

Common Chord Progressions*

In *Western Harmony* there is no stronger chord resolution in a major or minor key than then the V chord to the I chord. In the key of C major this is G or G7 to C. In the key of Am this E or E7 to Am.

The Key of C Major

The key of C major is one of the more common keys used in music and is typically the first key used when learning to play an instrument. This is very true when learning the piano. The piano is color coded with black and white keys. The key of C major contains no sharp or flat notes and uses all seven letters of the musical alphabet: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C". The white keys are all in the key of C major and the chords that are part of C major.

Each note or degree of the scale can be designated by a uppercase roman numeral:



As **4-part** chords, sometimes called *jazz* chords, in the key of C Major:

Cmaj7 **Dm7** **Em7** **Fmaj7** **G7** **Am7** **Bm7b5**

I II III IV V VI VII

Scale Degree / Function Chart

Scale Degree	Note	Function	Roman Numeral
1	C	Tonic	I
2	D	Supertonic	II
3	E	Mediant	III
4	F	Sub-Dominant	IV
5	G	Dominant	V
6	A	Sub-Mediant	VI
7	B	Leading Tone/Sub-Tonic	VII



The important information to remember from the above chart is the scale degree, note and roman numeral.

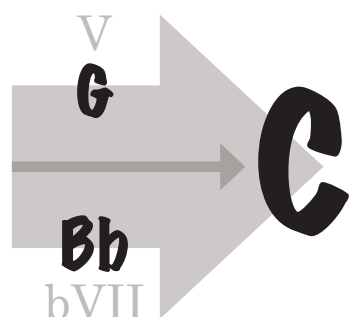
Just about any chord can go to any other chord. However there are common chord sequences or progressions that show up time and time again.

Although any chord can progress to any chord creating a number of possible progressions. Chords tend to follow a harmonic pattern.

Common Progressions, Key of C Major

In a major key the goal of a chord progression is the I chord, the “home” chord of the key. In the key of C major the I chord is C or C major.

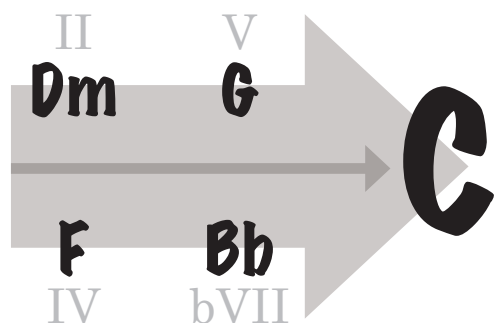
The strongest move to the I chord is using the V chord, G or the bVII chord Bb.



C G C

C Bb C

The strongest chord to proceed a G or Bb, the V or bVII is a F or Dm, the IV or II chords. A strong approach to the F, the IV chord is from the C, the I chord.



C F G C

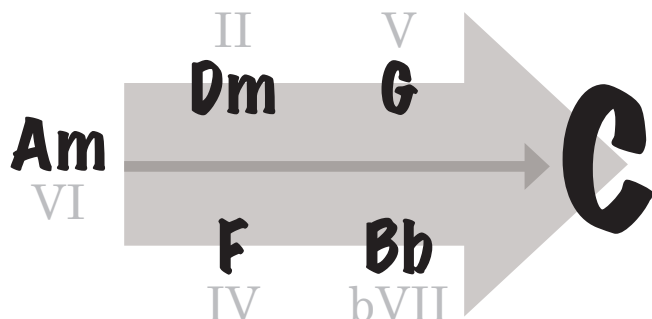
C Dm G C

C F Bb C

C Dm Bb C



The Dm or F can be proceeded by an Am, the VI chord.



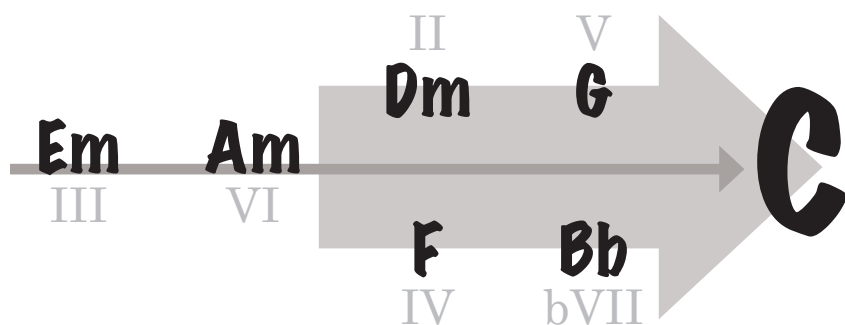
C Am F G C

C Am Dm G C

C Am F Bb C

C Am Dm Bb C

The Em, the III chord can proceed the Am, the VI chord..



