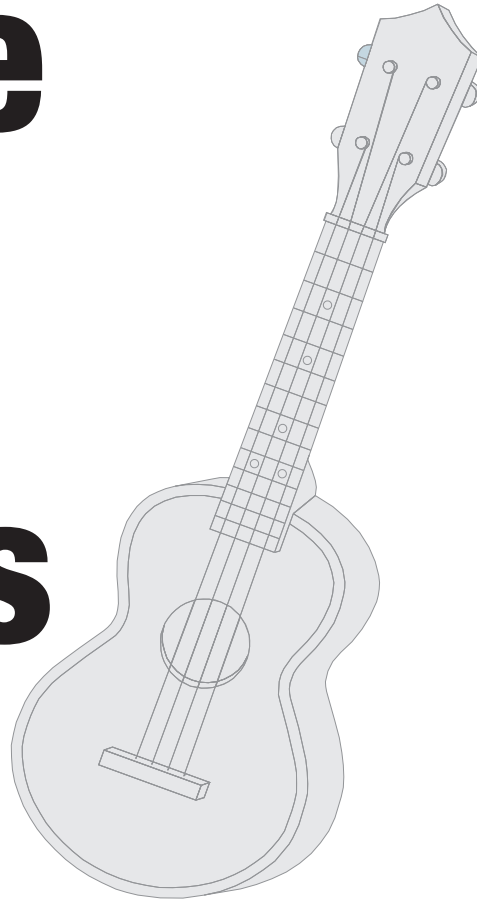
Curt Sheller Publications

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www.curtsheller.com



Ukulele for Guitar Players



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Contents

Introduction	5
Ukulele History	7
Common Ukulele Sizes	11
Soprano	12
Concert	13
Tenor	13
Baritone	13
Common Ukulele Tunings	15
Re-entrant Tuning?	16
"C" Tuning	17
"D" Tuning	22
"G" Tuning	23
Open Position Chords	25
The Ukulele Chord Diagram	26
"G" Tuning	27
Baritone Ukulele & Guitar	28
"C" Tuning	30
"D" Tuning	33
Transposing Chords	36
Movable Chord Forms	41
"G" Tuning	43
"C" Tuning	45
"D" Tuning	47
Triads	49
What is a Chord?	49
4-Part Jazz Chords	55
Essential Scales	65

Cont'd...

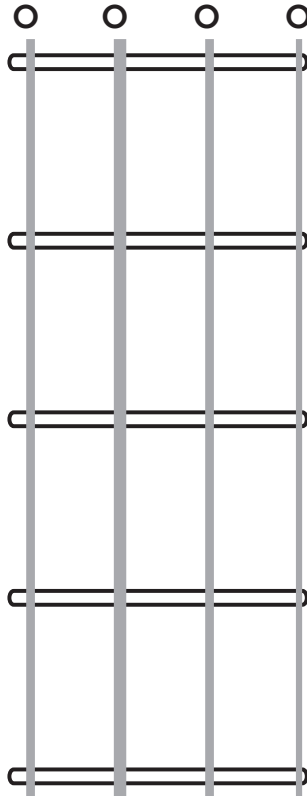


Contents

Reading Standard Music Notation	75
Ukulele Fingerboard Charts.....	87
"C" Tuning Natural & Sharp Notes	88
"C" Tuning Natural & Flat Notes	89
"D" Tuning Natural & Sharp Notes	90
"D" Tuning Natural & Flat Notes	91
"G" Tuning Natural & Sharp Notes	92
"G" Tuning Natural & Flat Notes.....	93
C Tuning - Standard Notation	94

Ukulele

Introduction



60 Suggested Reading:

- **A Guide to Ukulele Chords - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords “Jazz Chords” - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **QuickStart Scale Fingerings for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Harmonic Analysis for Scale Selection and Chord Substitution** by Curt Sheller



Introduction

Ukulele for Guitar Players is for current and former guitar players discovering the ukulele for the first time or returning to the instrument.

Ukulele for Guitar Players is a guide to transferring your accumulated experience and knowledge gained as a guitar player to the ukulele. The ukulele is both a different instrument than the guitar and at the same time a lot similar to the guitar.

All styles of music can be performed on the ukulele. From rock and punk music to jazz and classical music.

Guitar players that play ukulele find it gives them a fresh look at how they approach the guitar. Many things are possible on the ukulele that are not possible or just too difficult on guitar.

History

So where did the ukulele come from?



Suggested Reading:

- **The Ukulele A Visual History** by Jim Beloff



The Ukulele

From Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. (www.Wikipedia.com)

The ukulele or uke for short, is a fretted string instrument which is, in its construction, essentially a smaller, four-stringed version of the guitar. In the early 20th century, the instrument's name was often rendered as “ukelele”, a spelling still used in Great Britain. The Hawai’ian spelling ‘ukulele is also sometimes seen.

It is commonly associated with music from Hawaii where the name roughly translates as “jumping flea” and was developed there in the 1880s as a combination of the Madeiran Portuguese braguinha and rajão. A braguinha is a cavaquinho-like instrument built in the city of Braga and named after it; the Brazilian cavaquinho is usually tuned in D-G-B-D, a G-major chord. The Madeiran rajão is tuned D-G-C-E-A, in other words. the D and G strings are both re-entrant, i.e., tuned an octave higher than expected in the normal low-to high course of strings. The GCEA strings of the rajão are the source of the re-entrant tuning of the modern ukulele.

In 1879 three ‘ukulele makers arrived from Portugal in Hawai’i sailing into Honolulu on the ship Ravenscraig. These were Manuel Nunes, Jose do Espiritu Santo and Augusto Dias. One of these, Manuel Nunes, was Bill Tapia’s neighbor. He sold Bill his first instrument for 75¢ in 1915.

The ukulele comes in four sizes, (from smallest to largest): soprano (the original size), concert, tenor (created in the 1920s), and baritone (created in the late 1940s). On a tenor instrument, the strings may be doubled : six strings where first and third strings are doubled or eight strings where all fourth strings are doubled with second and fourth course. In traditional hawaiian tuning first and third courses are tuned in an octave.

In the United States, soprano and concert ukes are usually tuned in the key of C6: G-C-E-A from low to high, with the G-string traditionally tuned an octave up (re-entrant), so it is pitched between the E- and A-strings. In the past, it was not uncommon for the soprano to be tuned a whole step higher in the key of D6: A-D-F#-B, with the lowest note being D (the A is a whole step below the B). This tuning was very popular in vaudeville in the days before amplification. The tension and tone are a little brighter and louder. This tuning is still used today by some known personalities in ukulele circles.

The baritone ukulele, which was not invented (or developed) until the 1940s at the request of Arthur Godfrey, is usually tuned in G like the top four strings of a guitar, D-G-B-E, which makes it as much a tenor guitar as a ukulele.



The Ukulele

The tenor ukulele can be tuned either way, and in C tuning is sometimes tuned with the G-string an octave lower, so it's pitched below the C-string, where you might expect it. Some historians say such a tuning makes it a small guitar, since the re-entrant tuning is the characteristic that most identified the original ukulele.

An alternative tuning is Bb-Eb-G-C (raised a semitone to the key of E flat). Either of these tunings, and the C tuning above, may be referred to jocularly as “My dog has fleas”, because the strings sounded in order are the same as the phrase in the song My Dog Has Fleas.

Other tunings are in use today. Some more creative-minded ukulele players tune their ukuleles to the key of Bb, F, or any tuning they see the need to utilize. Some even tune their ukuleles to E-A-D-G, the bottom four strings of a guitar. These never became popular, but because the ukulele is a stringed instrument, it can be tuned to the player's specifications.

Musicians and entertainers particularly known for playing the ukulele have included:

Ernest Ka'ai

“King” Benny Nawahi

Jesse Kalima

Eddie Kamae

Herb Ohta (“Ohta-San”)

Roy Smeck

Cliff Edwards (“Ukulele Ike”)

George Formby

Arthur Godfrey

Bill Tapia

Tiny Tim

Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Jake Shimabukuro

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

Dan Scanlan (“Cool Hand Uke”)

Stefan Raab

uke til u puke

Eddie Vedder

James Hill

Imua Garza

George Harrison

Jeff Pope

Luke Bailey and his Ukulele

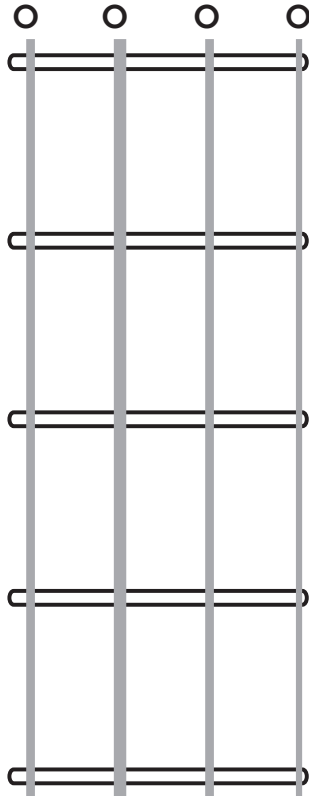
Janet Klein

Waste of Aces



Ukulele

Common Ukulele Sizes



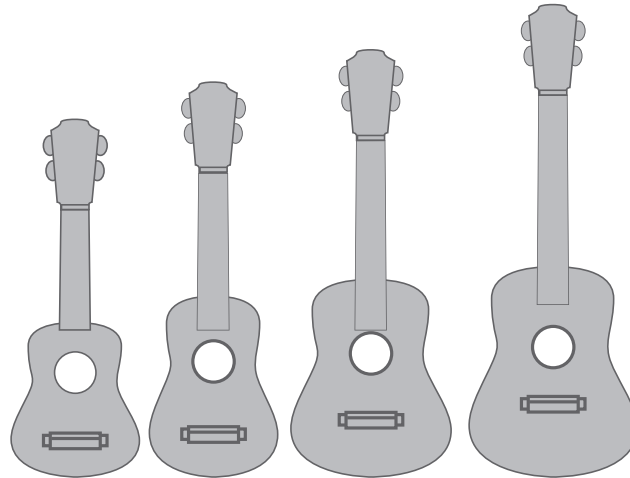
60 Suggested Reading:

- **A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Advanced Guide the Chord Progressions for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Harmonic Analysis for Scale Selection and Chord Substitution** by Curt Sheller



Common Ukulele Sizes

There are four sizes of ukulele in common use. The *soprano*, *concert*, *tenor*, and *baritone*. The soprano is the smallest and the baritone the largest. Other sizes do exist such as an even smaller *sopranino*. There is even a banjo ukulele common in the United Kingdom.



A ukulele can be crafted into any shape with the pineapple shape originally created by Kamaka Ukuleles of Hawaii being a common. The ukulele is used as an acoustic instrument with solid body and amplified ukuleles popular among musicians performing in settings where an acoustic ukulele is not loud enough.



The four most common ukulele sizes are:

Soprano

This is the *classic* ukulele size and the one most people think of as a ukulele. This size is sometimes referred to as *standard*.

A soprano ukulele is around 20" tall.



Common Ukulele Sizes

Concert

The concert ukulele is the next size up from the smaller soprano. This ukulele offers a little more fret room, especially for a player with larger hands. This ukulele along with the tenor ukulele is popular with guitar players.

A concert ukulele is around 24" tall.

Tenor

The tenor ukulele is a great ukulele for guitar players. It can be tuned like the soprano and concert's common "C" tuning and also like the baritone's common "G" tuning. This is a popular ukulele among intermediate and advanced players.

A tenor ukulele is around 26" tall.

Baritone

The baritone ukulele was introduced at the behest of radio and TV star Arthur Godfrey in the 1940's. The baritone is commonly tuned the same as the thin four strings of the guitar.

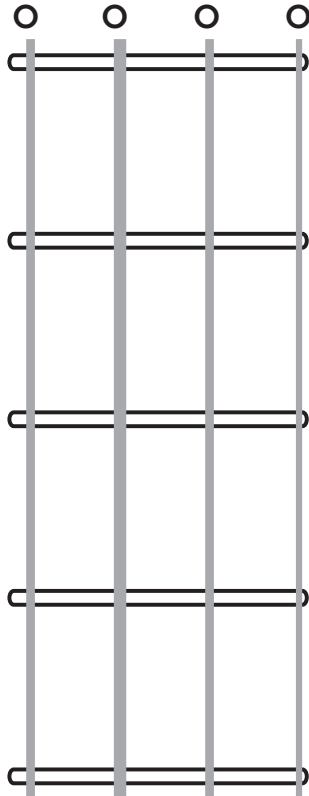
A baritone ukulele is around 30" tall.

Just as guitar, all price ranges and quality of instruments can be found. From a cheap souvenir tourist ukulele to a custom built ukulele using the best woods and craftsmanship costing thousand of dollars.



TUNINGS

Common Ukulele Tunings



60 Suggested Reading:

- Learning the Ukulele Fingerboard (All 3 Tunings) - Vol I by Curt Sheller



Common Ukulele Tunings

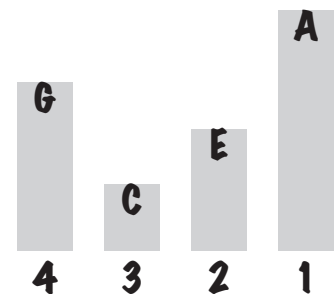
Re-entrant Tuning?

The most common tuning used on the ukulele is a *re-entrant tuning* “C” Tuning.

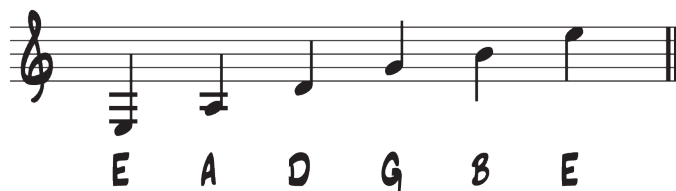


Here is graphical representation of the *re-entrant* “C” tuning.

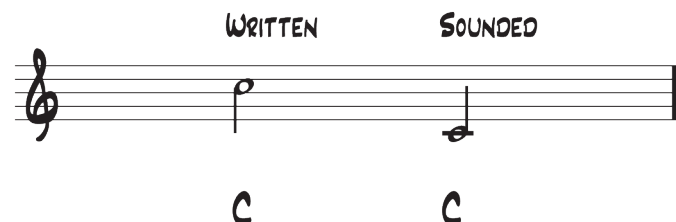
A lower bar indicates a lower pitched note and higher bars indicate higher pitched notes. Not a steady ascending or descending series of notes like the standard guitar tuning where each ascending open string is higher in pitch.



Here is the standard guitar tuning. Notice a steady ascending series of notes from the lowest string to the highest string.



Ukulele music is written in *concert pitch* (A440Hz). Concert pitch is where notes are sounded as written. The guitar is a transposing instrument written one octave higher than sounded.





"C" Tuning

C Tuning, High "G"

This is a re-entrant tuning commonly used on Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

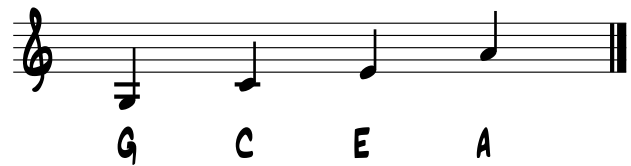


This tuning is same as the higher four strings of a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the fifth fret but with string four "G", one octave higher. This is sometimes called *Standard* tuning.

This is a common tuning used in Hawaii and the mainland USA.

C Tuning, Low "G"

A common variation for Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.



Same as "C" Tuning but with string four one octave lower. This is the same as placing a capo at the fifth fret of a standard tuned guitar.



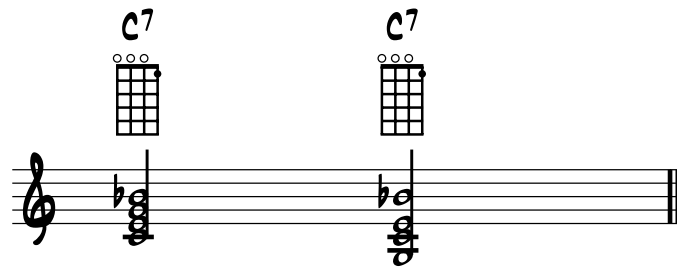
"C" Tuning

What does this mean for the ukulele?

For Chords

High "G", Re-entrant C Tuning allows for *close* chord voicings. A close chord voicing is where all the notes of a chord are contained within one octave. In the example below, the first C7 is a *close* chord voicing and the second C7 is in low "G", C tuning and called an *open* or *drop two* chord voicing. Both chords are the same fingerboard shape and can be fingered the same.

The first C7 is a root position chord with the root of the chord (C) the lowest note of the voicing. The second could be notated as C7/G, a slash chord with (G) the lowest note of the voicing .



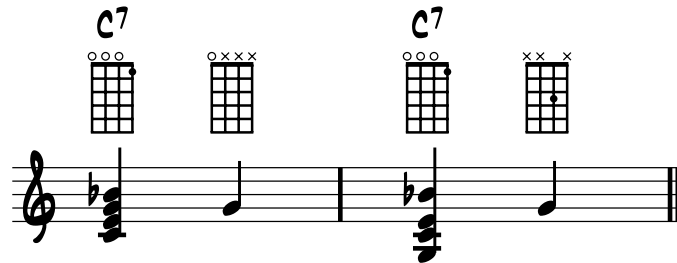
In the **Low "G", C Tuning** the intervals of this tuning are the same intervals as a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the fifth fret (A D **G C** E A). This tuning produces *open* voicings or drop 2 chord voicings.

Close voicings are typically harder to finger for each inversion of a 4-part chord on a ukulele in low "G" tuning. You get them for free with the re-entrant tuning. Nearly impossible on a guitar for some voicings but just hard on a ukulele.



"C" Tuning

For Single Notes



High "G", Re-entrant Tuning allows you to play the G melody note in measure one of the above example using the open string four. It could also be played one string two, fret (3) as in measure two above. You have two options as it is the same note and pitch, just alternate note locations.

Low "G", C Tuning extends the range to G below middle C, a perfect fifth lower allowing you to cover a wider range of songs. This is helpful when playing melodies or creating melody and chord solo arrangements.

In the above example in low "G" tuning, string four can not be used to play the G as in measure two.



"C" Tuning

C Major Scale

A C major scale played two ways that demonstrates the effects of the ukulele's re-entrant tuning with single notes.

