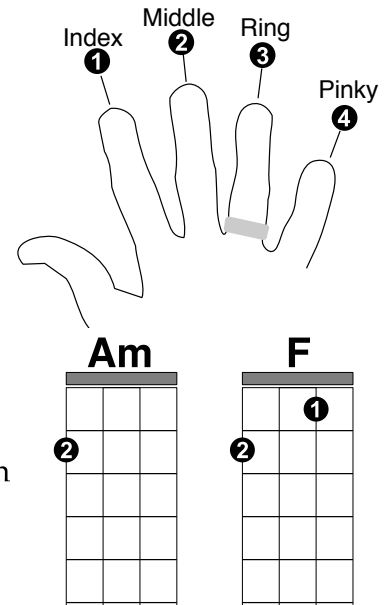


First Steps 2 - Two More Chords

We should now be fairly comfortable with the two chords we've learned already: the C and the G7. There are a few songs which use just these two chords (e.g. *How Much is That Doggie in the Window* and *Oh My Darling Clementine*), but if we expand the number of chords we can play to four, there are many, many more songs that we can play. So let's do it!

The **A minor** chord is quite easy because it only uses one finger. Place your middle finger on the second fret of the fourth string (the one nearest the ceiling when you're playing). Strum all the strings, and you're playing the A minor chord.

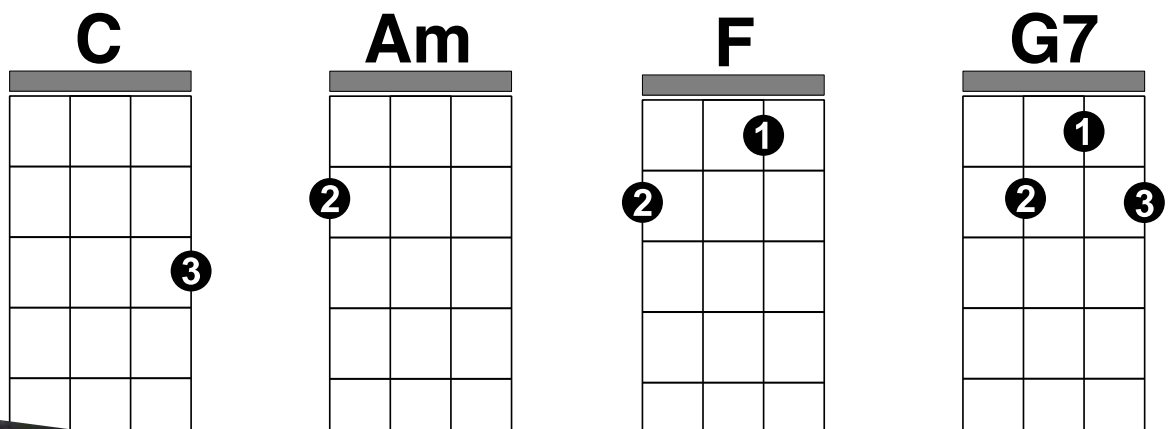
Next is the **F chord**. Leave the middle finger where it is when you're forming the A minor chord, and add your index finger on the first fret of the second string. Strum all the strings and you're now playing the F chord.



The "Doo-Wop" Sequence

If we were to play the four chords we now know in the order C - Am - F - G, it would sound quite familiar. It's a well-used sequence of chords, and was particularly popular during the 1950s. We're going to spend the next few weeks just playing these four chords, really getting to know them

and trying to become confident at sounding them. Practise playing the chords over and over, and take note of how your fingers move from one chord to the next: when moving from **A minor** to **F**, your second finger will remain where it is; when moving from **F** to **G**, your first finger will remain where it is.



There are loads of songs which use just these chords, and we'll be trying a few out of the next while. Forming the chords can be tricky at first, and changing from one to the other equally so. However, the more you practise, the easier they become. The next stage is to work on our strumming, and we'll be doing just that, using the four chords we've learned. Keep enjoying your music.