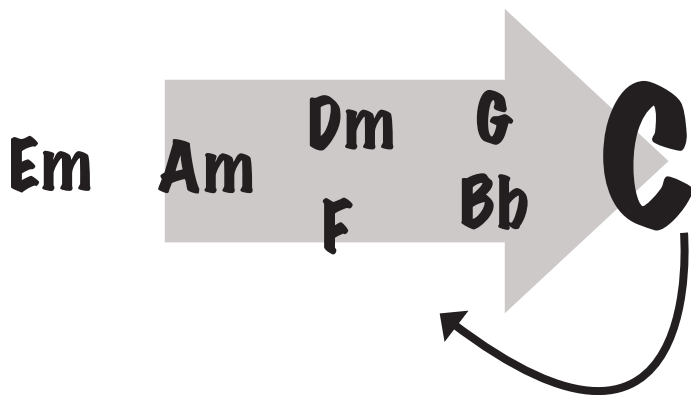
C Em Am F G C

C Em Am Dm G C

C Em Am F Bb C

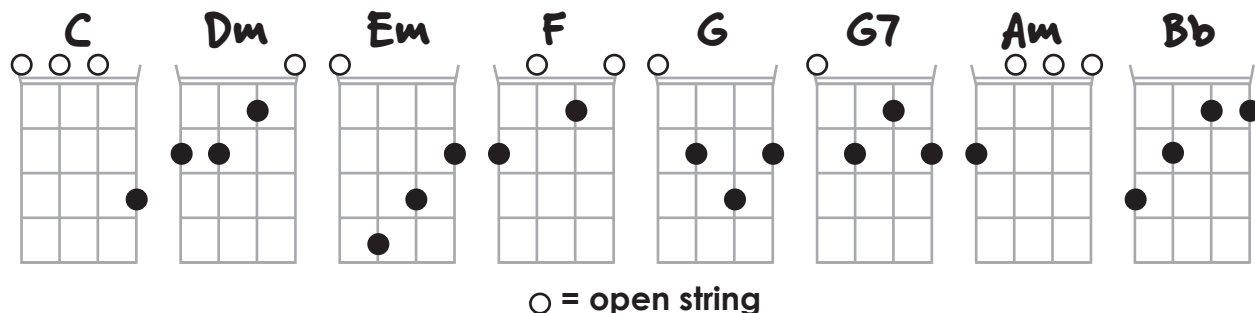
C Em Am Dm Bb C

The C, the I chord can go to any chord.





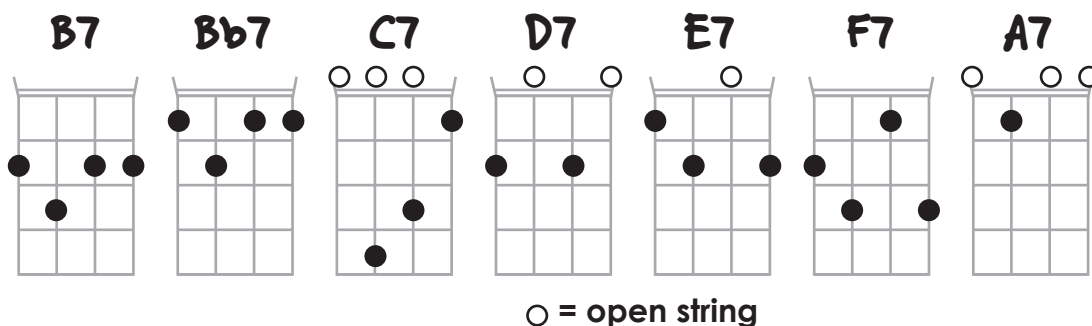
The Open Position Chords in the Key of C Major and C Pentatonic



Bb is technically not an open position chord but is shown in order to have a complete set of chords to use in this position.

Explore common progressions in the key of C major. The G and G7 are interchangeable and can be a direct substitute for each.

