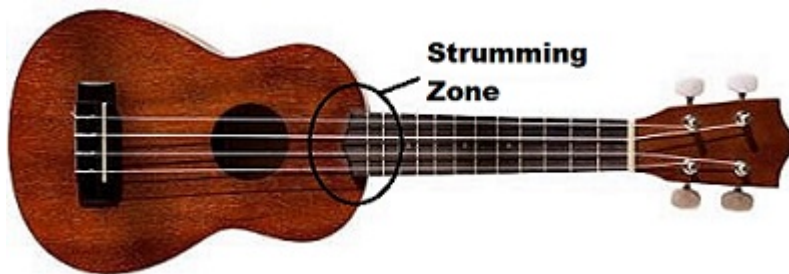


# Chord Learning Exercises

This document may be a little more involved but it's all simple advice. It may be a good idea to print off this tutorial so you can refer to it. The chords used in the exercises are for beginners to get used to playing and changing chords as you play. However by selecting other chords that you are not comfortable with, anyone can apply the same learning method.

Below are some exercises for you to practise in order to help you get up to speed with the ukeing. Chords are created by positioning your fingers correctly on the neck of your uke and strumming the strings close to where the uke body meets the uke neck.



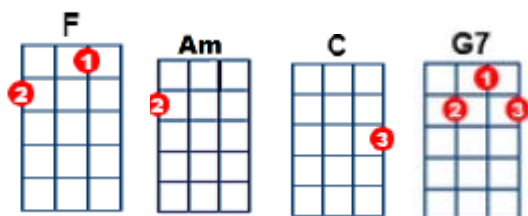
There is lots of help on ukulele chords online especially, once more, on You Tube, so please use this vast store of information. Learn some chords and you can play some tunes. A couple of web site addresses that you might find useful are

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

The second website above contains just about everything there is to know for beginners (and others) so make it one of your favourites on your browser. Just copy and paste either or both addresses into your browser.

## Which chords should I learn first?

Luckily you only have to learn a couple of chords to be able to play some songs (though not many) but the more chords you learn the more songs you can play, and the number of songs you can play goes up exponentially with the number of chords you have at your fingertips. The file named "**Beginners Chord Info**" shows how to prioritise the general order in which beginners should learn chords. The very first clutch of chords from this file are **C**, **G7**, **Am** and **F**. The images of these chords are shown again here



There are plenty of You Tube videos illustrating how to play various easy ( and difficult) chords , so have wander around the web sites and choose one that appeals to you . **Most, if not all of our song sheets have images of the chords used in the song anyway so if you are practising a song the chords are in front of you.**

The secrets to learning the ukulele are **1.practise lots** and **2. go as slowly as you need to** .You will speed up naturally as you improve.

In the early stages , amongst all your practising , it is very important that you have a go at your new found if faltering chord skills by playing some simple songs that are at least mainly composed of the chords you have been learning . See the file named **“ Beginners Tiered Song Titles “** and **“Beginners Song Sheets”**, pick a song out then play and sing it out loud very very slowly at first. Prioritise getting the playing right rather than getting through a song at its normal pace. You will speed up naturally as you practise so the pace will take care of itself.

## What exercises will help me improve my playing ?



After tuning up your uke (the first thing you do every day you pick it up) take the chord of **C**, and importantly using the correct finger (See the image here and the tutorial sheet **“Ukulele Chords Info”**) to press down on the fretboard to achieve the chord you want ( thumb pressing on the back of the neck ) , then with your other hand , strum down on the ukulele with your finger(s) somewhere near where the neck of the uke meets the uke body **trying to catch all 4 strings** . Keep doing this for 1 minute then stop, take your hand away from the uke for a few seconds then repeat the exercise 3 times . Only use down strokes when strumming your uke until you have learnt a few chords and are quite confident with them and then you can start experimenting with down up down up strumming pattern . Just use the down

down down down pattern for now . Learning the chords is enough to be thinking about .