C Tuning, High "G"

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

T 4/4 0 2 4 5 0 2 4 5 0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3

These examples show one possible fingering solution. Alternate fingering solutions are possible and should be explored.

This is very useful for incorporating single notes with chords when playing melody and chord style. A little strange to our normal way of associating ascending notes with ascending higher strings.

Key of G - II V I Chord Example

Here is an example melody that will be used for examples using both tunings.

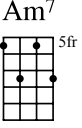
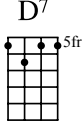
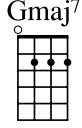
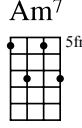
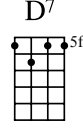
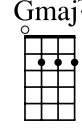
Am⁷ D⁷ GMA⁷

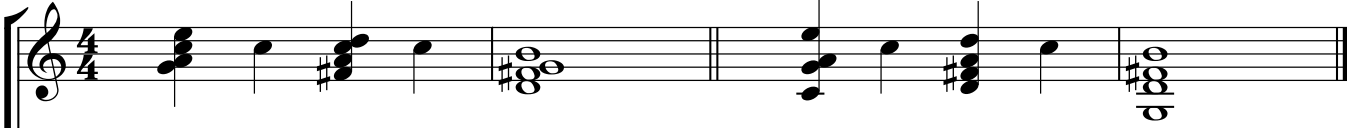
The above melody harmonized with 4-part chords using "C" tuning, High "G" and "C" tuning, Low "G"



"C" Tuning

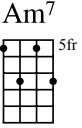
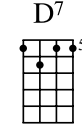
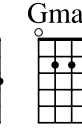
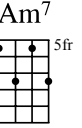
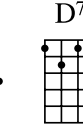
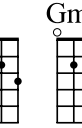
High "G", C Tuning - re-entrant tuning and close voicing of chords.

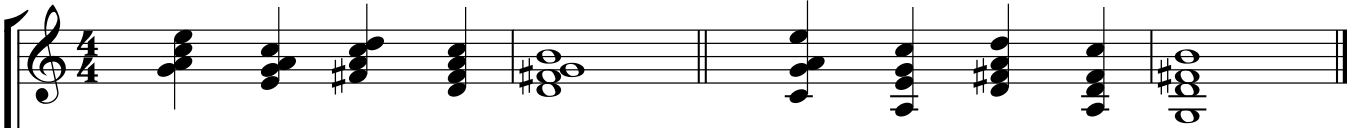
A    **B**   



T 7 5 2 7 3 5 2
A 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
B 5 5 5 5 0 5 5

Low "G", C Tuning - Drop-2 chord voicings.

A    **B**   



T 7 3 5 3 2 7 3
A 5 3 5 2 2 5 2
B 7 4 6 2 2 5 2



"D" Tuning

This tuning is the same relative intervals between strings as "C" tuning but one whole step higher. This tuning was popular in first half of the twentieth century is still common among players in Canada and Europe.

D Tuning, High "A"

For Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

The same as the higher four strings of a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the seventh fret but with string four, "A" one octave higher.



D Tuning, Low "A"

For Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukulele.

Same as "D" Tuning but with string four one octave lower.





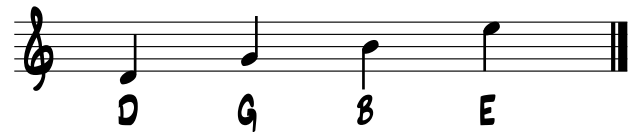
"G" Tuning

G Tuning

For Baritone and Tenor ukulele.

The same as the higher four strings of a standard tuned guitar. This is the most common tuning for baritone ukuleles.

Music written for the ukulele can be written in concert pitch.

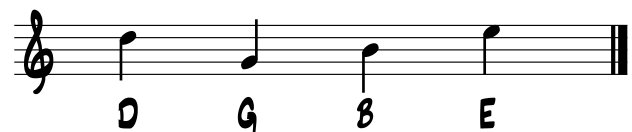


G Tuning, High "D"

A re-entrant variation for Baritone and Tenor ukuleles.

This is the tuning favoured by the great jazz ukulele player, Lyle Ritz.

The same as the higher four strings of a standard tuned guitar but with string four one octave higher.





Summary



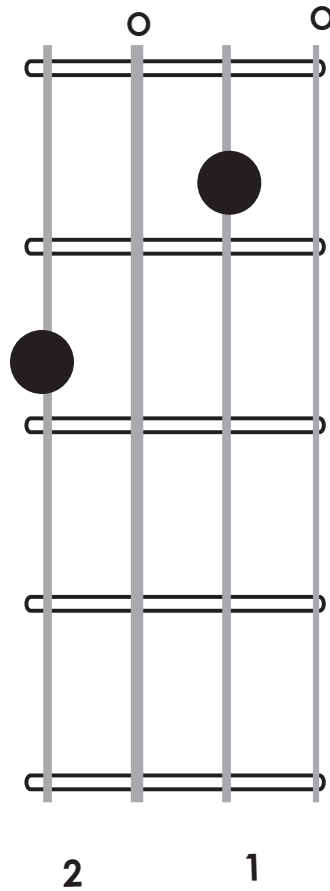
Most players stick with one tuning and its re-entrant or low tuning variation.

Like the guitar alternate tunings are possible. The ukulele can be tuned to any note as long as the string gauge and construction of the instrument can support it.

The ukulele is a fun portable instrument capable of performing a wide range of music and styles from the strumming a few simple basic chords for folk, rock and country songs to complex melody and chord jazz arrangements – bluegrass, punk, funk, R&B ... you name it and it can be performed in the ukulele.

CHORDS

Open Position



60 Suggested Reading:

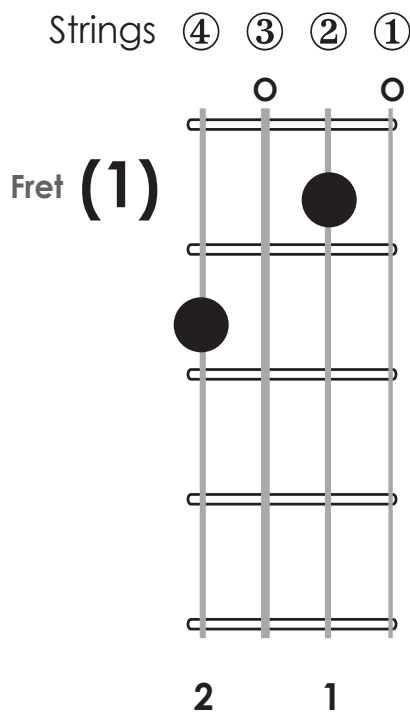
- **A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords - Jazz Chords** by Curt Sheller
- **Advanced Guide the Chord Progressions for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **A Guide the Blues Chord Progressions for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller



The Ukulele Chord Diagram

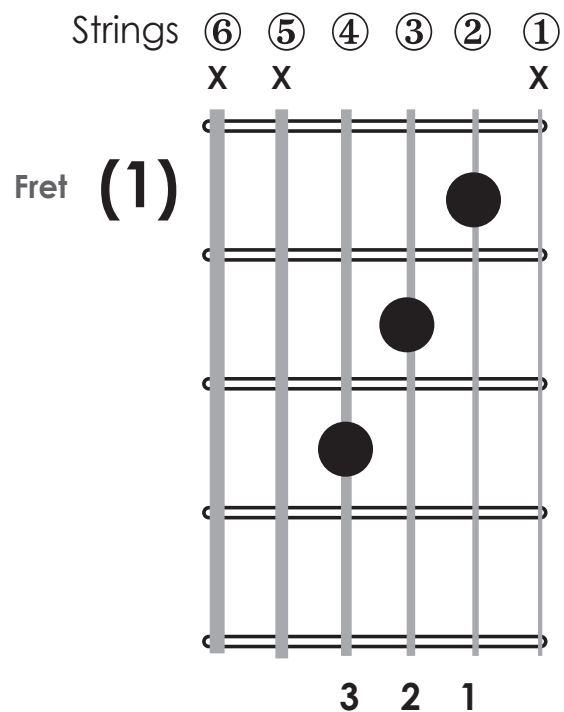
Ukulele Chord Diagram

F



Guitar Chord Diagram

F



X = String is not sounded. Either mute or do not play.

O = Open String

● = Fingerboard notes to finger.

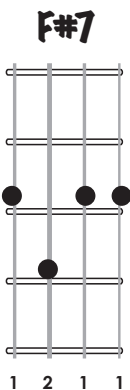
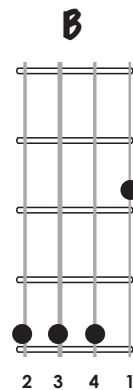
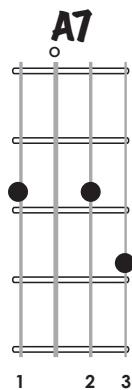
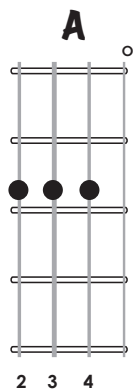
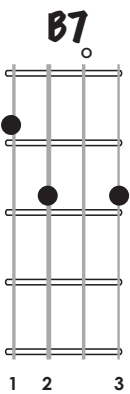
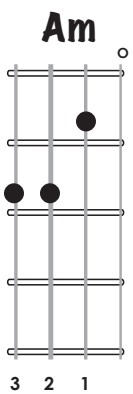
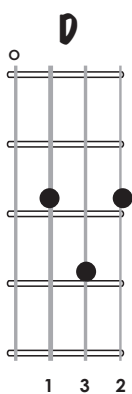
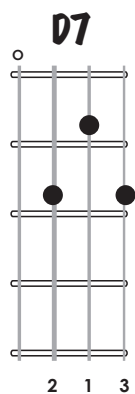
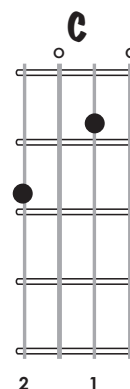
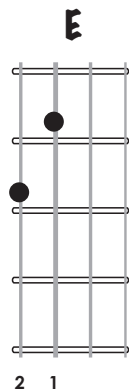
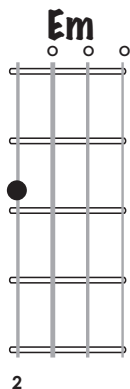
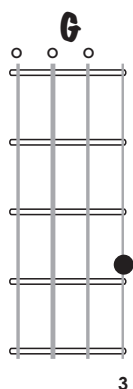
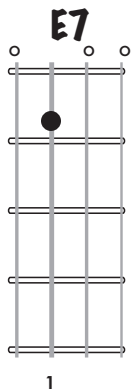
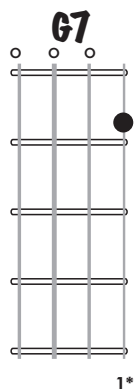
A ukulele chord diagram for Ukulele is similar to a guitar chord diagram but contains only four strings.





"G" Tuning Open Position Chords

"G" Tuning for Tenor and Baritone Ukuleles



Here are a few common open position chords.

These basic chords allow you to play common chord progressions in the popular Rock, Pop, Country and Folk keys.



* All fingerings are recommended but not mandatory.



Baritone Ukulele & Guitar



"G" Tuning - Baritone and Tenor Ukuleles

The *Baritone* ukulele is tuned the same as the thin four strings of a *standard tuned** guitar. This tuning is referred to as "G" tuning among ukulele players

Ukulele

Guitar

This tuning can also be used on the next smaller sized *tenor* ukulele.



"G" Tuning Variation

A common tenor ukulele tuning variation is for string four to be tuned one octave higher for the classic ukulele re-entrant sound.

This would affect the sound and standard music notation of a chord but not the chord diagram, fingering or chord fingerboard shape.



* Standard Guitar Tuning is considered to be E A D G B E

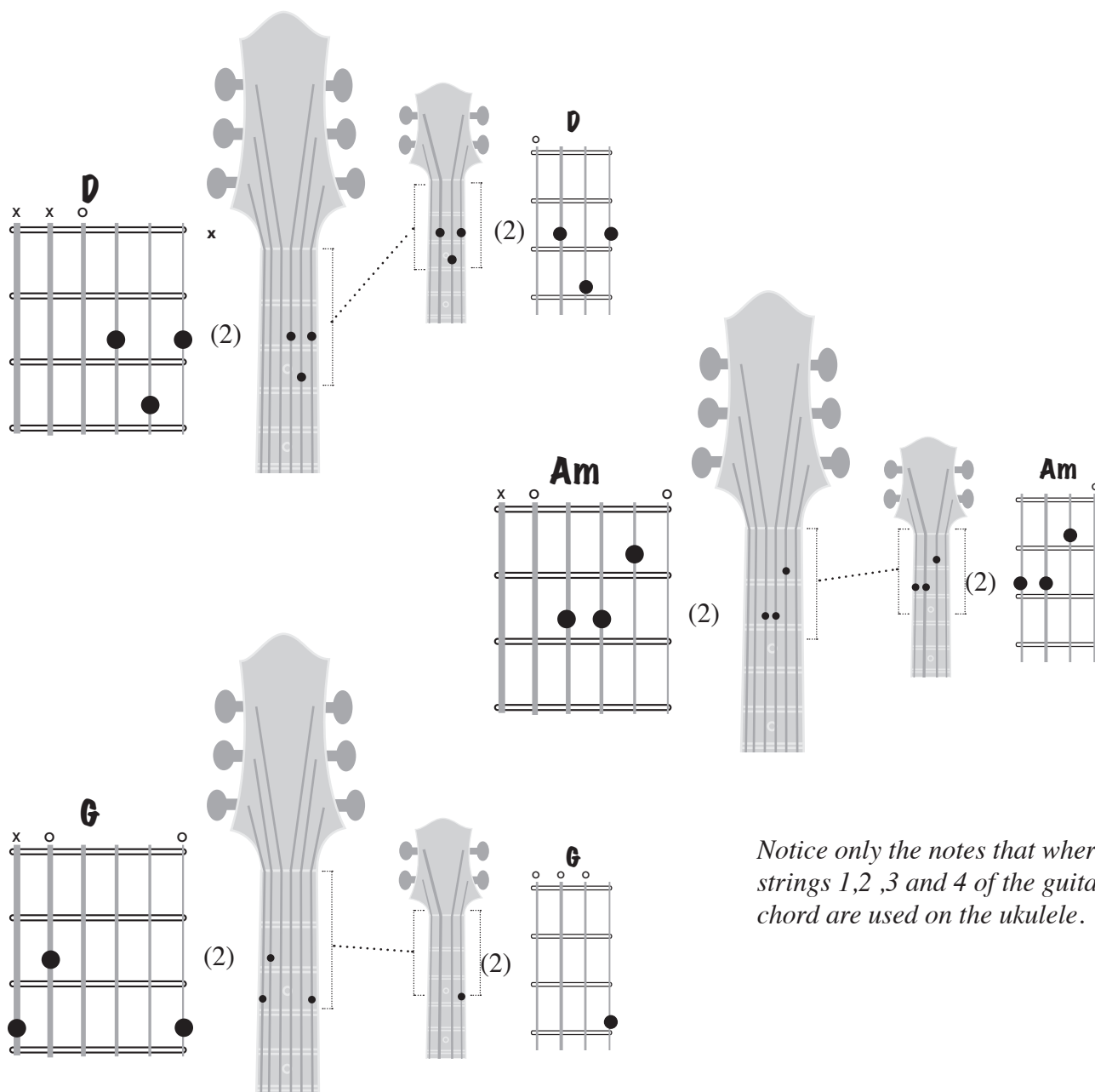


Transferring Chords to "G" Tuning



Transferring Guitar Chords to a Ukulele in "G" Tuning

Any guitar chord can transfer to the ukulele as long as you restrict the notes of the chord to strings 1, 2, 3, and 4. Chords such as **D**, **Dm** and **D7** transfer directly to the four strings of the ukulele. Three example open position chords are shown below.

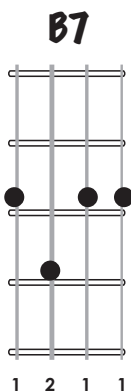
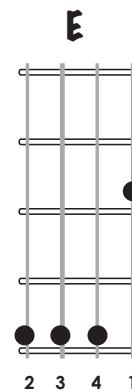
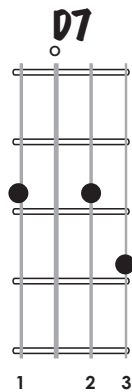
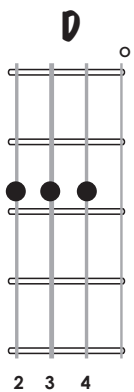
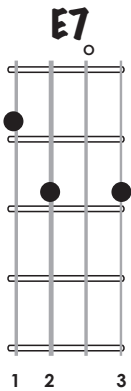
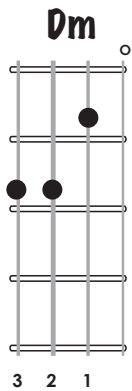
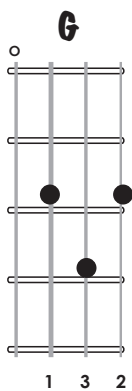
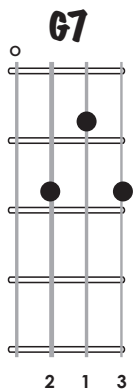
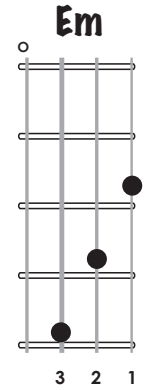
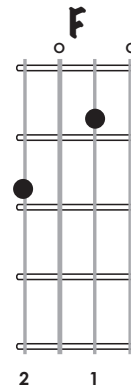
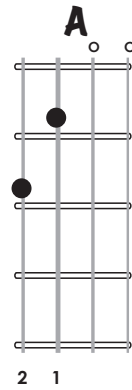
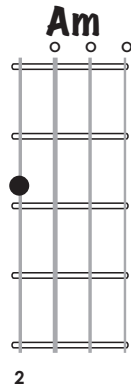
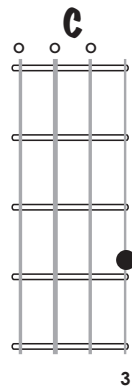
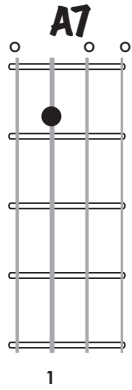
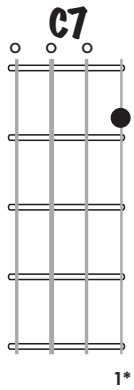


Notice only the notes that were on strings 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the guitar chord are used on the ukulele.