A common substitute for a G or G7 chord is Bb or Bb7. Bb or Bb7.



Common Major Keys

There are 15 possible major keys. Only a few are common, depending on the style of music.

Common Rock, Country, Folk, Blues and Pop Keys: C G D A E

Common Jazz: C F Bb Eb Ab Db and G

If we combine the lists we have C F Bb Eb Ab Db G D A and E.



Common Chord in the Common Keys

Key	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	bVII
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G, G7	A	Bb
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C, C7	Dm	Eb
Bb	Bb	Cm	Dm	Eb	F, F7	Gm	Ab
Eb	Eb	Fm	Gm	C	Bb, Bb7	Cm	Db
Ab	Ab	Bbm	Cm	Db	Eb, Eb7	Fm	Gb
Db	Db	Ebm	Fm	Gb	Ab, Ab7	Bbm	Cb
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D, D7	Em	F
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A, A7	Bm	C
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E, E7	F#m	G
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B, B7	C#m	D

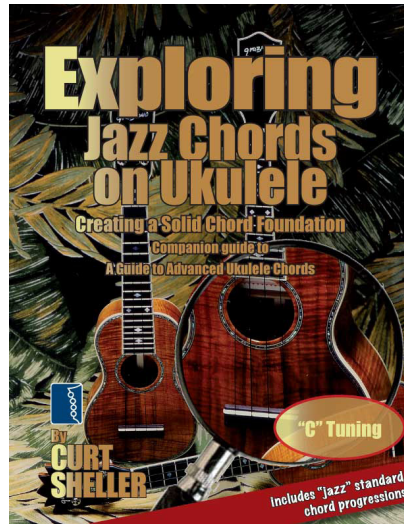
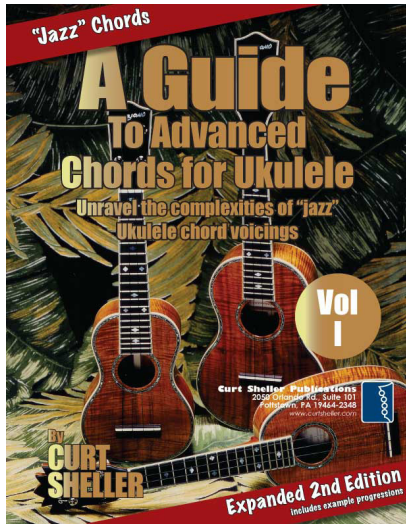
Seventh Chords

Sometimes referred to as a *dominant seventh*, the G and G7 chords are the only true dominant chords in the key of C. Other chords in the key of C can function as *secondary dominant* chords. Just as with the dominant chords, G and G7 typically resolve to the tonic I or C chord. These secondary dominant chords typically resolve to what would be their I chord, either major or minor.

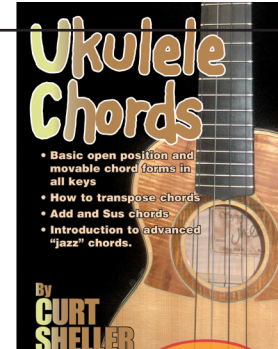
Common Chord Progressions



Exploring* Chords on Ukulele!!!



All books available as hard copy book and downloadable-printable e-books



A GUIDE TO ADVANCED UKULELE CHORDS - VOLUME I

Commonly referred to as “jazz” chords. A Guide to Advanced Ukulele Chords provides detailed information on voicing 4-part chords.

Beyond learning open and barre chords, most ukulele players struggle with advanced chords. Commonly called “jazz” chords, these more sophisticated voicings find a wide use in all forms of music.

EXPLORING “JAZZ” CHORDS ON UKULELE

Exploring “Jazz” Chords takes the core chords from A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele and shows their use over a variety of common chord progressions based on songs from the standard jazz repertoire.

Building a Solid “Jazz” Chord Foundation using Seventh, Major Seventh, Major 6, Minor Seventh, Minor Sixth, Diminished Seventh, Minor Seventh Flat Five, Augmented Seventh.

THE ADVANCED GUIDE TO CHORD PROGRESSIONS FOR UKULELE - VOLUME I

Volume I features the principles of voice leading applied to chord progressions. These principles are explained using chords from volume I of The Advanced Guide to Ukulele Chords. Chapters with common major and minor full diatonic, partial diatonic and chromatic chord progressions are also included to further explore voice leading.