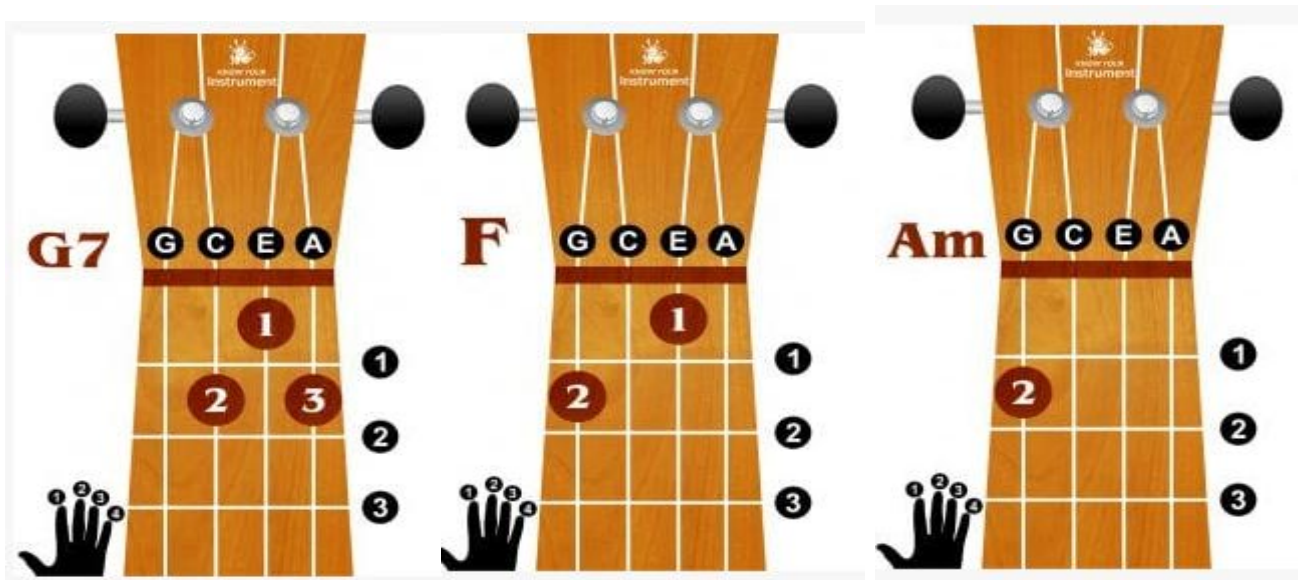
Repeat the above process with the other 3 chords mentioned and shown above and also shown below, making that a total of about 12 minutes playing time . Repeat this whole exercise 3 times a day.

Knowing where your fingers go to create chords is fundamental.

## Changing chords while strumming . Phase 1

The next step which may be after a week of the above , when hopefully you are reasonably familiar with the chords above , is the basis of creating a tune using the chords .This involves moving from one chord to another while strumming.

Warm up by playing the 2 chords of **C** and **F** separately as above. After the warm up, stop, then place your fingers on the ukelele neck to play the chord of **C** and strum down the uke strings 5 times , then , just as the fifth strum finishes place your fingers on the strings of the uke neck to play the **F** chord and strum down the uke strings 5 times with this chord . **If possible, and without pausing**, repeat this whole exercise for 1 minute . Again, go as slowly as you want but try not to stop. The above exercise is pattern 1. Repeat the above with items 2 - 6 below having a short break between each set then start the whole exercise once more starting with the **C** to **F** chord combination. Repeat this every day until you can do it reasonably comfortably. There is an abbreviated audio version of this exercise regime called “**Chord Learning Exercises Audio**” where I play this exercise with this and the other chord combinations below. Have a listen to the audio as it might help you understand the exercises more. Again go through the 6 combinations 2 times a day.



- 2 Repeat the above but this time with the chords **C** and **Am** . Repeat this every day.
- 3 Repeat the above but this time with the chords **C** and **G7** . Repeat this every day.
- 4 Repeat the above but this time with the chords **F** and **Am** . Repeat this every day.
- 5 Repeat the above but this time with the chords **F** and **G7** . Repeat this every day.
- 6 Repeat the above but this time with the chords **G7** and **Am** . Repeat this every day.

## Changing chords while strumming . Phase 2

Again maybe after another week of the above , go onto trying the following exercises.

Play (by strumming ) and using all 4 chords in the order **C F Am G7** . That is play each chord in turn using 5 strums per chord then going onto the next chord as before , although now there are 4 chords instead of 2 . Once you have reached the chord of **G7** start again immediately with chord **C** to repeat the whole exercise again **without pausing if possible**. but going as slowly as you need to. Keep going with the sequence for 3 minutes then have a 1 minute break. Repeat the whole exercise 3 times.

That is about 12 minutes in total . Repeat this 3 times a day .

Once you have mastered this ( many days of practise ) pick a different order for the 4 chords (write it down and have it in front of you so you don't have to think about which chord is next ) and repeat the exercise , then repeat again with a different order. Keep repeating a change of order, maybe a different order every few days.

Again , after your drills have a go at some of the songs in tier 1 or 2 in the file **“Beginners Tiered Song Titles “ and “Beginners Song Sheets”** . Sing the songs while you play them as it might help you keep the rhythm. Remember the golden rule ... GO SLOW.

Also remember there is nothing to stop you picking up the odd chord from a higher tier in the file **“Beginners Chord Info“** , when you need it for a song .

Once you are reasonably competent with the above chord changing , you can t play lots of our songs and your ukulele performances begin. **It is important to play songs with your new found chords to keep your spirits up** but do please do the exercises as well as they are the training that will improve your playing the quickest way to get up to speed . If you look at the file called **“Beginners Song sheets”** you will see that there are 7 songs you can play using just 2 or 3 chords from Tier 1 so there are plenty of songs to practise your chords on .

There are other chords that you will need to learn but with the 4 chords above under your belt you will be able to join in many of our songs. After that you can add new chords from a higher tier and follow the above regime , or an adaptation of it , and there is **no reason why you should pick more than one chord at a time from a higher tier** to incorporate it into your chord collection . Remember .... Slow is best .

**Good Luck**