"C" Tuning Open Position Chords

"C" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles



Here are a few common open position chords.

These basic chords allow you to play common chord progressions in the popular Rock, Pop, Country and Folk keys.



* All fingerings are recommended but not mandatory.

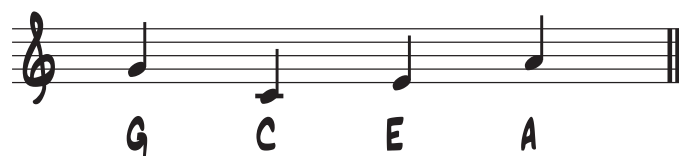


"C" Tuning Relative to Guitar

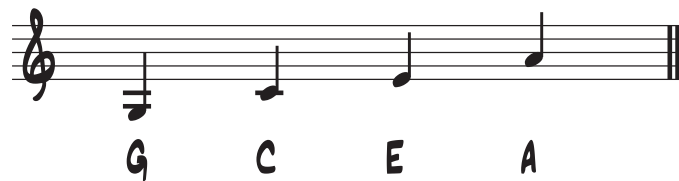


"C" Tuning - Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

A ukulele in "C" tuning with a low "G" is the same as the thin four strings of a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the fifth fret.. This tuning is referred to as "C" Tuning by ukulele players. The names of the frets are the same whether using a re-entrant "C" tuning or the low "G" variation.

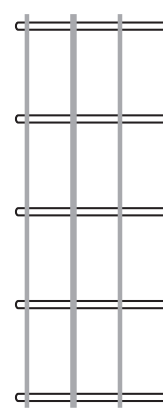


Re-entrant Tuning



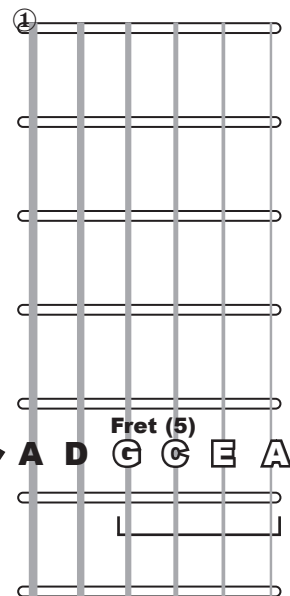
Low "G" Tuning

G C E A
④ ③ ② ①

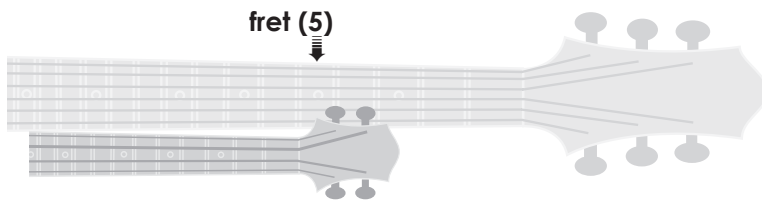


Ukulele

E A D G B E
⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ②

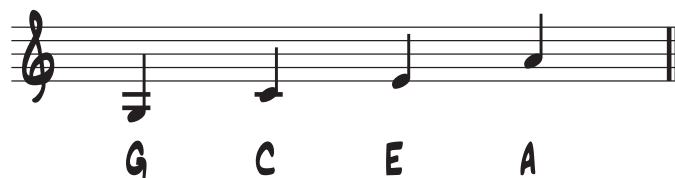


Guitar



Low "G" Variation

The low "G" tuning extends the range of the ukulele to G below middle C..





Transferring Chords to "C" Tuning



Transferring Guitar Chords to a Ukulele in "C" Tuning

Any guitar chord can transfer to the ukulele as long as you restrict the notes of the chord to strings 1, 2, 3, and 4. Three example open position chords are shown below.

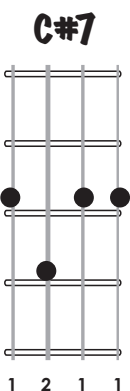
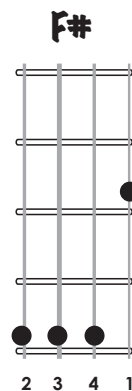
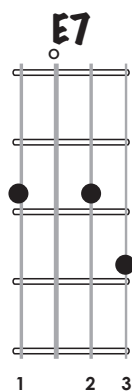
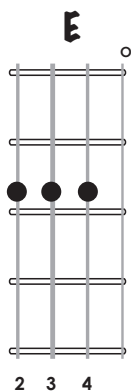
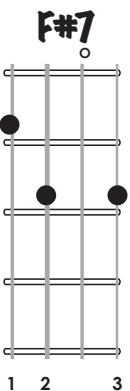
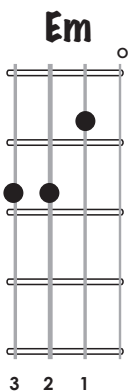
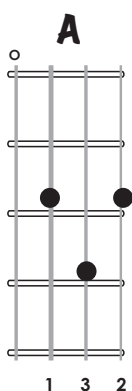
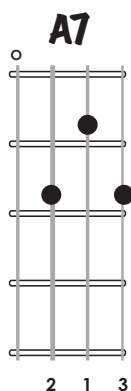
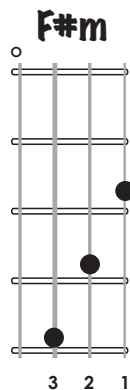
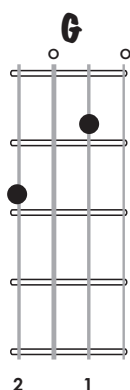
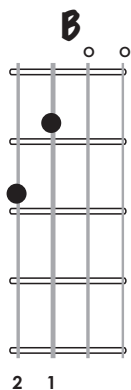
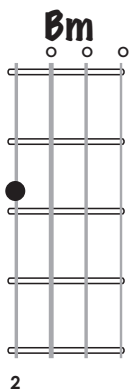
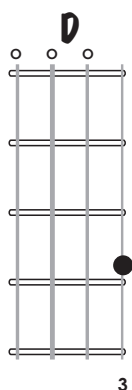
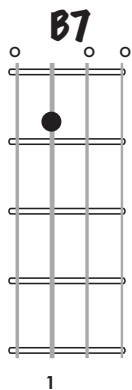
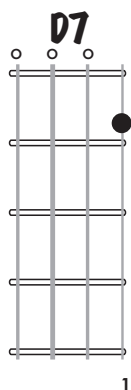
NOTE: For chord shapes transferred directly to the same fret on the ukulele from the guitar, the name the chord would change with the type of the chord remaining the same. (See the transposition chart on page 36 for correct root name).

NOTE: Fret (7) can be thought of as the open thin four strings (D G B E) of the guitar.



"D" Tuning Open Position Chords

"D" Tuning (A D F# B) or Low A "D" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles



Here are a few common open position chords.

These basic chords allow you to play common chord progressions in the popular Rock, Pop, Country and Folk keys.



* All fingerings are recommended but not mandatory.



"D" Tuning Relative to Guitar



"D" Tuning - Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

A ukulele in "D" tuning with a low "A" is the same as the thin four strings of a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the seventh fret. The names of the frets are the same whether using a re-entrant "D" tuning or the low "A" variation.

This tuning is referred to as the "D" Tuning among ukulele players and was popular in the first half of the twentieth century and currently popular in Europe and Canada.

The diagram illustrates the relationship between "D" tuning on a ukulele and standard tuning on a guitar. It includes musical notation for both re-entrant and low "A" tuning, fretboard diagrams for both instruments, and a guitar neck diagram showing a capo at the seventh fret.

Re-entrant Tuning: Musical notation shows the notes A, D, F#, B. The fretboard diagram shows the strings tuned to A (4th fret), D (3rd fret), F# (2nd fret), and B (1st fret).

Low "A" Tuning: Musical notation shows the notes A, D, F#, B. The fretboard diagram shows the strings tuned to A (4th fret), D (3rd fret), F# (2nd fret), and B (1st fret).

Ukulele: The fretboard diagram shows the strings tuned to A (4th fret), D (3rd fret), F# (2nd fret), and B (1st fret).

Guitar: The fretboard diagram shows the strings tuned to B (7th fret), E (6th fret), A (5th fret), D (4th fret), F# (3rd fret), and B (2nd fret). A capo is shown at the 7th fret.



Low "A" Variation

The low "A" tuning extends the range of the ukulele to A below middle C..

Musical notation for the Low "A" Variation, showing the notes A, D, F#, B.



Transferring Chords to “D” Tuning



Transferring Guitar Chords to a Ukulele in “D” Tuning

Any guitar chord can transfer to the ukulele as long as you restrict the notes of the chord to strings 1, 2, 3, and 4. Three example open position chords are shown below.

NOTE: For chord shapes transferred directly to the same fret on the ukulele from the guitar, the name the chord would change with the type of the chord remaining the same. (See the transposition chart on page 36 for correct root name).

NOTE: Fret (5) can be thought of as the open thin four strings (D G B E) of the guitar.

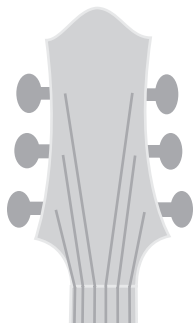


Transposing Chords

Any chord can be transposed to different keys.

Using the transposition chart below. A guitar chord played on a ukulele at the same fret and shape as the guitar version would follow the chart below.

Examples: a **Dm** chord fingering on guitar is on ukulele is a **Dm** in “G” tuning, a **Gm** in “C” tuning and **Am** in “D” tuning.



Guitar Standard Tuning	“G” Tuning <i>Baritone & Tenor</i>	“C” Tuning <i>Tenor, Concert & Soprano</i>	“D” Tuning <i>Tenor, Concert & Soprano</i>
A	A	D	E
A#, Bb	A#, Bb	D#, Eb	F
B	B	E	F#, Gb
C	C	F	G
C#, Db	C#, Db	F#, G	G#, Ab
D	D	G	A
D#, Eb	D#, Eb	G#, Ab	A#, Bb
E	E	A	B
F	F	A#, Bb	C
F#, Gb	F#, Gb	B	C#, Db
G	G	C	D
G#, Ab	G#, Ab	C#, Db	D#, Eb
A	A	D	E



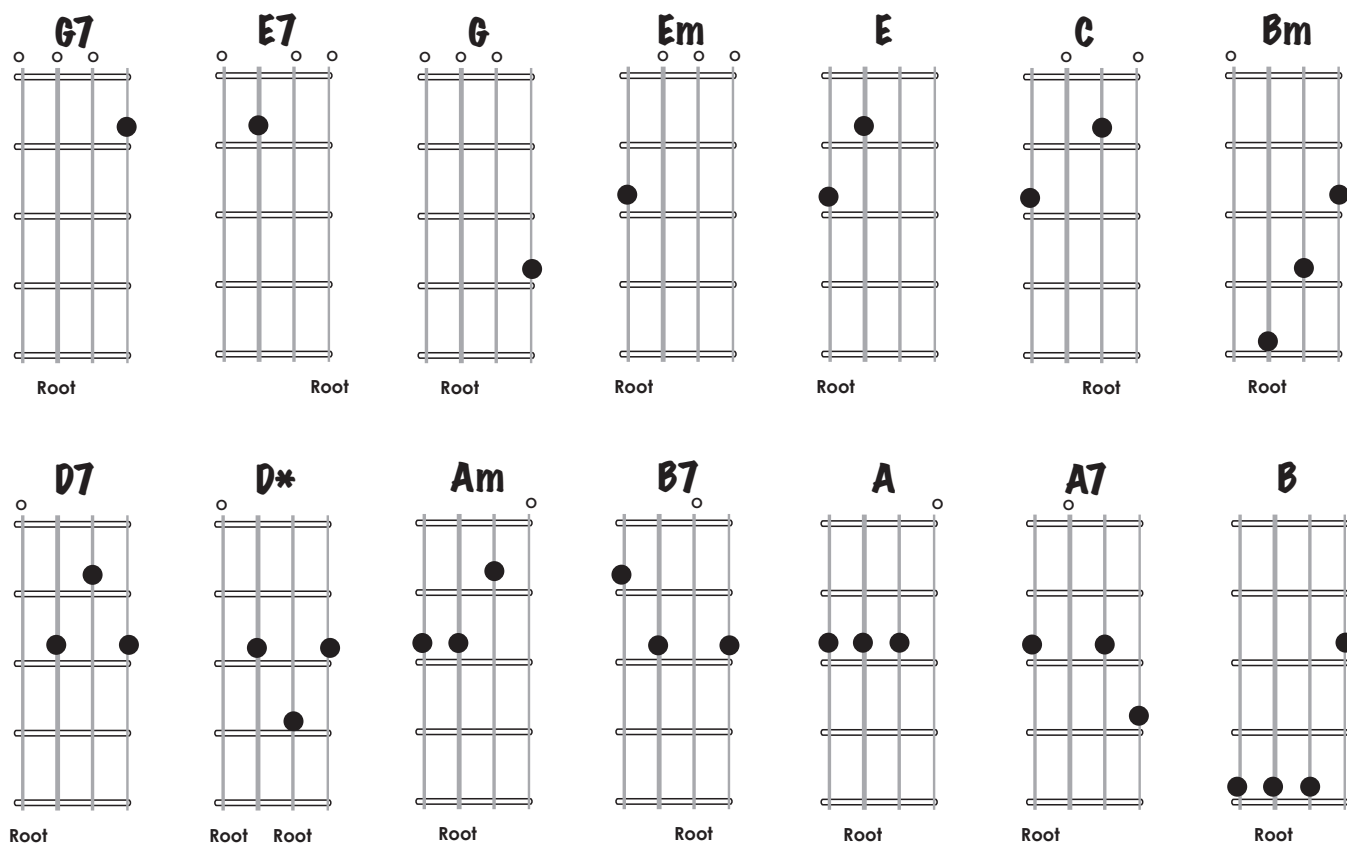
More on Transposition

For transposing purposes, you are better off treating the ukulele as a different instrument and learn the notes of the neck for your particular tuning (*see the ukulele fingerboard charts*).

Strings 1, 2, 3 and 4 of any chord that you are familiar with on the guitar can be used on ukulele, especially if you know what string the root is on.

To transpose a chord to a different key, you move each note of that chord up or down the fingerboard until the root is on the right fret. Remember to transpose any open strings as well.

Here are the root locations for the open position Guitar/Baritone chords.



* A chord can have more than one root. The root does not have to be the lowest note of the chord.



Still More on Transposition

Transposing Chords

- a) Any chord can be transposed to any key.
- b) In order to transpose a chord you need to determine what string and fret the Root  of the chord is on.
- c) Following the Transposition Chart below, move all the notes of the chord the number of frets ascending (higher in pitch) or descending (lower in pitch) to place it so the Root  of the chord is on the proper fret.

Be sure to move any open string the same number of frets.

Transposition Chart

Ascending	Descending
B	C
A#, Bb	B
A	Bb, A#
G#, Ab	A
G	Ab, G#
F#, Gb	G
F	Gb, F#
E	F
D#, Eb	E
D	Eb, D#
C#, Db	D
C	Db, C#

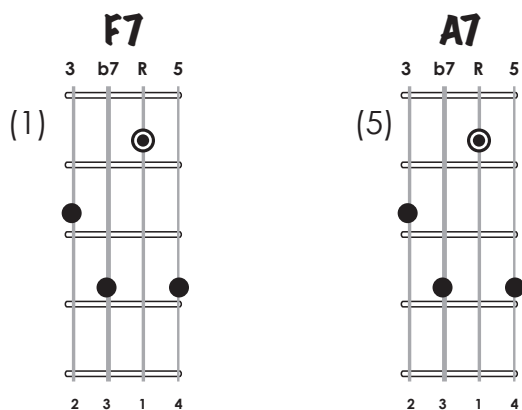


How to Use the Transposition Chart

- Pick a chord with out any open strings.
- Determine what string and fret the Root  is on.
- To transpose upward, use the left (ascending keys) chart.
To transpose downward, use the right (descending keys) chart.
- Each new key is 1 fret above or below the original key.
- Don't forget to transpose each note of the chord.
- Remember that the fingering of the chord remains the same for the chord.

Examples

If you are in the key of F and move all notes of the chord up 4 frets, you are now the key of A.

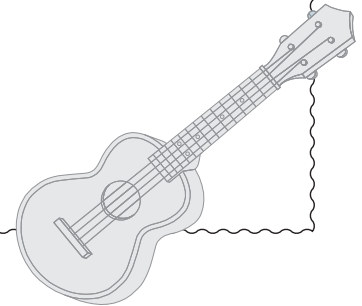


If you are in the key of E and move all notes of the chord up 3 frets, you are now in the key of G.



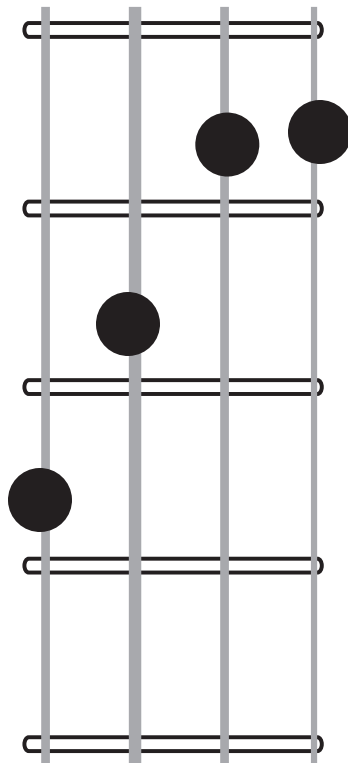
Summary

- Many more open position chords are possible.
- Chord shapes and fingerings are the same regardless of the tuning selected. Just the roots are different.
- By building on these basic open position chords you can expand your chord vocabulary.
- Learning the notes of the ukulele neck for your particular tuning is a great aide in transferring your chord knowledge from guitar to ukulele.



CHORDS

Movable Chord Forms



Moveable chord forms are any chord that does not include open strings. These chords can be transposed to any key by moving the chord shape up and down the neck.

Most movable chord forms are based on a common open position chord. These movable chord forms allow you to play chords not found in the open position.

From these chord forms, variations and more advanced “jazz” chords can be created and added to your chord vocabulary.



