

San Jose Ukulele Club Beginner Lessons

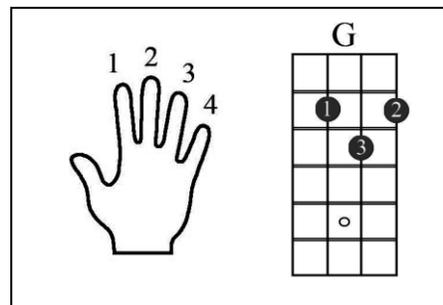
These lessons are very condensed and PRACTICE between sessions is highly recommended!

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 show where to place your fingers to form the chords.

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



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.

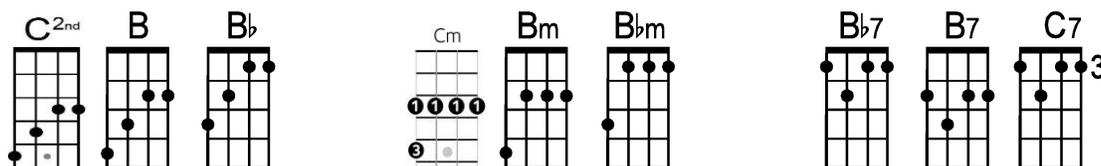
D7 is the first **barred** chord to learn. A barred chord is where the index finger is placed across all the strings. Make sure your thumb is behind the neck of the ukulele in order to apply pressure to achieve clean sounding chords.

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

Third lesson: E, Em, E7, and chord 'shapes': Bb, Bbm, Bb7, B, Bm and B7

This lesson covers various ways to play the E major chord, which some uke players have difficulty with. It also covers the Bb, Bbm, Bb7, B, Bm, B7 chords. These commonly used chords are barred.

We also cover chord shapes and how to do a simple 'walk-down' or walk-up, keeping the fingering pattern the same and simply moving up or down the fretboard.



Songs: Three Little Birds (A, D, E), Stand By Me-Key of G (G, Em, C, D) or El Condor Pasa (Em, G, C), Peggy Sue (A, D, E7, F), Sitting on the Dock of the Bay Notice how the fingering pattern stays the same but is moved down or up the fretboard.

Fourth lesson: Cm, Fm, F#m, Gm

Songs: Blue Bayou-Key of G, (G, 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). Groovin, (F, Am, Gm, C7, Bb), and a beginner version of Pachelbel's Canon in D (D, A, Bm, F#m, G)