

Beginners Chords Info

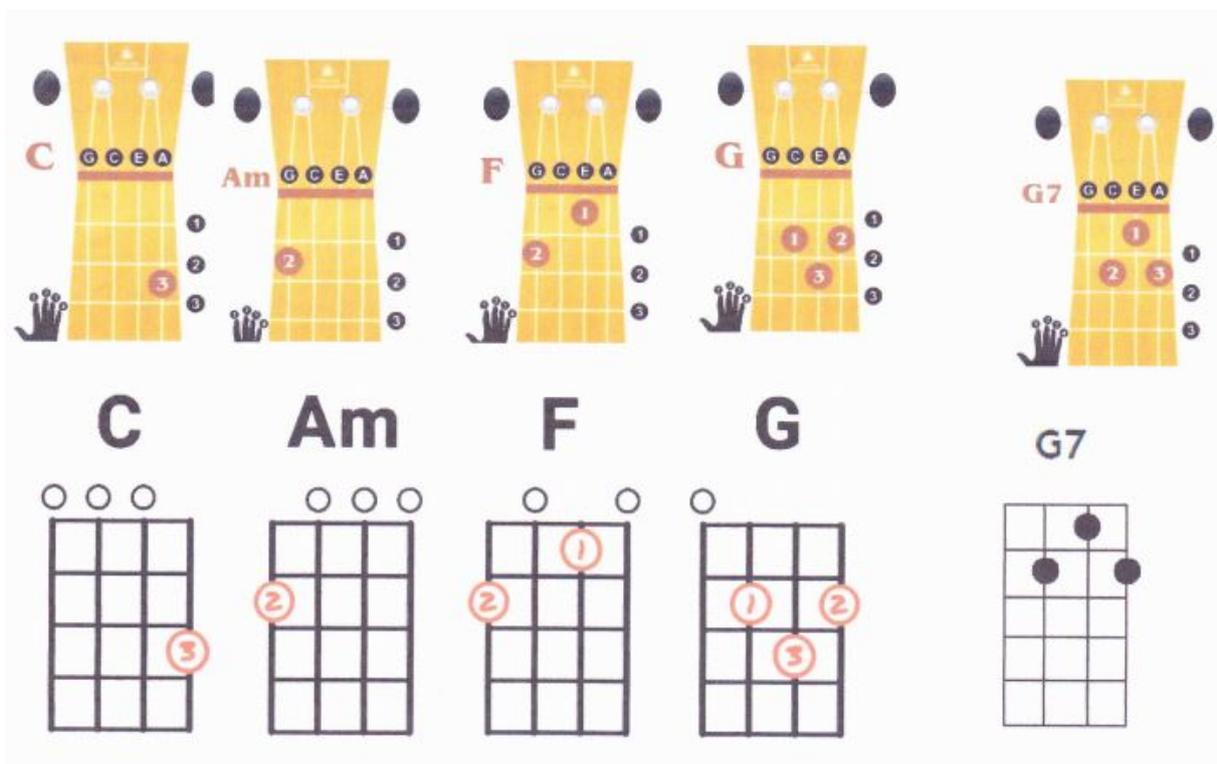
The chords on page 3 are arranged in tiers according to their relative importance for beginners . This is not an exact science but it can be used as a guide to give you a idea of the order in which to concentrate your efforts when you are starting out . So Tier 1 are relatively easy chords but also very commonly used chords . Some of the chords in the higher numbered tiers are actually easier than ones in the lower numbered tiers but this is a beginners list which is not just in order of difficulty but also taking into how commonly the chords crop up in our songs . I have split the chords up into tiers so they can be concentrated on in reasonably digestible sized chunks before you move onto the next tier or even one chord from the next tier .

As to how to practise and learn chords go to the U3A Hillingdon Ukelele section online tuition pages called “**Chord Learning Exercises**” and “**Chord Learning Exercises Audio**”

Having this structured chord learning system you concentrate on one tier before advancing to the next this hopefully helping you to focus your practise without being overwhelmed by the feeling of “where do I start” ? However you should not wait until you are an expert at one tier before moving onto the next . Just feeling reasonably comfortable is adequate as you will become even more familiar with the chords you have learnt as you play songs with those chords in them . Becoming confident with the chords is important but do not think that getting through tier 1 is going to happen in a matter of a few days. The good news though is that by learning the 4 chords you will be able to play lots of songs. The ultimate goal is to be able to position your fingers on the uke to achieve the chord you want without looking down at it and that does take time. **Be ambitious but also realistic. Also it is an ABSOLUTE MUST that you practise appropriate songs using the chords you are learning and not get bogged down with just doing the important chord exercises. Remember learning chords is just a means to an end , which is being able to play tunes on your uke .** Another thing to note is that if there happens to be the odd chord in the song which is in the next tier or even not in this short list , then give it a try. Again, this is not an exact science

Use the correct fingers when selecting a chord as this will , when playing , generally make transitions to other chords , easier when strumming your uke . | The illustrations below show a few basic but important chords and how to position your fingers to play them .