Movable Form Barre Chords

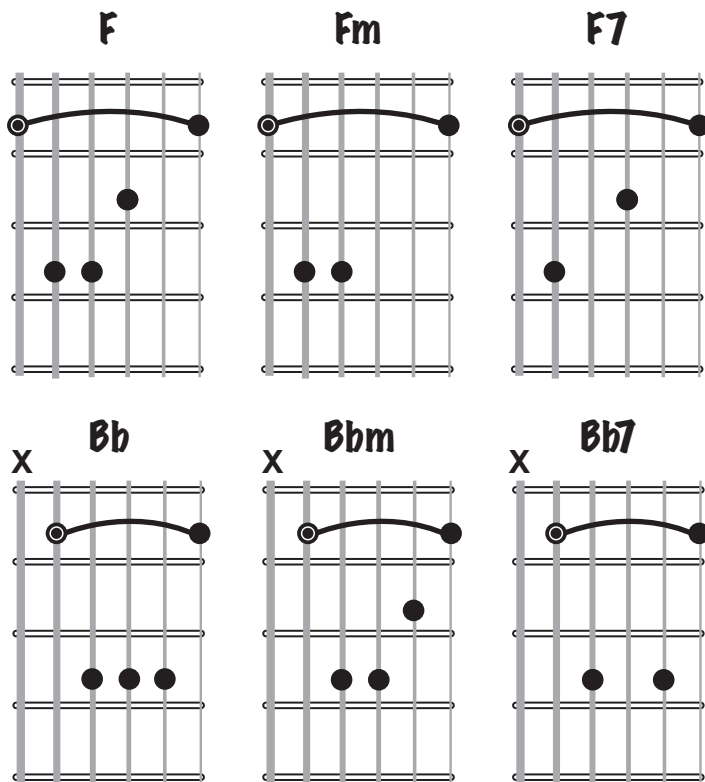


Movable “Barre” form Chords

The most common movable chord forms are called *barre* chords on guitar. The open position **E**, **Em**, **E7**, **A**, **Am** and **A7** chords being the most common open position chords used to create barre forms chords.

On guitar, the **E**, **Em** and **E7** chords are re-fingered. Each note is moved up one fret and finger one is barred across all six strings. This produces the **F**, **Fm** and **F7** barre chords. We call these movable barre forms the *F barre form*.

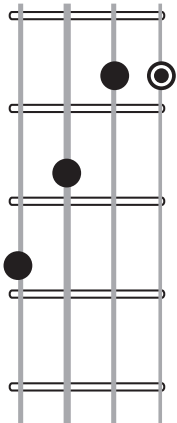
On guitar, the **A**, **Am** and **A7** chords are re-fingered. Each note is moved up one fret and finger one is barred across strings 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. This produces the **Bb**, **Bbm** and **Bb7** barre chords. We call these movable forms the *Bb barre form*.



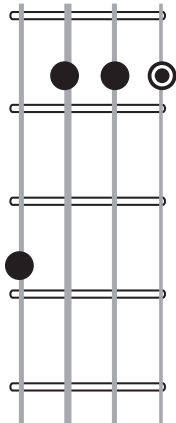


"G" Tuning F Movable Form Chords

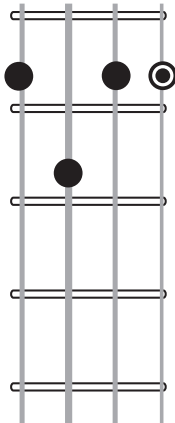
"G" Tuning for Tenor and Baritone Ukuleles

**Fmaj**

3 2 1 1

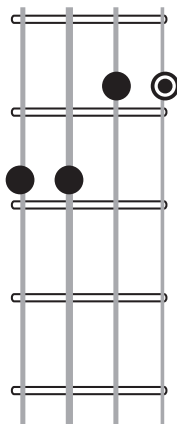
Fmin

3 1 1 1

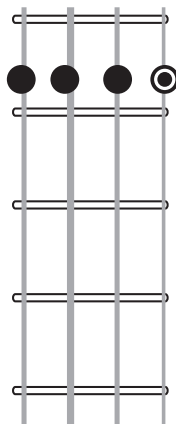
F7

1 2 1 1

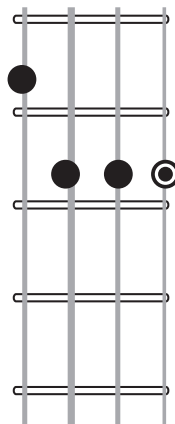
From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

Fmaj7

4 3 2 1

Fm7

1 1 1 1

F#m6

1 2 2 2

Transposition Chart

FRET	CHORD NAME			
⊙ (1)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(2)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(2)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(3)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(4)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(4)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(5)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(6)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(6)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(7)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(8)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(9)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(9)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(10)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(11)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(11)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(12)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

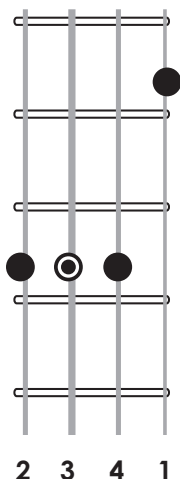
⊙ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.



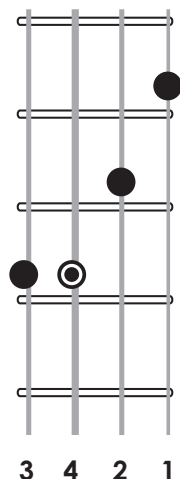
"G" Tuning Bb Movable Form Chords

"G" Tuning for Tenor and Baritone Ukuleles

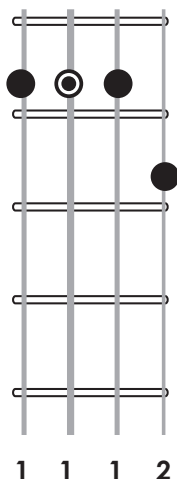
Bbmaj



Bbm

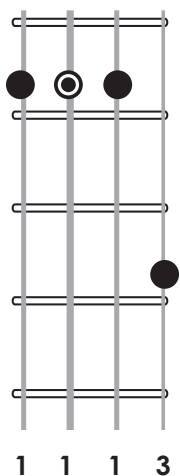


Bb7

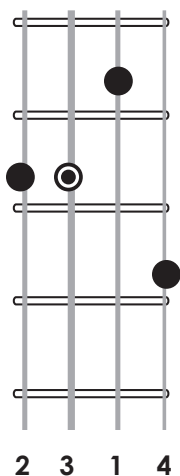


From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

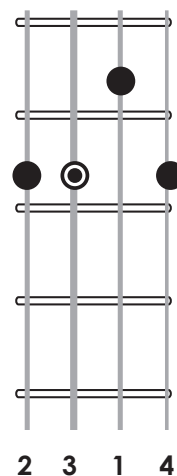
Abmaj7



Am7



Am6



Transposition Chart

FRET	CHORD NAME			
(1)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(1)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(2)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(3)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(3)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(4)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(5)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(6)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(6)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(7)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(8)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(8)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(9)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(10)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(11)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(11)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(12)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

⊙ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.

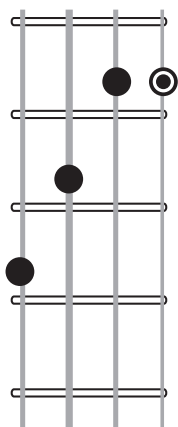


"C" Tuning Bb Movable Form Chords

"C" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

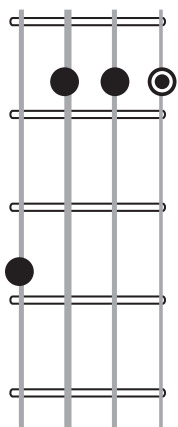


Bbmaj



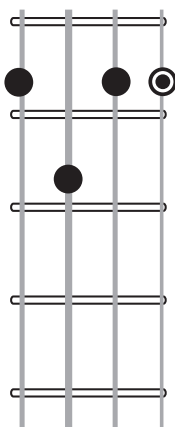
3 2 1 1

Bbmin



3 1 1 1

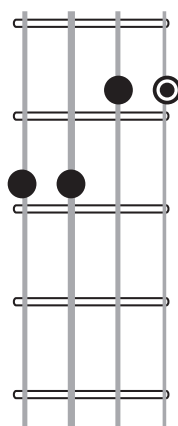
Bb7



1 2 1 1

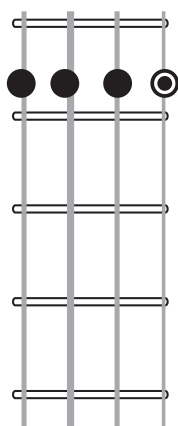
From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

Bbmaj7



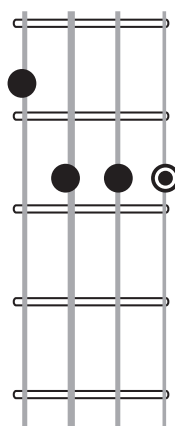
4 3 2 1

Bbm7



1 1 1 1

Bm6



1 2 2 2

Transposition Chart

FRET	CHORD NAME			
⦿ (1)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(1)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(2)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(3)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(4)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(4)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(5)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(6)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(6)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(7)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(8)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(9)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(9)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(10)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(11)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(11)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(12)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

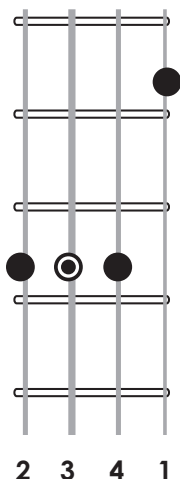
⦿ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.



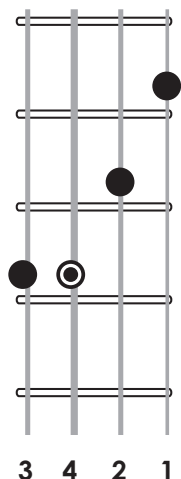
"C" Tuning Eb Movable Form Chords

"C" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

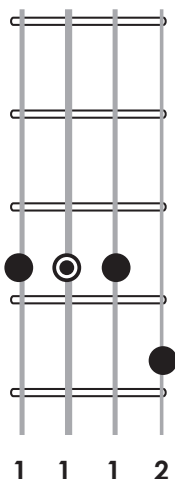
Ebmaj



Ebm

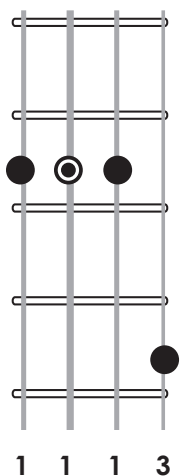


Eb7

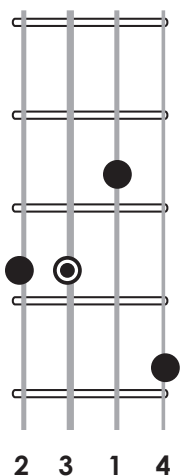


From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

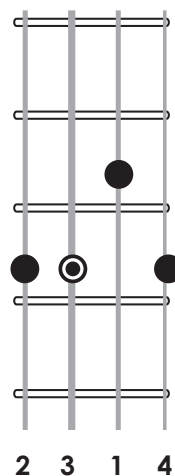
Ebmaj7



Ebm7



Ebm6



* These numbers indicate the scale intervals used to construct a chord of this type. These numbers are based on the major scale and can be raised or lowered to create additional chord types.

Transposition Chart

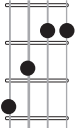
FRET	CHORD NAME			
(1)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(1)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(2)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(3)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(3)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(4)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(5)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(6)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(6)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(7)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(8)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(8)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(9)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(10)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(10)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(11)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(12)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

⊙ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.

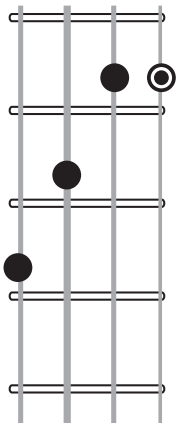


"D" Tuning C Movable Form Chords

"D" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

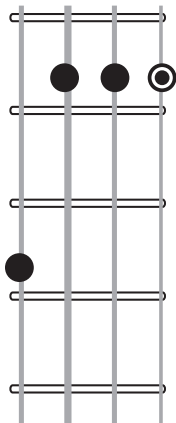


Cmaj



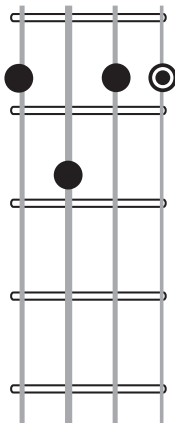
3 2 1 1

Cmin



3 1 1 1

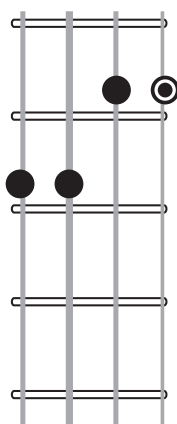
C7



1 2 1 1

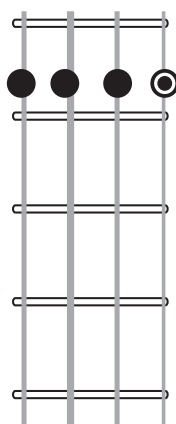
From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

Cmaj7



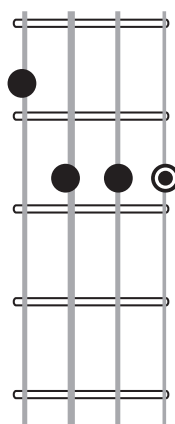
4 3 2 1

Cm7



1 1 1 1

Cm6



1 2 2 2

Transposition Chart

FRET	CHORD NAME			
(1)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(2)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(2)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(3)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(4)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(4)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(5)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(6)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(7)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(7)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(8)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(9)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(9)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(10)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(11)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(11)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(12)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

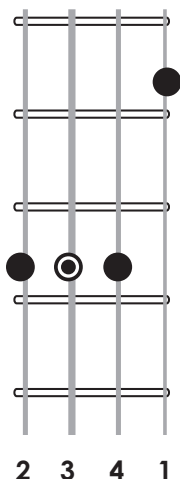
⊙ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.



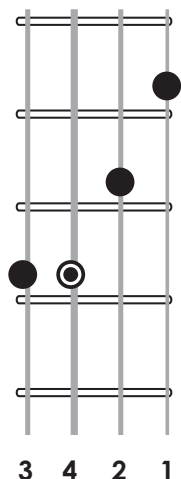
"D" Tuning F Movable Form Chords

"D" Tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor Ukuleles

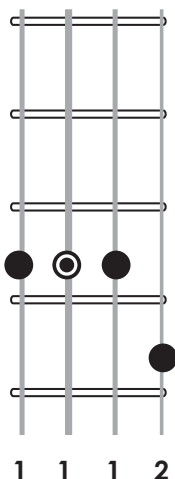
Fmaj



Fm

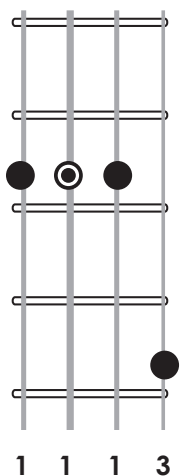


F7

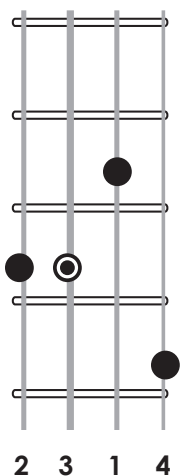


From the above major, minor and 7th chords the 4-part major 7, m7 and m6 chords can be derived, as well as additional contemporary chords.

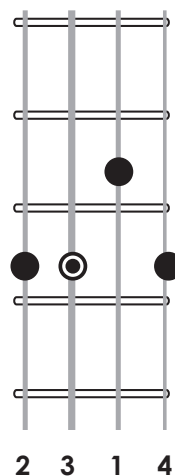
Fmaj7



Fm7



Fm6



* These numbers indicate the scale intervals used to construct a chord of this type. These numbers are based on the major scale and can be raised or lowered to create additional chord types.

Transposition Chart

FRET	CHORD NAME			
(1)	D#	D#m	D#7	D#m7
(1)	Eb	Ebm	Eb7	Ebm7
(2)	E	Em	E7	Em7
(3)	F	Fm	F7	Fm7
(4)	F#	F#m	F#7	F#m7
(4)	Gb	Gbm	Gb7	Gbm7
(5)	G	Gm	G7	Gm7
(6)	G#	G#m	G#7	G#m7
(6)	Ab	Abm	Ab7	Abm7
(7)	A	Am	A7	Am7
(8)	A#	A#m	A#7	A#m7
(8)	Bb	Bbm	Bb7	Bbm7
(9)	B	Bm	B7	Bm7
(10)	C	Cm	C7	Cm7
(11)	C#	C#m	C#7	C#m7
(11)	Db	Dbm	Db7	Dbm7
(12)	D	Dm	D7	Dm7
(13)	Same as fret (1)			

⊙ ROOT or letter name of the chord used for identification and transposition purposes.

CHORDS

Triads

Beyond learning open position and basic movable chords, most ukulele players struggle with more advanced chords. Triads offer a stepping stone between the shape based open position and basic moveable form chords to the more advanced 4-part chords. Triads provide a solid foundation for building your chord knowledge. This knowledge allows a musician the freedom to create any chord.

Up to this point, a chord was just a fingerboard shape and fingering. All that was needed was the ability to read a chord grid.

Learning how chords are constructed is the first step to freedom from shapes. *There are just too many shapes to memorize.*

What is a Chord?

