

## First Steps 1 - 1st Chords

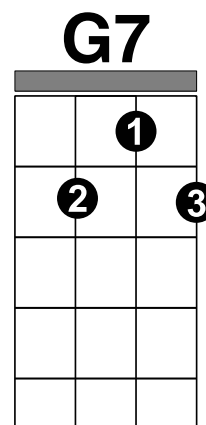
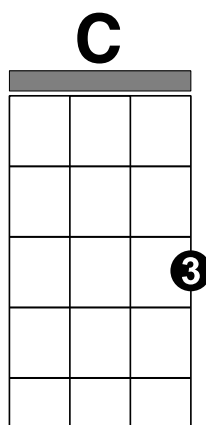
*Congratulations* on choosing the ukulele. As well as being relatively inexpensive, it's portable, easy to get started on and it's fun!



## Our First Chords

The two main things you have to get to grips with on the ukulele are strumming and making chords. You can't strum without a chord, so let's begin by learning a couple of chords.

Look at the diagram for the C chord on the right. There is a number "3" located at a specific point on the grid. That represents your third finger, or "ring finger". On the grid it's placed on the line on the far right, which represents the **first string** (the one nearest the floor when you're playing), and on the third row up, or the **third fret**. The chord diagram tells you exactly how to play the chord: place your third finger on the third fret of the first string. Now strum through all of the strings, and you're playing our first chord: a "C".



Beside the C chord is the G7 (the "G seventh" chord), which uses three of your fingers, and therefore is a bit more difficult to get to grips with. Place your index finger on the first fret of the second string; then your middle finger on the second fret of the third string, and finally your ring finger on the second fret of the first string. Now strum all the strings and you're playing the G7 chord.

Start off by simply forming each chord, introducing your fingers to the idea. Do an easy strum, down through all the strings gently.

The next step is to practise changing from one chord to another. Take your time; some changes will be easier than others, but everything will become easier.