More information on this aspect of chords is well illustrated on the web sites below which you can cut and paste into your browser . The info in the first website is about half way down the web page . Have a look at it after you have finished reading this document .

<https://www.knowyourinstrument.com/basic-ukulele-chords-beginners/>

<https://ukuleletricks.com/>

The second website above contains just about everything you need to know about chords (and ukuleleing in general for that matter). On this website if you click on "Tools" and then " Ukulele Chord Library" you will get as much info on chords as you are ever likely to need and which fingers to use for them .

Another important thing to note is that if you are left handed these will not represent your finger positions , if you decide to play the uke left handed that is , i.e. with your right hand selecting the chords . Again the second web site on the same chord page allows you to "flip for Lefty" allowing lefties to see the correct representation of beginners chords for them.

Another on the subject is

<https://www.learntouke.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Left-Handed-Ukulele-Chord-Chart-for-Absolute-Beginners-from-Learn-To-Uke1.pdf>

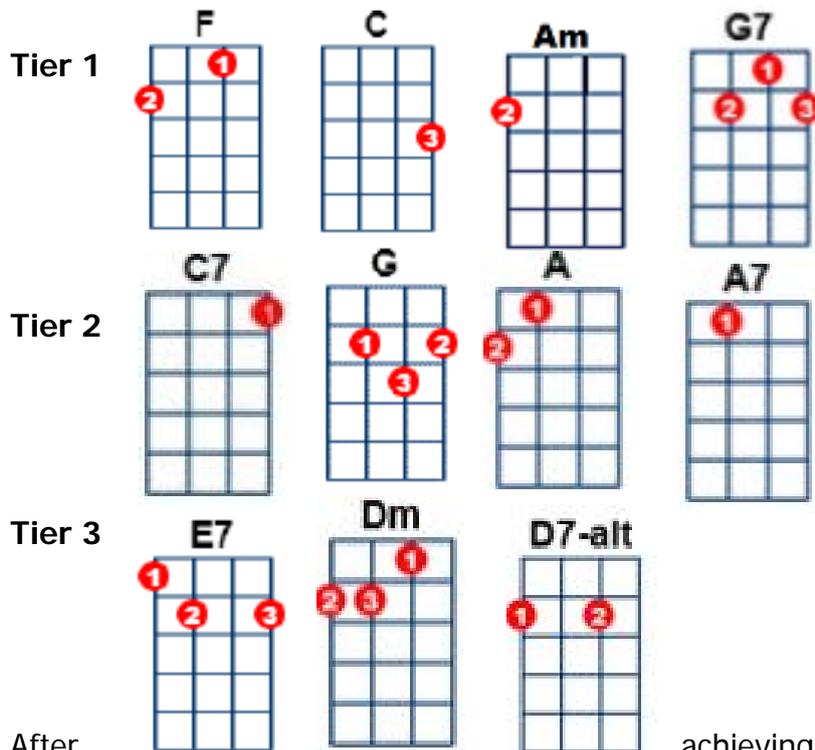
In the chord diagrams shown below the vertical lines represent the 4 strings of the ukulele (the line on the left representing the string nearest to your face when you hold the uke to play) while the horizontal lines represent the "frets" , the thin metal rods , on the neck of the ukulele. The red dots not only indicate where you have to press down on the frets in order to achieve a particular chord they also tell you which fingers to use . This representation of the chords is how they are shown on song sheets so it is something you will come across all the time .

A red dot with the number 1 on it means use your index finger

A red dot with the number 2 on it means use your middle finger or

A red dot with the number 3 on it means use your ring finger

So get into the habit of using the correct fingers for the various chords as it will be more difficult to change later and using the correct fingers will help in the end.



After achieving a little progress with familiarising yourself with the chords it is vital to not just practise the chords on their own, so find songs or even parts of songs, that just contain the chords you are learning and play the tune using the learnt chords and sing the song to yourself. This is vital to maintain moral and enthusiasm. Remember practising the chords is only a means to an end and by playing a tune using the chords you have learnt you will start to experience the fruits of your labour. See the file "**Beginners Tiered Song Titles**" and the **U3A Hillingdon Ukulele web site** for lots of songs to try.

It will be sore head (and fingers) at times in the early stages when you feel your fingers are not doing what you want them to, but with practise they will. Recognise the progress you have made.

One thing is always true, the more you practise the better and sooner you will become proficient.

Keep Fretting but don't fret.