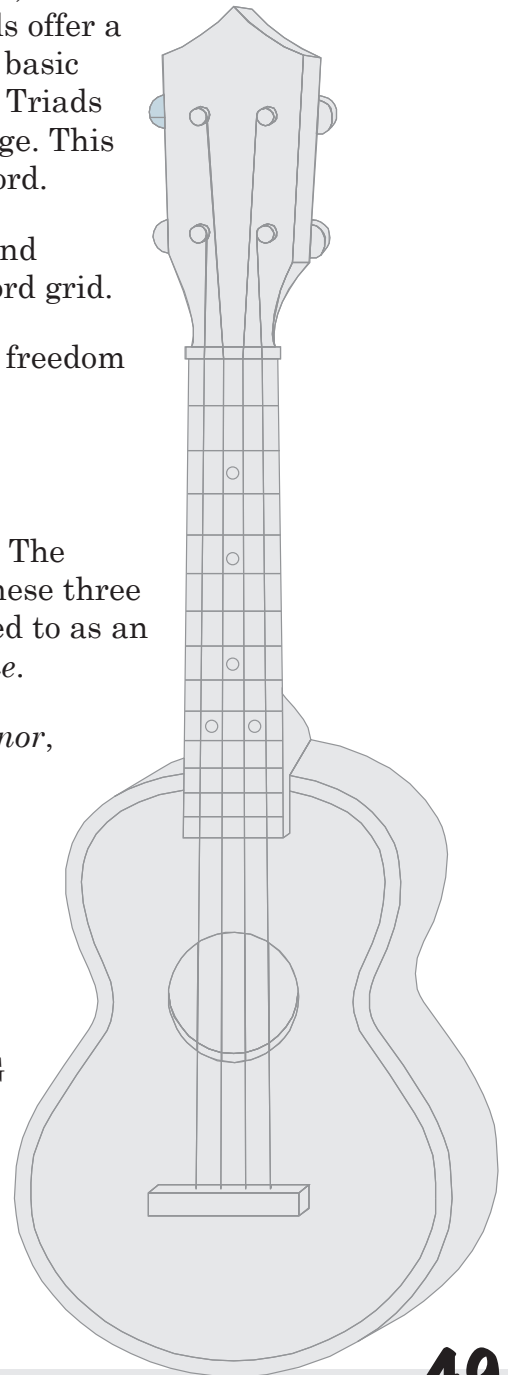
A chord is three or more notes sounded simultaneously. The minimum number of notes required for a chord is three. These three note chords are called *triads*. Two notes are usually referred to as an *interval* or *dyad*. Each note of a chord is called a *chord tone*.

Triads are categorized into one of four types: *Major*, *Minor*, *Diminished* or *Augmented*.

Major Triad

A major triad is created using the 1, 3 and 5 of a major scale*.

Example: a C Major triad contains the notes C, E, and G. For F Major the notes F, A, and C would be used. For G Major the notes G, B and D, etc... Common notation for a major chord is a capital letter only or a capital letter and *maj*, *MAJ*, *MA* or Δ .





Basic Triads

Minor Triad

A minor triad is created using the 1, flat 3 and 5 of a major scale*.

Example: a C Minor triad contains the notes C, Eb and G. Any minor triad can be created by lowering the third of a major triad one fret. Common notation for a minor chord is a capital letter and a lowercase *m*, *mi*, *min* or -.

Diminished Triad

A diminished triad is created using the 1, flat 3 and flat 5 of a major scale*.

Example: a C diminished triad contains the notes C, Eb and Gb. Any diminished triad can be created by lowering the fifth of a minor triad one fret. Common notation for a diminished chord is a capital letter and a lowercase *dim* or degree sign °.

Augmented Triad

An augmented triad is created using the 1, 3 and sharp 5 of a major scale*.

Example: a C augmented triad contains the notes C, E and G#. Any augmented triad can be created by raising the fifth of a major triad one fret. Common notation for an augmented chord is a capital letter and a lowercase *aug* or a plus sign +.

* See page 54 for the Triad Chord Tone Chart.

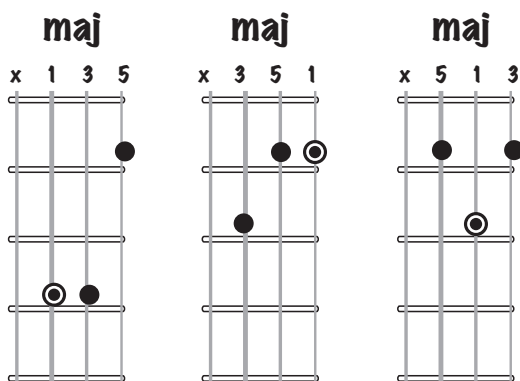


Creating Triads

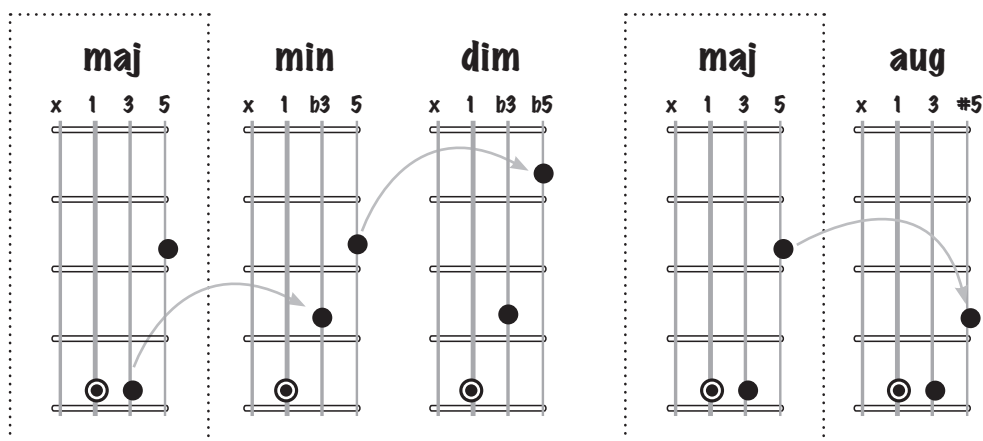
Creating the 4 Basic Triads

A triad can be fingered using any combination of three strings as long as each note of the triad is present.

Here is an example of three possible voicings for a major triad using strings 1, 2, and 3. These are the same shapes on strings 1, 2, and 3 on guitar. The names may be different depending on the ukulele tuning used.



Starting with the first major triad above, we can create a minor triad by lowering the third (string two) one fret. To create a diminished triad, lower the fifth (string one) of a minor triad one fret. To create an augmented triad, raise the fifth (string one) of a major triad one fret.





Contemporary Triads

Contemporary Triads

Beyond the basic major, minor, augmented and diminished triads, *sus* and *add* chords have found their way into the contemporary musician's chord vocabulary. These contemporary triads are a big part of the guitarist of U2, The Edge's sound.

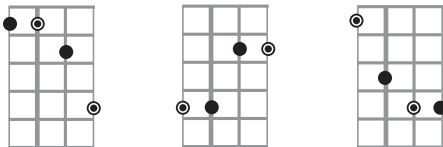
Sus

Sus usually implies *sus 4*. The *sus 4* chord is formed in two ways: 1) by raising the third of any major or augmented triad one fret or 2) by raising the third of any minor or diminished triad two frets

The original chord name is maintained and the notation *sus* or *sus 4* is added to the upper right.

sus4

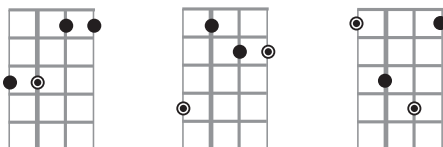
Here are a few sus4 chords voicings created from major triads.



Other sus chords are the *sus2* and *sus9*. These two interchangeable categories imply: 1) the lowering the third of a major or augmented triad two frets or 2) lowering the third of an minor or diminished triad one fret.

sus2, sus9

Here are a few useful sus2 voicings created from major triads.



The sus4, sus2 and sus9 are typically derived from elementary open position and basic movable form chords.



Contemporary Triads

add

Add chords are synthetic constructions. The most common is the add 9 (add 2) chord. In theory, you can add any note or interval to any chord.

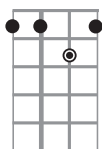
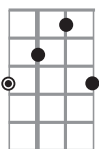
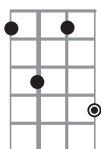
To form an add 9 chord, raise either the root of a major chord two frets or lower the major third two frets. Avoid using the added 2 or 9 as the lowest note of the chord. The add 9 is typically derived from elementary open position and basic movable form chords

The original chord name is maintained and the notation *add* is notated to the upper right.

For example: Cadd2 or Cadd9

add2, add9

Here are a few useful add2 voicings created from major triads.





Triad Chord Tone Chart

↪ Column one is the root of the chord.

1	3	5
C*	E	G
G	B	D
D	F#	A
A	C#	E
E	G#	B
B	D#	F#
F#	A#	C#
C#	E#	G#
F	A	C
Bb	D	F
Eb	G	Bb
Ab	C	Eb
Db	F	Ab
Gb	Bb	Db
Cb	Eb	Gb

* C Major Scale
Scale Degrees

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C'
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

CHORDS

4-Part aka "Jazz" Chords

Beyond learning basic chords, most ukulele players struggle with advanced chords. These more sophisticated chord voicings, commonly called "jazz" chords, find a wide use in all forms of music and styles.

This section presents an introduction to this mysterious subject of advanced chords. Chord dictionaries are not the answer. Even chord theory does not offer any insight into unravelling the complexity of advanced chords on ukulele.

Chords can be grouped into four categories: Open Position Chords, Movable Form Chords, 4-Part Contemporary Chords and Free Form Chords.

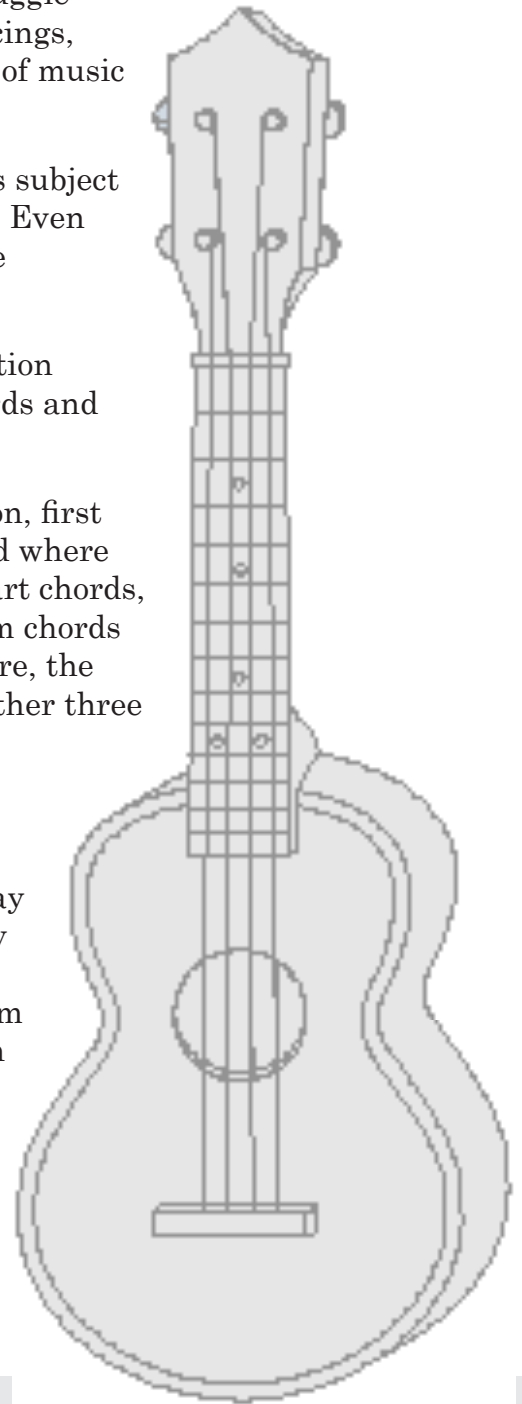
Open Position and *Movable Form* chords are the common, first chords that a beginning ukulele or guitar player learns and where covered earlier in this book. Contemporary chords are 4-Part chords, aka "Jazz" chords and the subject of this section. Free Form chords are where you know what the individual notes of a chord are, the notes of the ukulele neck and can build chords not in the other three categories.

Building Chords

There are several ways to build chords - but the best way to build chords on a ukulele, or guitar for that matter, is by using numeric formulas based on the scale degrees of the fifteen major scales. These numeric formulas are taken from the major scales by numbering each scale degree 1 through 13, skipping the octave (8), 10th and 12th scale degrees, as these are duplicates of the fundamental triad chord tones, the root or one, third and fifth.

Example: **C Major Scale**

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	D	F	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13





4-Part “Jazz” Chords

Example: **G Major Scale**

G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	A	C	E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13

Example: **F Major Scale**

F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	G	Bb	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13

(See the 4-part Chord Tone Chart on page 64)

A Few Chord Building Rules

When lowering or raising a scale degree to create a chord tone the alphabetical name of the note can not change. Example C must remain C either C#, Cb, Cx (double sharp) or Cbb (double flat). Lowering a sharp note removes the sharp, C# becomes C. Raising a sharp note becomes a double sharp, C# becomes Cx (double sharp). Raising a flat note removes the flat, Bb becomes B. Lowering a flat note becomes a double flat, Bb becomes Bbb (double flat). These double flats and double sharps are the theoretically correct spelling for the note. A notated note is different than the pitch a note produces. F# the note produces the same pitch as Gb the note.

Example Using the Chord Building Chart (D7)

1. Find the formula on the *Scale Interval Formula Chart* for the chord on page 59. Example D7 is a Major chord type and specifically a 7th chord. It's scale interval formula is 1 3 5 b7
2. Find the key of the chord based on the root or letter name of the chord. The root of a D7 chord is D.
3. Lookup the intervals 1 3 5 and 7 for the key of D on page 35 (D F# A C#). Now flat the seventh as required for a 7th chord. This will make the C# a C. The notes of a D7 chord are D F# A C.



4-Part “Jazz” Chords

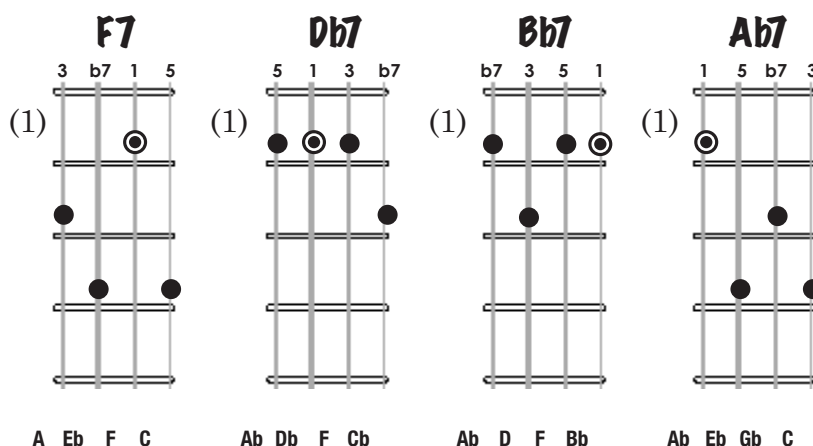
Building More Advanced Chords

For these more advanced “jazz” chords, we will use a seventh chord as the starting point and the common “C” tuning.

Seventh Chords

Sevenths chords are a major chord type and the foundation chord for building all 4-part major chord types.

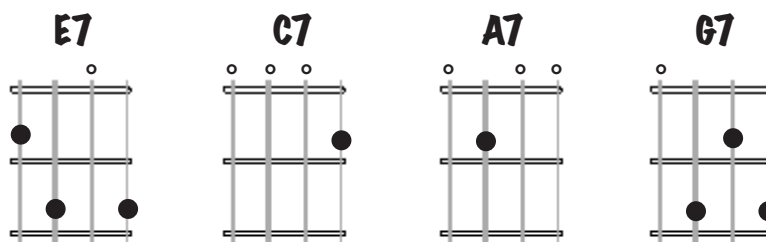
Here are four seventh chords played at fret one of a ukulele using “C” tuning (*re-entrant tuning or log “G” variation*). The same shapes are available with the “G” and “D” tunings with different names.



The numeric chord formula is shown right below the chord name. It is these chord scale degrees that are raised or lowered to create other chords.

The chord tones of the chord are shown below the chord shape.

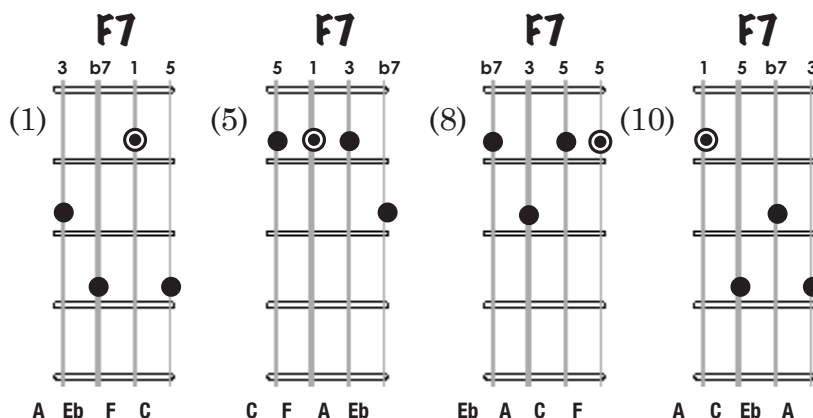
These four chords are based on the open position **E7**, **C7**, **A7** and **G7** open position chords.





4-Part “Jazz” Chords

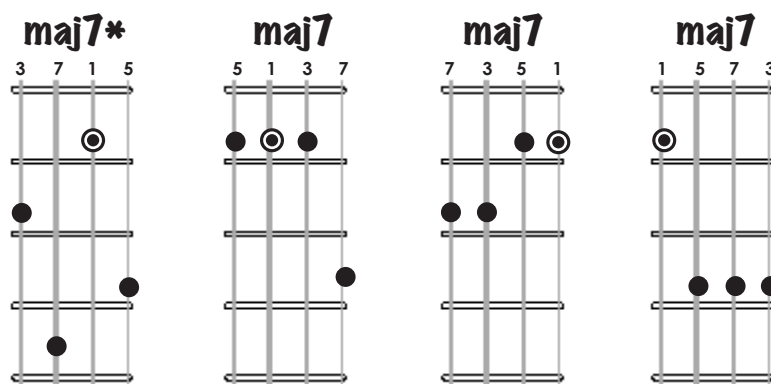
Based on the transposition chart on page 38, here are the four seventh chords transposed to **F7**.



Major Seventh Chords

A **maj7**, **M7**, **MA7**, **Δ7** chord is a major chord type and can be created by raising the seventh of a seventh chord one fret.

All 4-part chords are shown as their generic shapes. Use the roots to transpose to different keys.



