

San Jose Ukulele Club Beginner Session (four lessons)

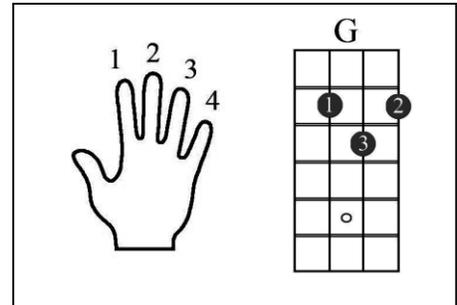
This session is very condensed and requires the beginner to PRACTICE between sessions!

The goal is to become familiar with the major, minor and sevenths of the most frequently used chords. Techniques such as barred chords, “moveable” chords, and simple strum patterns will be also be addressed.

Print out the chord charts from the link on our website's home page. These charts are good in that they show you which finger to place on which fret.

Example: to play the G major chord, place your index finger on the 3rd string/2nd fret, your middle finger on the 1st string/ 2nd fret and ring finger on 2nd string/3rd fret.

Note for Lefties: Ukuleles can be easily re-strung for left-handed players by simply reversing the order of the strings. However, most, if not all, song sheets provide diagrams for right-handed players. The left-handed player has the added task of memorizing the chord patterns, rather than relying on the visual diagrams.



If you are not familiar with the melody of some songs, search for them on YouTube. Don't worry if the video isn't in the same key as the song sheet, just familiarize yourself with the song.

First lesson: F, C7, C, G, and G7.

Practice these two-chords songs: The Banana Boat song (F, C7), Paperback Writer (C, G) , Jambalaya on the Bayou (C, G7) and Buffalo Gals (C, G7). Do a simple downstrum where you see a timing dot.

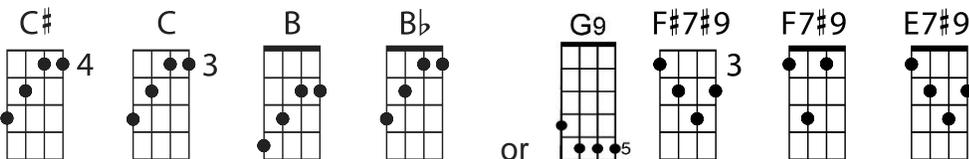
Second lesson: A, Am, A7, D, Dm and D7.

D7 is the first **barred** chord to learn. A barred chord is where the index finger is placed across all the strings. Make sure your thumb is behind the neck of the ukulele in order to apply strong pressure to achieve clean sounding chords.

Songs: Bad Moon Rising (A, D, G), Up On the Roof (C, Am, F, G), Where Did Our Love Go? (C, G, Dm), The Hukilau Song (C, G7, A7, D7), Hey, Good Lookin' (C, D7, G7, F, C7),

Third lesson: E, Em, E7, Bb, B

This lesson will touch on “moveable” barred chords. For example, note how the fingering of each chord stays the same but is simply moved up (“walk up”) or down (“walk down”) the fretboard.



Songs: Three Little Birds (A, D, E), El Condor Pasa (Em, G, C), Peggy Sue (A, D, E7, F), Examples of “moveable” barred chord riffs: Walk Right In, Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay, or Man of Constant Sorrow (C to B to Bb)

Fourth lesson: Cm, Fm, F#m, Gm, chord progressions, key changes

Songs: Witchy Woman (Gm, D7, Cm, C), Up on the Roof -Key of A (A, F#m, D, E7) I'll Follow the Sun (C, F, G, D7, Am, G7, C7, Fm). A good song that uses chord progressions and key changes is “Beyond the Sea”.