



Endings

Classic Endings

Famous and Classic Endings to Spice up Your Ukulele Arrangements

What is an Ending?

Endings are the musical statements used to end a song. The simplest ending for a song is to just stop on the final chord, cut it short or let it sustain.

Endings can be harmonic (chords) or melodic (single notes) or a combination of both.

Endings can be combined to make longer endings.

2 Feel

I IV IVm V I*

Low "G" C Tuning, Key of Eb Major

The musical notation for the 2 Feel ending in Eb Major is as follows:

- Chord sequence: E^b , E^b/D^b , A^b/C , A^b_m/C^b , B^b , $E^b6/9$
- Fret diagrams are provided for each chord.
- The melody is written on a staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats.
- The bass line is written on a staff with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats.
- The ending concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

This ending works great for Dixieland, Show and Jazz tunes. It is shown here in the key of Eb major and low "G" tuning to take advantage of a descending bass line. For a high "G" tuning you lose the descending bass line but it works just as well.

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High "G" C Tuning, Key of Eb Major

Chord diagrams and musical notation for High "G" C Tuning, Key of Eb Major:

Chords shown: E^b, E^b/D^b, A^b/C, A^bM/C^b, B^b, and E^bb/9.

The diagrams show the fret positions for each chord on a 4-string ukulele. The musical notation shows the chords in a sequence, with a final measure showing a sequence of notes (1, 3, 5, 6) on a single string.

The only difference is the chords are now in close voicings creating that uniquely ukulele sound. The shapes are the same as well as the letter names of the chords and their function.

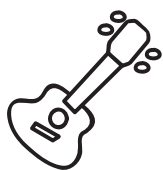
Common Keys

- Key of C: C F Fm G or G7 C
- Key of F: F Bb Bbm C or C7 F
- Key of Bb: Bb Eb Ebm F or F7 Bb
- Key of Eb: Eb Ab Abm Bb or Bb7 Eb
- Key of Ab: Ab Db Dbm Eb or Eb7 Ab
- Key of Db: Db Gb Gbm Ab or Ab7 Db
- Key of G: G C Cm D or D7 G
- Key of D: D G Gm A or A7 D
- Key of A: A D Dm E or E7 A
- Key of E: E A Am B or B7 E

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bVImaj7 bIIImaj7

Example in Key of C Major

The image shows a musical staff with two treble clefs. The first staff has a C-clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The second staff has a C-clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff has a chord diagram for Abmaj7 (F, Ab, C, Eb) and a fingering of 3, 3, 3, 1. The second staff has a chord diagram for Dbmaj7 (Bb, Db, F, Ab) and a fingering of 3, 4, 5, 6. The third staff has a chord diagram for C6/9 (C, Eb, F, G, Bb) and a fingering of 3, 3, 2, 2. The notation includes a treble clef, a C-clef, and a key signature of one flat (Bb).

This ending can be two beats for each chord and both chords in one measure or extended out four beats each. This ending works really well on ballads.

Common Keys

Key of C: Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 C

Key of F: Dbmaj7 Gbmaj7 F

Key of Bb: Gbmaj7 Cbmaj7 Bb

Key of Eb: Cbmaj7 Fbmaj7 Eb

Key of Ab: Fbmaj7 Bbbmaj7 Ab

Key of Db: Bbbmaj7 Ebbmaj7 Db

Key of G: Ebmaj7 Abmaj7 G

Key of D: Bbmaj7 Ebmaj7 D

Key of A: Fmaj7 Bbmaj7 A

Key of E: Cmaj7 Fmaj7 E

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Basie Ending

IVmaj7 #IVdim7 V I

Example in Key of C Major

Professional musicians know what to play just by saying “Basie Ending”. Named for the famous [Count Basie](#). This ending works in high or low “G” C tuning. A cool trick is to reverse the first three chords: V #IVdim7 IVmaj7 I*.

The *Bass Button* is a short staccato, low note typically played by a bass player. If you don't have a bass player play it yourself.