Major Sixth Chords

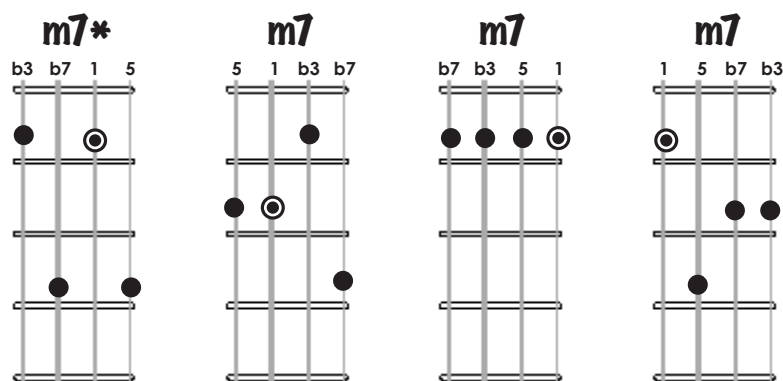
A **maj 6**, **6** chord is a major chord type and can be created by lowering the seventh of each seventh chord one fret.



4-Part "Jazz" Chords

Minor Seventh Chords

A **m7**, **min7**, **-7** chord is a minor chord type and can be created by raising the seventh of a seventh chord one fret. A minor seventh chords is the foundation chord for building all 4-part minor chord types.

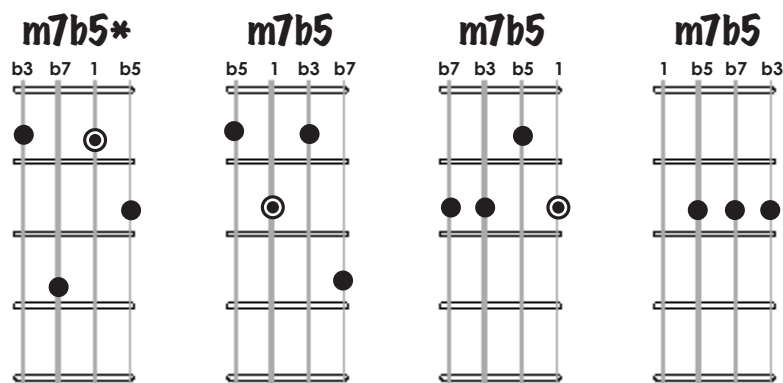


Minor Sixth Chords

A **m6** chord is a minor chord type and can be created by lowering the seventh of a minor seventh chord one fret.

Minor Seventh Flat Five Chords

A **m7b5** or half-diminished seventh chord is a diminished chord type and can be created by lowering the fifth of each minor seventh chord one fret. A minor seventh flat five chord is the foundation chord for building all 4-part diminished chord types.





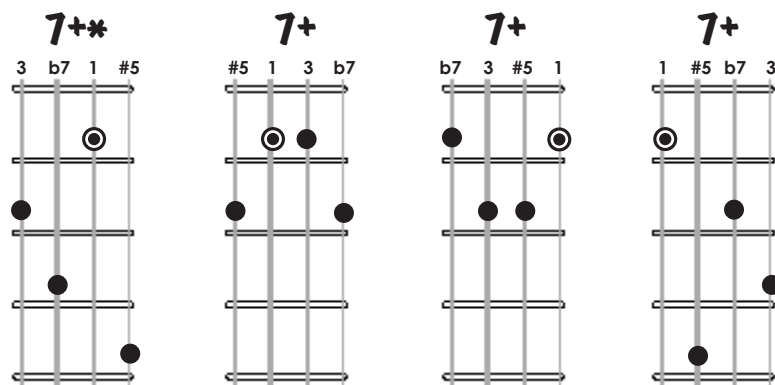
4-Part “Jazz” Chords

Diminished Seventh Chords

A **dim7**, **°7** chord is a diminished chord type and can be created by lowering the seventh of a minor seventh flat five chord one fret.

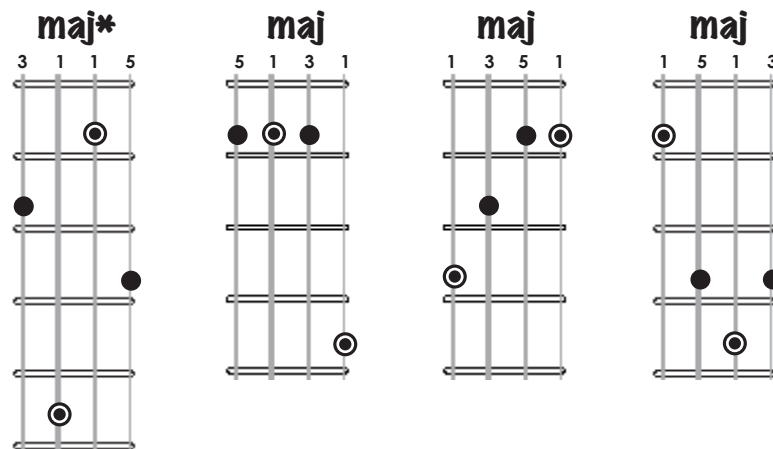
Augmented Seventh Chords

A **aug7**, **7+**, **7+5** chord is an augmented chord type and can be created by raising the fifth of a seventh chord one fret. An Augmented seventh chord is the foundation chord for building all 4-part augmented chord types.



4-Part Triads

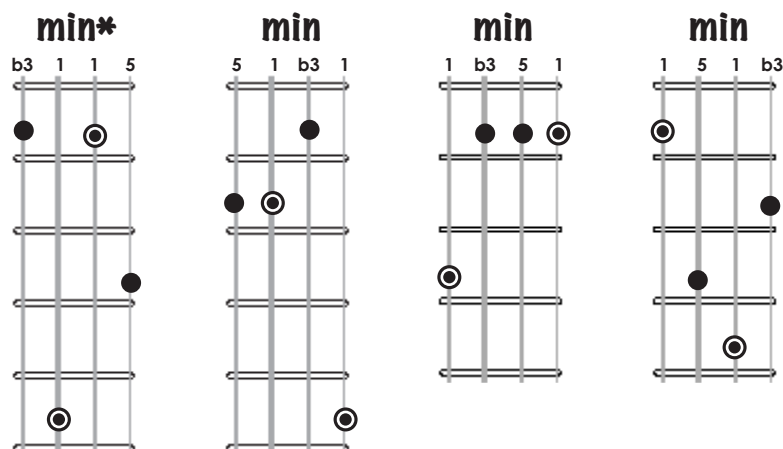
A **Major** 4-part triad can be created by raising the seventh of a major seventh chord one fret, or raising the seventh of a seventh chords two frets.



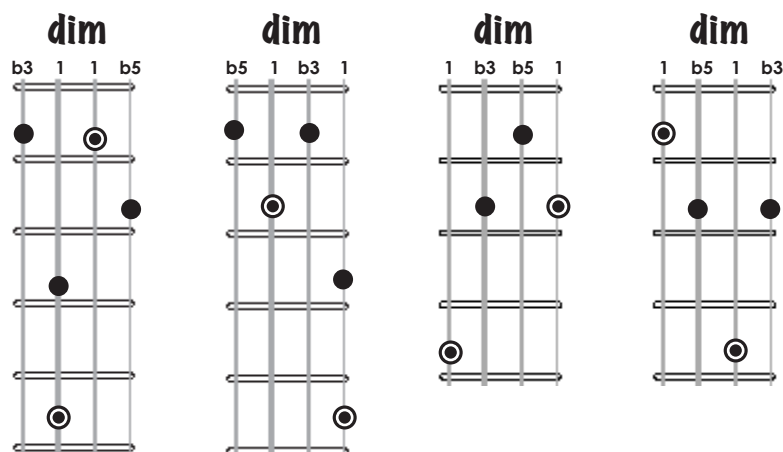


4-Part "Jazz" Chords

A **Minor** 4-part triad can be created by raising the seventh of a minor seventh chord two frets.



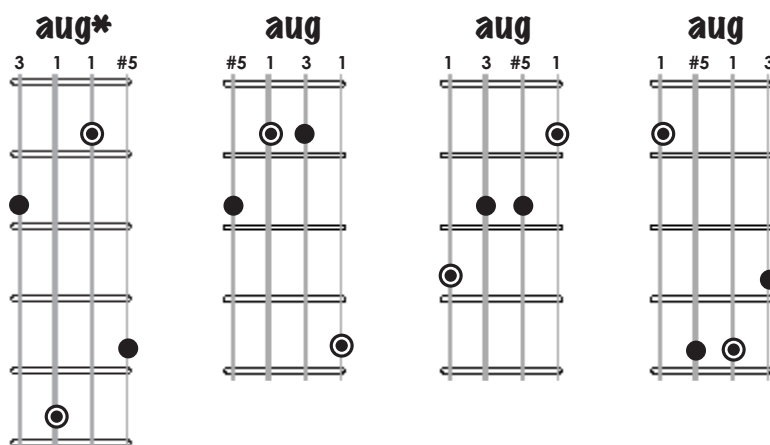
A **Diminished** 4-part triad can be created by raising the seventh of a minor seventh flat five chord two frets.





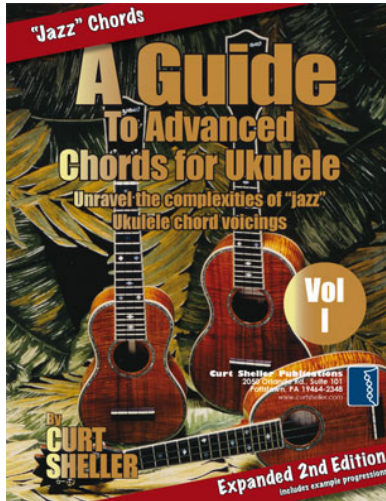
4-Part “Jazz” Chords

A **Augmented** 4-part triad can be created by raising the seventh of an augmented seventh chord two frets.





4-Part “Jazz” Chords



A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords

For complete information on creating more advanced 4-part chords see the author’s book *A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords*. This book provides detailed information on voicing 4-part chords. *A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords* covers ALL major, minor, diminished and augmented chords types, their upper partials, alterations, add, sus and slash chords. Everything you need to know to create any chord.



4-Part Chord Tone Chart

↪ Column one is the root of the key.

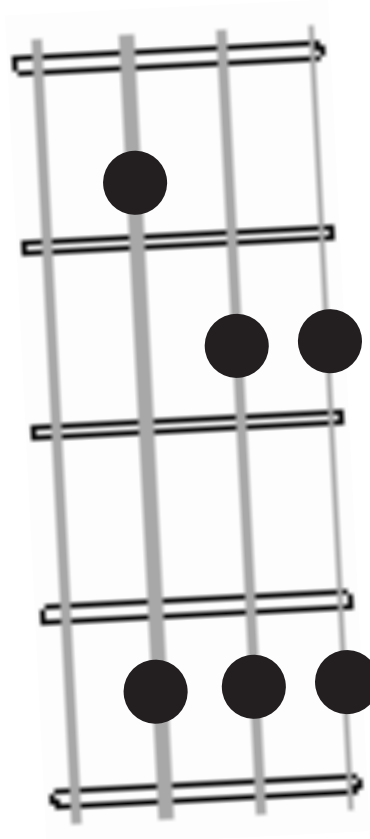
1	3	5	6	7
C	E	G	A	B
G	B	D	E	F [#]
D	F [#]	A	B	C [#]
A	C [#]	E	F [#]	G [#]
E	G [#]	B	C [#]	D [#]
B	D [#]	F [#]	G [#]	A [#]
F [#]	A [#]	C [#]	D [#]	E [#]
C [#]	E [#]	G [#]	A [#]	B [#]
F	A	C	D	E
B ^b	D	F	G	A
E ^b	G	B ^b	C	D
A ^b	C	E ^b	F	G
D ^b	F	A ^b	B ^b	C
G ^b	B ^b	D ^b	E ^b	F
C ^b	E ^b	G ^b	A ^b	B ^b

* C Major Scale
Scale Degrees

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C'
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Scales

Essential Scales



60 Suggested Reading:

- Quickstart Scale Fingering for Ukulele - "C" Tuning by Curt Sheller
- Quickstart Scale Fingering for Ukulele - "D" Tuning by Curt Sheller
- Quickstart Scale Fingering for Tenor and Baritone Ukuleles - "G" Tuning by Curt Sheller



Essential Scales

The essential scales for any musician depend on the styles of music to be performed. This can range from simple pentatonic and blues scales for basic rock and blues songs to more advanced scale choices available for a jazz musician.

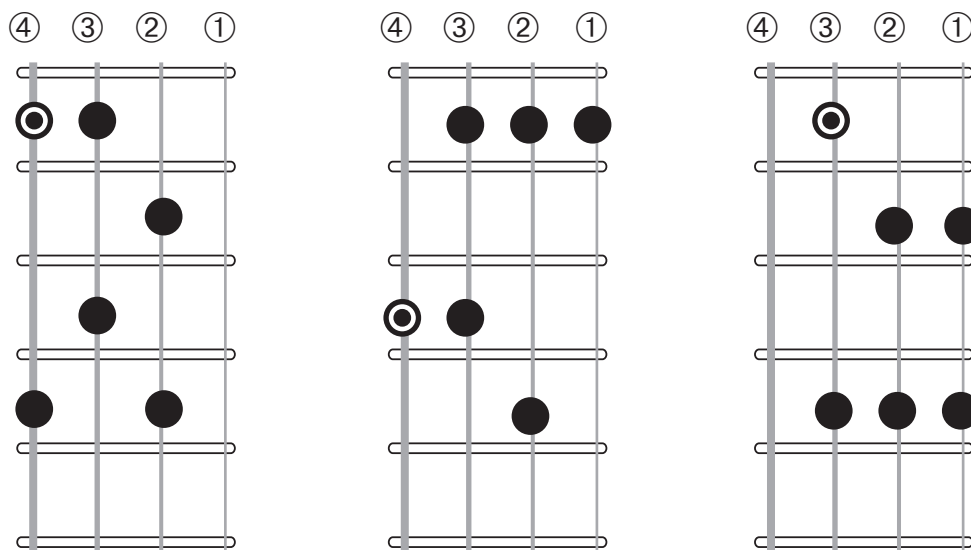
Regardless of the styles of music played the Blues and Pentatonic scales find their way into a wide range of styles.

The Blues Scale

The Blues scale, also called the *Minor Pentatonic* scale, is a five note *pentatonic* scale and the most commonly used lead scale in Rock and Blues. Blues influenced jazz players also use this scale effectively. This scale is easily transferred to the ukulele.

The Blues scale consists of the following intervals (based on a major scale). **Root, b3, 4, 5, b7** and **octave**. A common chromatic passing tone can be played between the 4th and 5th of the scale.

Here are three one octave scale fingerboard shapes. The key of the scale can be found by identifying the name of the root note . See the fingerboard charts in the back of this book.

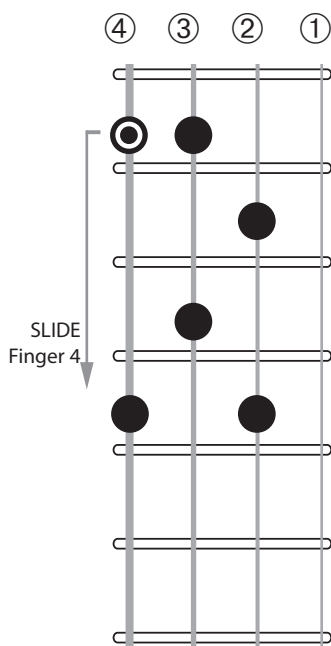
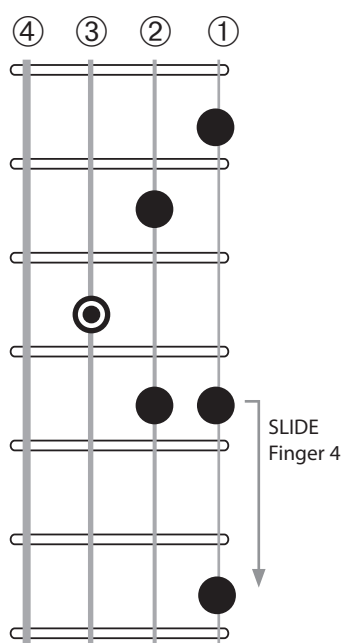


The first two scale patterns are not available on a ukulele using a re-entrant tuning.

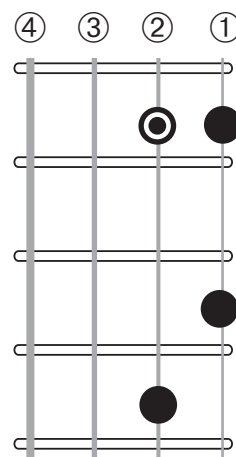


Essential Scales

Additional Blues Scale Shapes



*Here is an
example of a
partial Blues
scale*





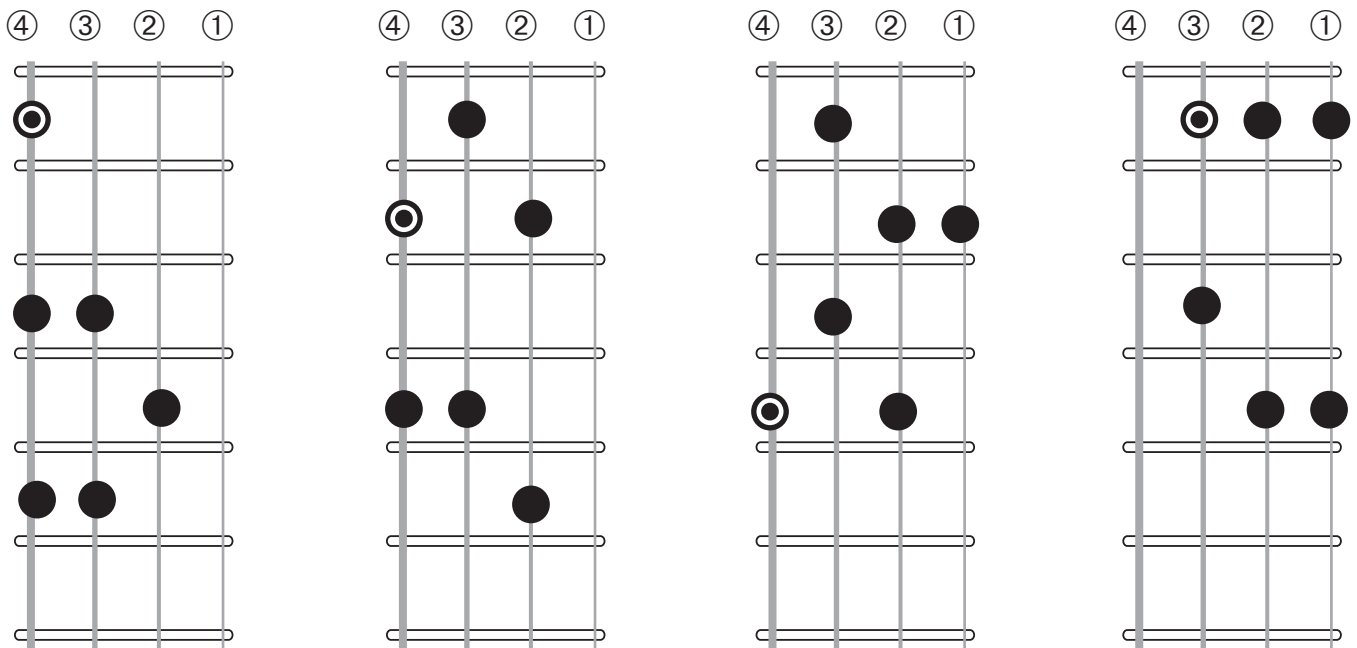
Essential Scales

The Pentatonic Scale

This scale is also referred to as the *Country, Nashville* scale. Eric Clapton has been very successful in weaving the bright pentatonic sound with the dark blues sound creating an unmistakable sound.

