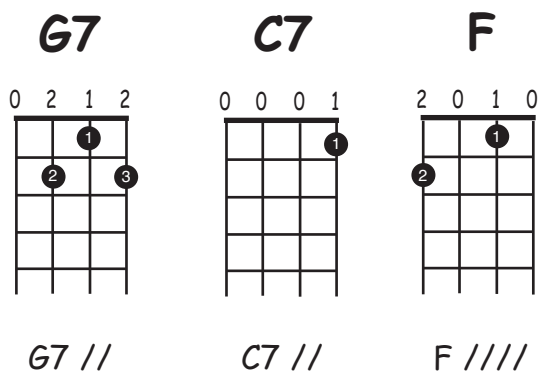


Your first chords

and a couple Hawaiian Vamps



TOO MUCH ABOUT CHORDS

Chords

Each string has all the corresponding notes of that scale. The 3rd (C) string has all the notes of the "C" chromatic scale, the "E" string (2nd) has all the notes of the "E" chromatic scale, and so on (See Fig. 1). Only when we form a combination of these notes by various finger placements along the fret board can we form, what's called a chord.

There is a formula on how to construct chords but, until you're ready to tackle "music theory", the best way to remember these chords is to rely on memory with plenty of practice, practice, and more practice...

We will start by learning five basic chords. Each song in the "Song Book" will introduce you to even more new chords, for a total of twelve.

Vamp Chords -- a good starting place

Vamps are used in many Hawaiian songs to begin and end a song and as a transition between verses. Each Key has its own three chord vamp (see Fig. 2). Being new to the ukulele, most of the songs that you will be learning will be in the family of "C" or "F".

You can see that the "C" vamp includes the chords of D7, G7, and C. The "F" vamp is made up of the G7, C7, and F chords. At the bottom of this page are the finger placements or positions for each of these chords.

Go to the "Practice Lesson" and work on the Vamps until you can do them without looking. Typically you would strum the vamp twice before starting the song. It helps set the tempo. Have fun with your first "little" song - the Hawaiian Vamp.

Note: The chromatic scale is a scale which include all 12 notes. Beginning with the open string to the 12th fret, which is the beginning of another, but higher octave of that scale.

The "C" string is in the chromatic scale of "C" --

C, C# (sharp), D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, and C

There are no # notes between the E and F or B and C notes.

As you pick the string, move your finger along the frets from the head to the body of the ukulele or "UP" the fret board to hear what it sounds like.

I know, too much too soon. This will all come more clear when you decide to get involved in some of the theory of music, maybe at a later date.

Fig. 1

Key	Vamp		
C	D7	G7	C
F	G7	C7	F

Fig. 2

Anatomy of a chord

Chord name

D7 G7 C C7 F

Suggested finger to use

Fret numbers from 1 to 12 (14)

Instead of a graphic, a chord can be called out as numbers, the numbers indicating the proper placement of the fingers along the fret board.

"F" chord = 2010, which means:

- Finger on the 2nd fret of 4th string,
- 3rd string, is open
- Finger on the 1st fret of 2nd string
- 1st string, is open

Practice Lesson: Hawaiian Vamp

The slashes are an indicator of how many beats to strum the chord.

Key of C: D7 // G7 // C //// or D7 for 2 beats, G7 for 2 beats, and C for 4 beats - repeat

Key of F: G7 // C7 // F //// or G7 for 2 beats, C7 for 2 beats, and F for 4 beats - repeat