Common Keys

Key of C: Fmaj7 F#dim7 G7 C

Key of F: Bbmaj7 Bb#dim7 C7 F

Key of Bb: Ebmaj7 Eb#dim7 F7 Bb

Key of Eb: Abmaj7 Ab#dim7 Bb7 Eb

Key of Ab: Dbmaj7 Db#dim7 Eb7 Ab

Key of Db: Gbmaj7 Gb#dim7 Ab7 Db

Key of G: Cmaj7 C#dim7 D7 G

Key of D: Gmaj7 G#dim7 A7 D

Key of A: Dmaj7 D#dim7 E7 A

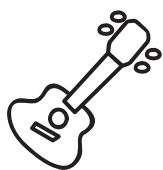
Key of E: Fmaj7 F#dim7 B7 E

*All roman numerals refer to a chord's function within the tonality the chord is used.
See my book **Harmonic Analysis for Scale Selection and Chord Substitution**

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Single, Double, Triple Tag Endings

A **Single**, **Double** and **Triple** tags are one of the simplest and most common endings.

Professional musicians should know what to play just by saying single, double or triple tag. This is a very common ending.

For a tag ending you repeat the last two or more measures of the song before resolving the last chord of the song. For single tags you repeat once, for double tags repeat two times and triple tags are repeated three times.

If notating a tag ending a coda can be used before the final chord and the repeated measures placed at the coda.

Chromatic

#IVm7b5 IVm6 IIIIm7 VI7 or bIII7 II V or bII7 I

Example in Key of C Major

Diagram illustrating a chromatic sequence of chords in the key of C Major, showing both chord diagrams and musical notation:

Chord	Fingering
F#m7b5	5FR
Fm6	4FR
Em7	3FR
A7	2FR
Dm7	
G7	
C6/9	

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Low "G" C Tuning, Key of E Flat Major

Am^{7b5} A^bM^{6/9} G^M7^{#5} G^bM⁶ F^M7 E^MAJ⁷ E^b6/9

The rhythms indicated are only a reference to the number of beats for the chords. You are free to play more syncopated rhythms.

With the *chromatic* version in Eb notice I ran out of ukulele with the descending bass line and the Emaj7 chords so I played a different voicing of the Emaj7 higher up the neck and would play it staccato setting up the final chord.

Common Keys

Key of C: C F Fm G C

Key of F: F Bb Bbm C F

Key of Bb: Bb Eb Ebm F Bb

Key of Eb: Eb Ab Abm Bb Eb

Key of Ab: Ab Db Dbm Eb Ab

Key of Db: Db Gb Gbm Ab Db

Key of G: G C Cm D G

Key of D: D G Gm A D

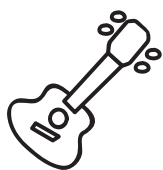
Key of A: A D Dm E A

Key of E: E F Fm B E

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Take the 'A' Train Ending

Low "G" C Tuning, Key of C Major

Chord diagrams for Low "G" C Tuning:

- C⁶/₉
- C[#] DIM⁷
- D_M 7
- D[#] DIM⁷
- G¹³

This is the famous ending from the [Duke Ellington](#) song of the same name, "Take the 'A' Train"

High "G" C Tuning, Key of C Major

Chord diagrams for High "G" C Tuning:

- C⁶/₉
- C[#] DIM⁷
- D_M 7
- D[#] DIM⁷
- G¹³

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Shave and a Haircut

This is a [classic ending](#) from the early 20th century. A haircut these days sure ain't two bits or twenty five cents.

Example in Key of C Major

The melody of the ending can be harmonized with notes from the major scale. In the example that would be the C major scale: C D E F G A B C..

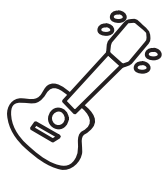
Common Keys

This ending should be learned in all keys.

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Lawrence Welk Ending

This is another famous ending getting its name from a band leader known for its use. Probably known by other names but this is how I learned it and know it by. [Lawrence Welk](#) was my grandmother's favorite Saturday night show.

The ending is the chromatic scale starting on the root of the final chord, in this case C, and ending one octave higher and finishing with the V and I chords of the key.

Example in Key of C Major

The musical notation for the Lawrence Welk Ending in C Major is shown. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It features a chromatic scale starting on C4, ascending to C5, and then descending to C4. The bottom staff shows the fret numbers for the same scale. The final two measures show the G7 and C chords.

Common Keys

This ending should be learned in all keys.

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