The Pentatonic or Major Pentatonic scale as it is often referred to as, consists of the following intervals (based on a major scale). Root, 2, 3, 5, 6 and octave. A common chromatic passing tone can be played between the 2nd and 3rd of the scale.

Here are three one octave scale fingerboard shapes. the key can be found out by locating the the name of the note that is on the string and fret for the root of the scale ④.

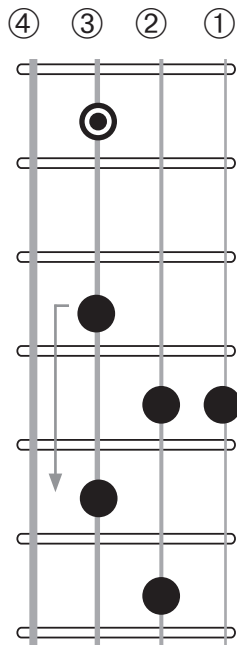


The first three scale patterns are not available on a ukulele using the re-entrant tuning.

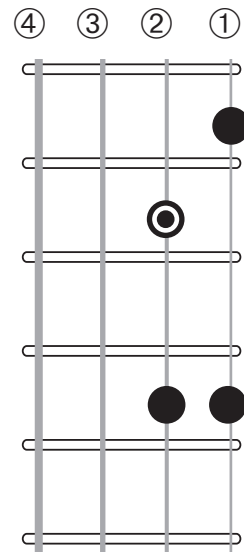


Essential Scales

Additional Pentatonic Scale Shapes



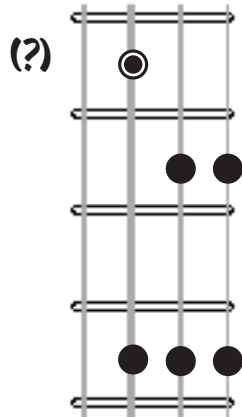
*Here is an
example
of a partial
Pentatonic
scale*





Essential Scales

Transposing Scales



Like chords, any scale can be transposed to any key by moving each note of the scale pattern up and down the fingerboard by the same number of frets. The name of the scale can be identified by its root ●.

A simple transposition skill is to memorize the sequence of twelve notes that make up the chromatic scale. The chromatic scale contains all the notes that in one octave and uses all seven letters that are the musical alphabet.

Starting with “C” tuning and D on string 3, fret (2) the chromatic scale would be:

Notes	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D'
Fret	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)

In the case of the example D Blues scale. One fret higher for each note and it is the D# Blues scale. Two frets higher for each note and it is the E Blues scale, etc.

Or -

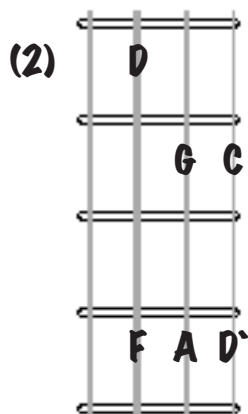
Learn the notes of the ukulele neck and move the whole shape up or down the fingerboard so the ● is on the root of the new key. Still no chords or names of notes.

This is a useful transposition skill but does not reveal the chords that a scale works with or the individual notes of the scale. The shape remains the same but the TAB and music notation would change.



Essential Scales

Identifying Scale Degree Names



Using a fingerboard chart you can come up with the names of the notes. But where there is a multiple choice you would have to guess without any theory to provide hints. This example scale is one of the easier ones to name the notes for, but a scale with a G# could be Ab. Only music theory would reveal the correct names or spelling of the scale.

Every scale has a very specific set of notes. For the D Blues scale they are D F G A C D'.

Additional Scales

A scale can be thought of by how it relates to its parallel major scale's scale degrees.

D Major	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D'	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
D Blues	D		F	G	A		C	D'	
		1		b3	4	5		b7	8

The Blues scale does not contain a second or sixth scale degree. With this knowledge choosing the correct name of the individual notes is possible.

The Blues scale is a sub set of the *Natural Minor*. Also known as the *Aeolian* scale.

Here are the notes of the D Aeolian scale and how the Blues scale relates to it.

D Aeolian	D	E	F	G	A	Bb	C	D'	
	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	b7	8	
D Blues	D		F	G	A		C	D'	
	1		b3	4	5		b7	8	



Essential Scales

The Pentatonic scale is a sub set of the *Mixolydian* also known as the *Dominant* scale.

Here are the notes of the D Mixolydian scale and how the Pentatonic scale relates to it.

By lowering the seventh scale degree of a major scale we have the Mixolydian scale. From the Mixolydian scale we can derive the Pentatonic scale.

D Major	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D'
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
D Mixolydian	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C	D'
	1	2	3	4	5	6	b7	8
D Pentatonic	D	E	F#		A	B		D'
	1	2	3		5	6		8

The Pentatonic scale does not contain a fourth or seventh scale degree.

By knowing the major scale, other scales can be recalled using simple numeric formulas.

The Harmonized Chord Scale

Each scale has an associated set of chords that are built from its notes or scale degrees. This is called a *Harmonized Chord Scale*. Unlike most scales the Blues scale is a very flexible scale as its associated chords come from more than one scale.

Blues

The Blues scale is a minor scale that works over chord progressions in a Minor tonality and as well as a Major tonality.

<i>Minor:</i>	Dm	F	Gm	Am	Bb,Bbmaj7	C
<i>Major:</i>	D,D7	F	G,G7	A,A7	Bb,Bbmaj7	C



Essential Scales

Chords

D	Dm	D7	I* maj, min, 7
G	Gm	G7	IV maj, min, 7
A	Am	A7	V maj, min, 7
F			bIII maj
Bb	Bbmaj7		bVI maj, maj7
C			bVII maj

* These Roman Numerals indicate a chord's function within its scale harmony or tonality.

Pentatonic

The Pentatonic scale's chords come from the Mixolydian scale.

D Mixolydian

Triads	D	Em	F#°	G	Am	Bm	C
4-part	D7, Em7, F#m7b5, Gmaj7, Am7, Bm7, Cmaj7						

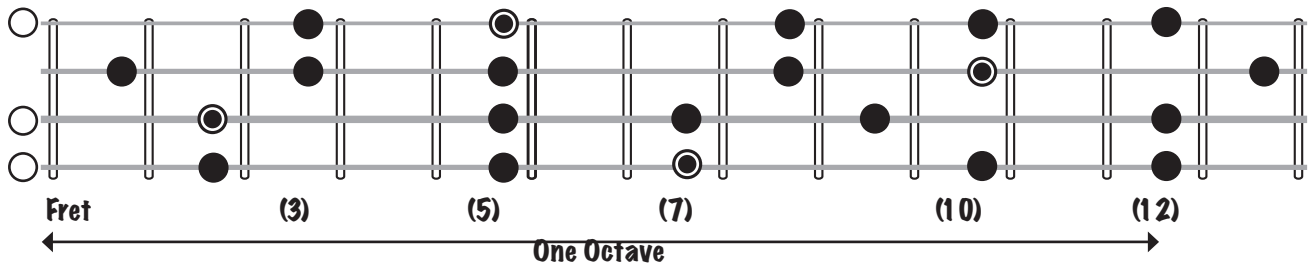


Essential Scales

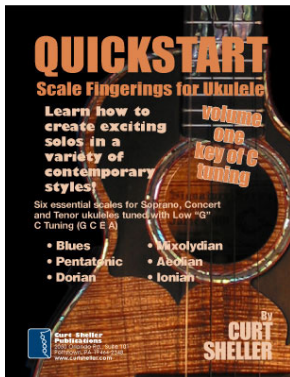
Expanding A Scale

A one octave scale fingering can be extended below the starting root and above the octave with available scale notes.

Here are all available notes for the D blues scale (“C” tuning).



For a complete study of six essential scales see the author’s *QuickStart Scale and Arpeggio Fingering* series of books at www.CurtSheller.com:



QuickStart Scale Fingerings for Ukulele - “C” Tuning

QuickStart Scale Fingerings for Ukulele - “D” Tuning

QuickStart Scale Fingerings for Tenor and Baritone Ukulele - “G” Tuning

QuickStart Arpeggio Fingerings for Ukulele - “C” Tuning

QuickStart Arpeggio Fingerings for Ukulele - “D” Tuning

Reading

Standard Music Notation



60 Suggested Reading:

- **A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Advanced Guide the Chord Progressions for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Harmonic Analysis for Scale Selection and Chord Substitution** by Curt Sheller



Reading Music on Ukulele

Reading Music is the ability to reproduce music from written notation. It includes note recognition, alternate note locations, rhythm recognition, fingering considerations, communication terminology and interpretations. (*From Wikipedia*)

Reading Music on the ukulele, or any instrument is first, note and rhythm recognition. The ability to look a piece of music and read the notes and rhythm. Second is to locate the notes on the ukulele's fingerboard. Finally making wise fingering choices when the notes that don't conveniently fall in one position.

This section will explore reading music in "C" tuning. Both the re-entrant tuning and the low "G" variation, in the open/first position See pages 92 to 95 for a complete listing of all the notes of the ukulele fingerboard from the open string to fret twelve using standard music notation.

Note: Any standard guitar reading method can be used for "G" tuning, using only strings 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the guitar book.

Note Recognition

Regardless of what tuning you are using the ukulele uses the treble or "G" clef and is written in concert pitch.

Range - Re-entrant "C" Tuning, High "G"





Reading Music on Ukulele

Range - "C" Tuning, Low "G"



The upper range of your instrument depends on how many frets you have available. Using a soprano ukulele the usable range is typically twelve frets. This is a one and one half octave range. The larger concert, tenor and baritone ukuleles have a higher range depending on the number of frets.

Learning to read music on the ukulele starts in open position which includes the open strings and frets (1), (2), (3) and (4).

For the *high "G", C tuning* strings ①, ② and ③ are used. String ① is the string closest to the floor. String ④, the string closest to you, is typically not used for single note playing in high "G, C tuning.

For the *low "G", C tuning* all four strings are used.

The fingers used to play the ukulele are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. *Index* finger is 1, *middle* finger is 2, *ring* finger is 3 and *pinky* is 4.

Step one is learning where the natural notes are located in open position. A natural note is a note with no sharp or flat preceding it. The most common scale that has no sharp or flat notes and includes all seven letters of the musical alphabet is the C major scale. On piano this would be white keys only.



Reading Music on Ukulele

C Major Scale

Here are the available natural notes in open or first position.

Re-entrant "C" Tuning, High "G"

	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
Finger	0	2	0	1	3	1	2	3	4
String	③	②	②	②	②	①	①	①	①
Fret	(0)	(2)	(0)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(2)	(3)	(5)

Open/First Position, no sharp or flat notes

In high "G" tuning the open/first position range is one octave plus one note, middle C to D on string ① fret (5).

C Major Scale

Here are the available natural notes in open or first position.

"C" Tuning, Low "G"

	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
Finger	0	2	4	0	3	0	1	3	0	2	3	4
String	④	④	④	③	③	③	②	②	②	①	①	①
Fret	(0)	(2)	(4)	(0)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(2)	(3)	(5)

Open/First, no sharp or flat notes

In low "G" tuning the open/first position range is G below middle C to D on string ① fret (5).



Reading Music on Ukulele

Alternate Note Locations

The open string two, E can also be played on string ③ fret (4). For now we will play it using open string two. What string to play a note on that has an alternate note location would ultimately be a musical one.

Rhythm Recognition

The songs in this section use the following rhythmic syllables. For a complete study of rhythm see the book *Modular Phonetic Rhythm - The Foundation and Workbook* and *Rhythm Cards* by Chuck Anderson. (www.RhythmCards.com).



Whole
Note

Half
Note

Dotted
Half Note

Quarter
Note

Whole Note

A *Whole* note receives four beats. Tapping your foot evenly play the note on beat 1 and let ring through beats 2, 3, and 4.

Half Note

A *Half* note receives two beats. Tapping your foot evenly play the note on beat 1 and let ring through beat 2.

Dotted Half Note

A *Dotted Half* note receives three beats. Tapping your foot evenly play the note on beat 1 and let ring through beats 2 and 3.

Quarter Note

A *Quarter* note receives one beat.



Jacob's Ladder

Melody - High or Low "G", C Tuning





Melody - High or Low "G", C Tuning





Jimmy Crack Corn

For this song the low “G”, C tuning is needed to play the notes below middle C.

Low “G”, C Tuning





Round the Mulberry Bush

Low "G", C Tuning





Second Story Uke

An interval is the distance between two notes. One of the most common intervals used for writing melodies are the intervals of a second and third. So getting the fingers used to playing these intervals will help you reading.



* This is the first appearance of a high **D**. Play this note by stretching** finger four to fret (5).

The Third Uke Man



** Don't be concerned about fingering options beyond a basic four fret span where each finger handles their own fret. This stretch can be avoided by using alternative fingering principles to navigate the fingerboard.

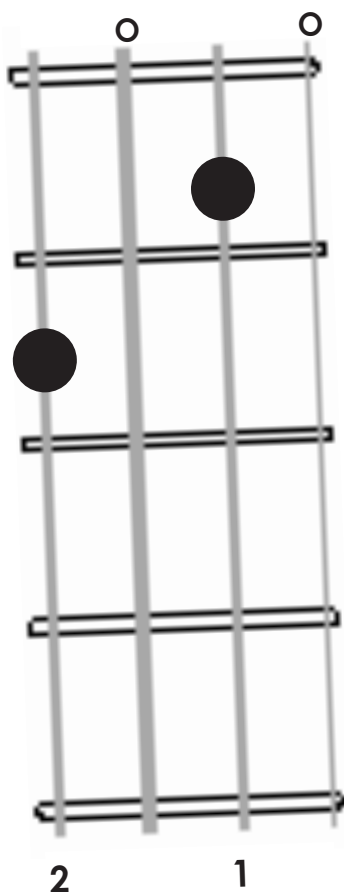
For a complete study of fingering principles see Chuck Anderson's book *The Six Secrets of Guitar Fingering*. Although written for guitar the principles apply to any fretted, stringed instrument.





UKULELE

Fingerboard Charts



60 Suggested Reading:

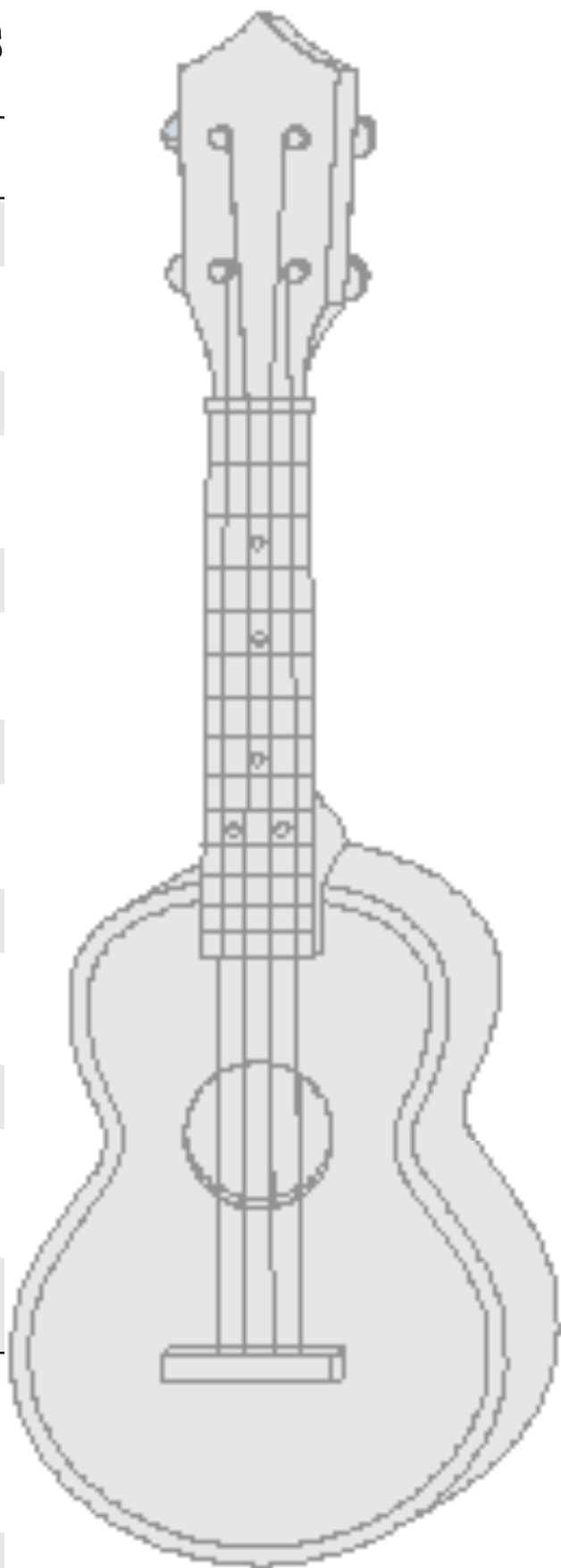
- **A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Advanced Guide the Chord Progressions for Ukulele - Vol I** by Curt Sheller
- **Harmonic Analysis for Scale Selection and Chord Substitution** by Curt Sheller

"C" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Sharp Notes

STRING	④	③	②	①
Open	G	C	E	A
1	G [#]	C [#]	F	A [#]
2	A	D	F [#]	B
3	A [#]	D [#]	G	C
4	B	E	G [#]	C [#]
5	C	F	A	D
6	C [#]	F [#]	A [#]	D [#]
7	D	G	B	E
8	D [#]	G [#]	C	F
9	E	A	C [#]	F [#]
10	F	A [#]	D	G
11	F [#]	B	D [#]	G [#]
12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

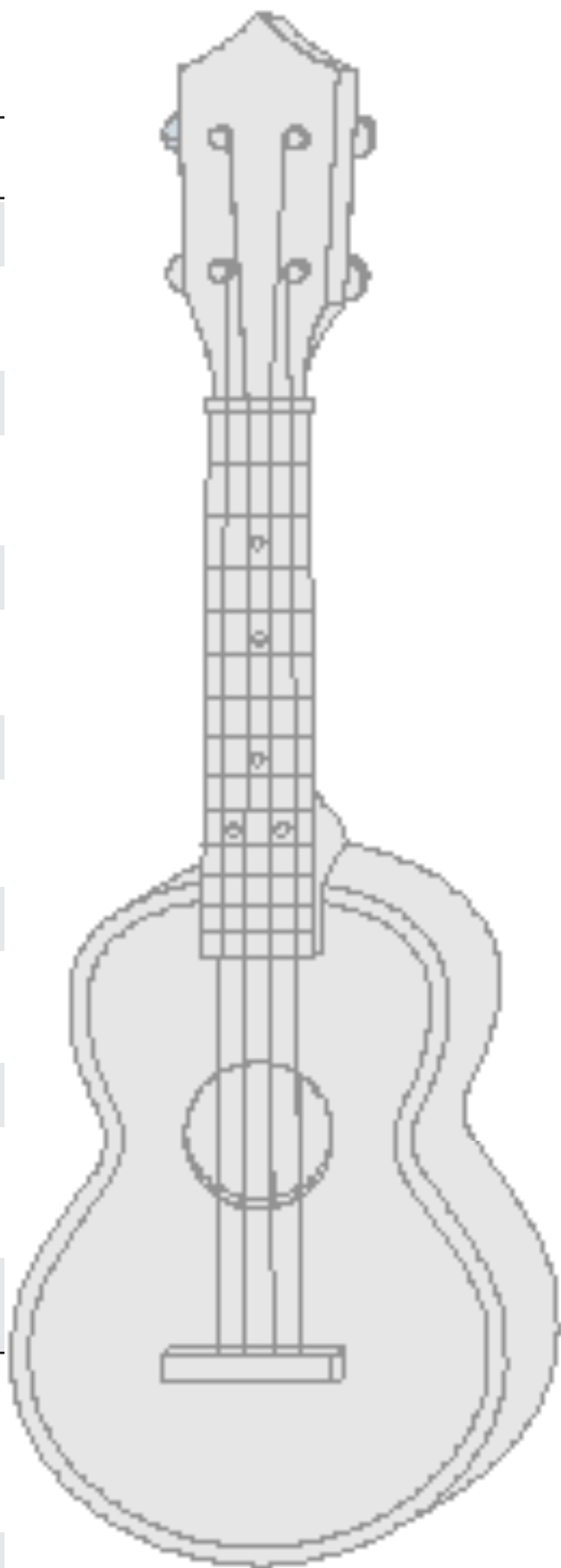


"C" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Flat Notes

STRING		④	③	②	①
FRET	Open	G	C	E	A
	1	A ^b	D ^b	F	B ^b
	2	A	D	G ^b	B
	3	B ^b	E ^b	G	C
	4	B	E	A ^b	D ^b
	5	C	F	A	D
	6	D ^b	G ^b	B ^b	E ^b
	7	D	G	B	E
	8	E ^b	A ^b	C	F
	9	E	A	D ^b	G ^b
	10	F	B ^b	D	G
	11	G ^b	B	E ^b	A ^b
	12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

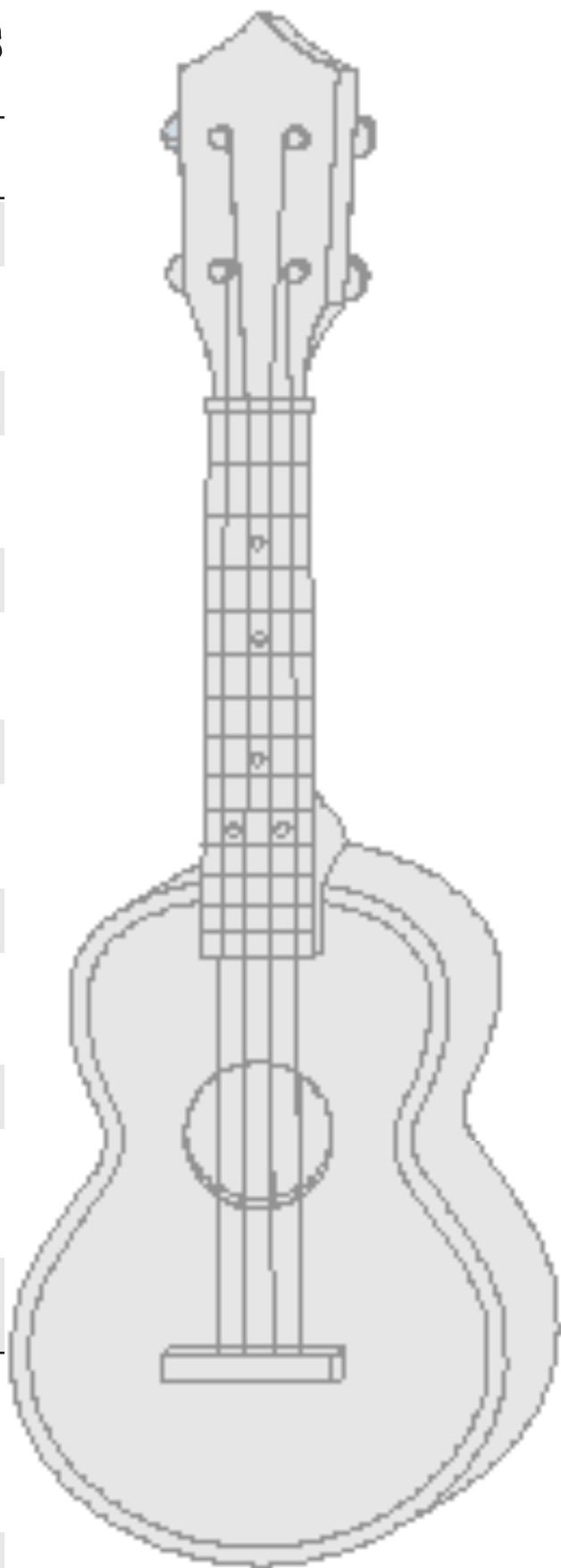


"D" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Sharp Notes

STRING	④	③	②	①
Open	A	D	F#	B
1	A#	D#	G	C
2	B	E	G#	C#
3	C	F	A	D
4	C#	F#	A#	D#
5	D	G	B	E
6	D#	G#	C	F
7	E	A	C#	F#
8	F	A#	D	G
9	F#	B	D#	G#
10	G	C	E	A
11	G#	C#	F	A#
12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

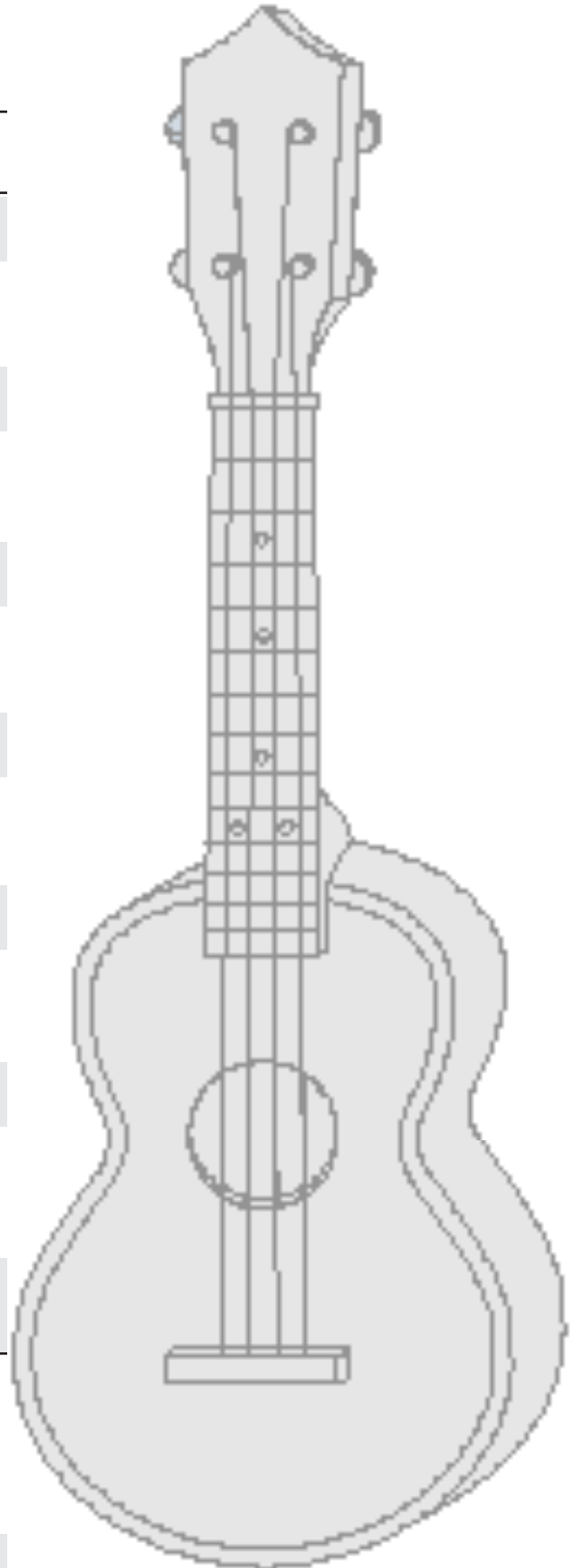


"D" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Flat Notes

STRING	④	③	②	①
Open	A	D	G ^b	B
1	B ^b	E ^b	G	C
2	B	E	A ^b	D ^b
3	C	F	A	D
4	D ^b	G ^b	B ^b	E ^b
5	D	G	B	E
6	E ^b	A ^b	C	F
7	E	A	D ^b	G ^b
8	F	B ^b	D	G
9	G ^b	B	E ^b	A ^b
10	G	C	E	A
11	A ^b	D ^b	F	B ^b
12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukuleles.

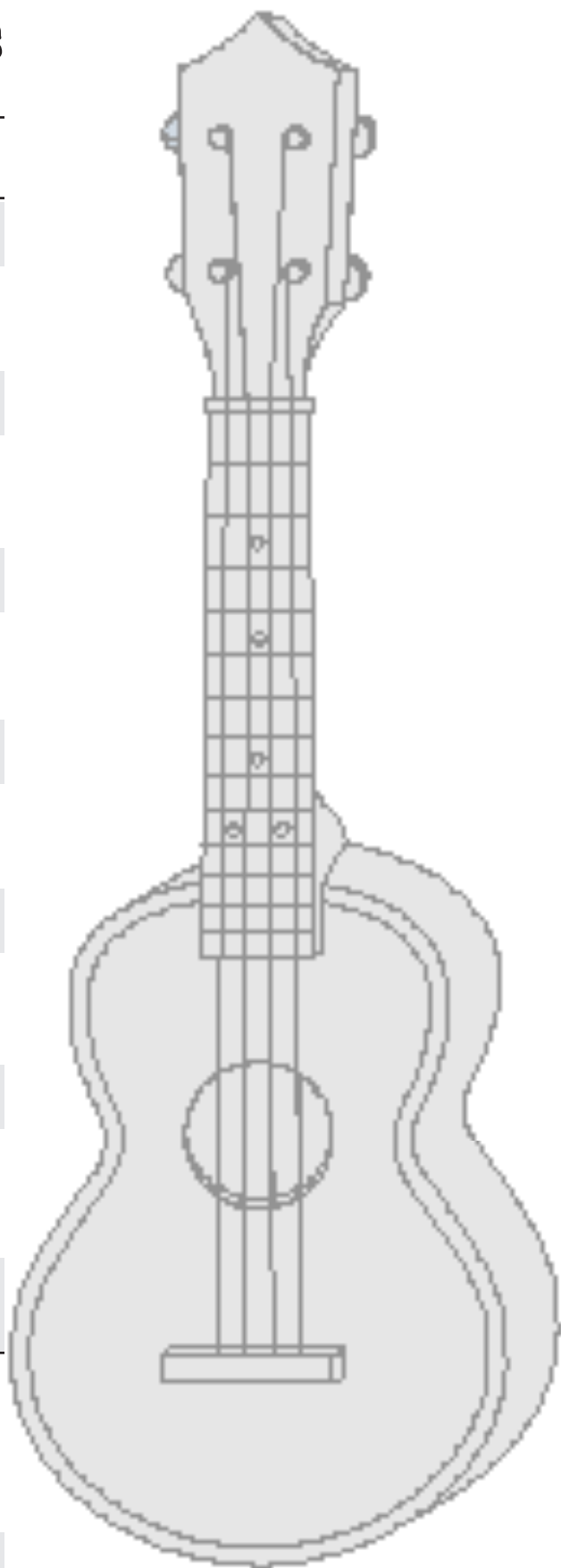


"G" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Sharp Notes

STRING	④	③	②	①
Open	D	G	B	E
1	D [#]	G [#]	C	F
2	E	A	C [#]	F [#]
3	F	A [#]	D	G
4	F [#]	B	D [#]	G [#]
5	G	C	E	A
6	G [#]	C [#]	F	A [#]
7	A	D	F [#]	B
8	A [#]	D [#]	G	C
9	B	E	G [#]	C [#]
10	C	F	A	D
11	C [#]	F [#]	A [#]	D [#]
12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Tenor and Baritone ukuleles.

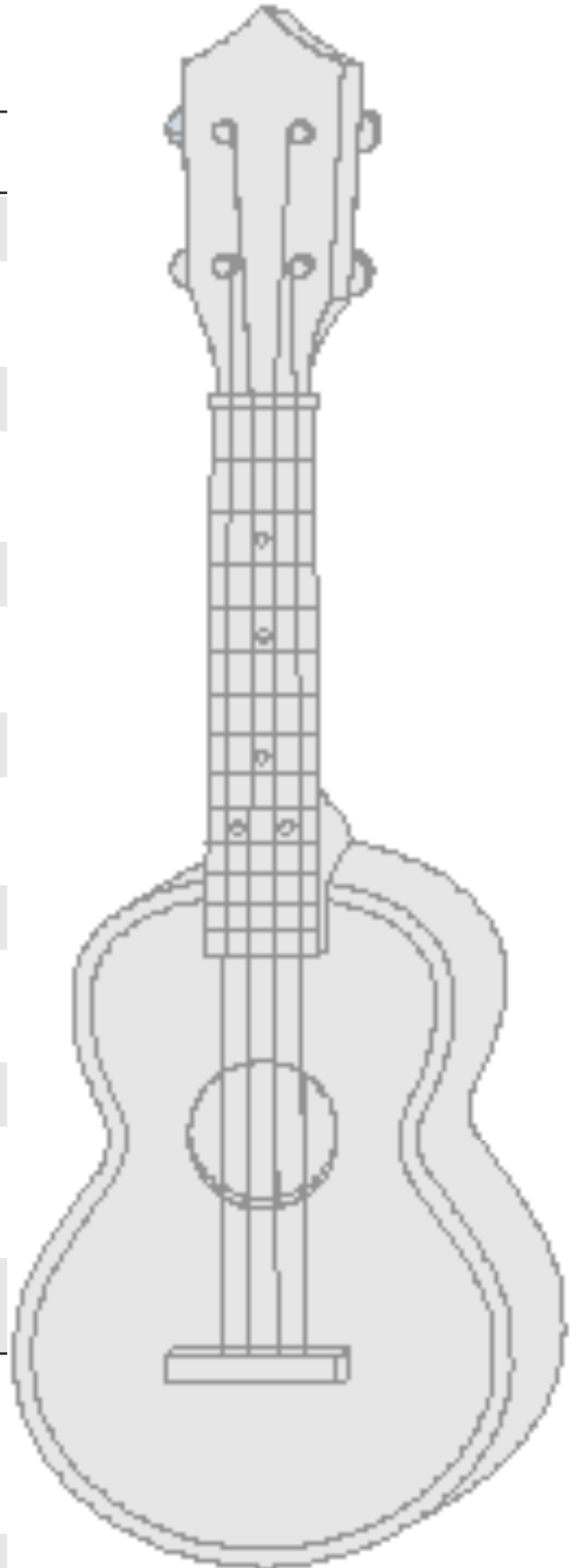


"G" TUNING FINGERBOARD CHART*

Natural & Flat Notes

STRING	④	③	②	①
Open	D	G	B	E
1	E ^b	A ^b	C	F
2	E	A	D ^b	G ^b
3	F	B ^b	D	G
4	G ^b	B	E ^b	A ^b
5	G	C	E	A
6	A ^b	D ^b	F	B ^b
7	A	D	G ^b	B
8	B ^b	E ^b	G	C
9	B	E	A ^b	D ^b
10	C	F	A	D
11	D ^b	G ^b	B ^b	E ^b
12	The notes at the twelfth fret have the same names as the open strings.			

* This is a common tuning for Tenor and Baritone ukuleles.





C Tuning - Standard Notation

Natural and Sharp Notes of the Fingerboard

C Tuning, High G

* Open Strings



Fret (1)



Fret (2)



* Fret (3)



Fret (4)



* Fret (5)





C Tuning - Standard Notation



Same names as open strings one octave higher

* *Reference Frets* - These frets are natural notes and easy to memorize. From these frets other frets can be memorized from these by sharpening or flattening each note.



C Tuning - Standard Notation

Natural and Flat Notes of the Fingerboard

C Tuning, High G

* Open Strings



Fret (1)



Fret (2)



* Fret (3)



Fret (4)



* Fret (5)





C Tuning - Standard Notation



Same names as open strings one octave higher

* *Reference Frets* - These frets are natural notes and easy to memorize. From these frets other frets can be memorized from these by sharpening or flattening each note.

