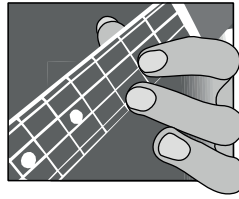


Theory and Application



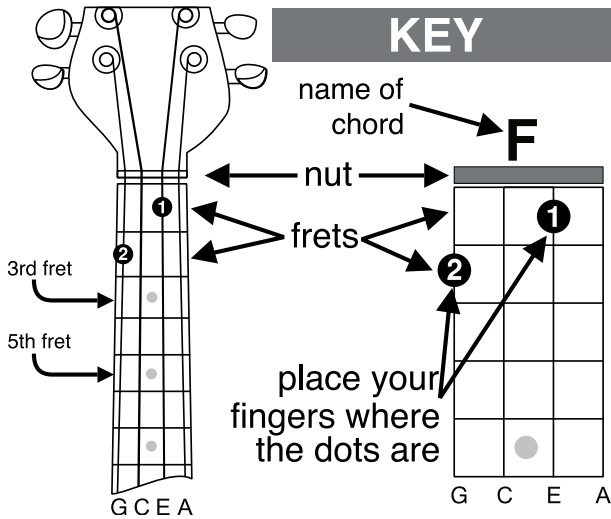
Chords 1

The two most important things at the beginning of playing chords are forming the chords and strumming. There are hundreds of chords on the ukulele, but actually, you only need two or three to get you started. I'm going to



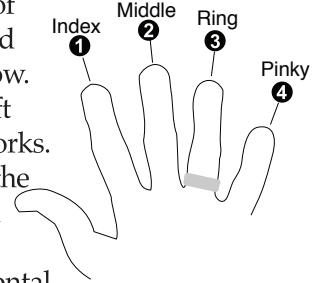
give you three chords in the key of C to begin with. Practise forming the chords, and then changing from one chord to another.

Once you can change chords with a little more ease, we'll look at strumming.



The most common way of showing chords is a chord diagram, or chord window.

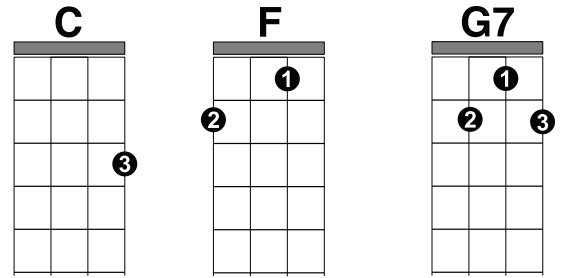
The illustration on the left should explain how it works. The thick, darker line at the top represents the nut on the ukulele, or the "zero fret". Each thinner horizontal line is a fret, and the vertical lines represent the string. The black blobs show where you've to place your fingers, and sometimes there is a number in the blob which tells you which finger to use. Try forming some chords and strumming your finger through all the strings.



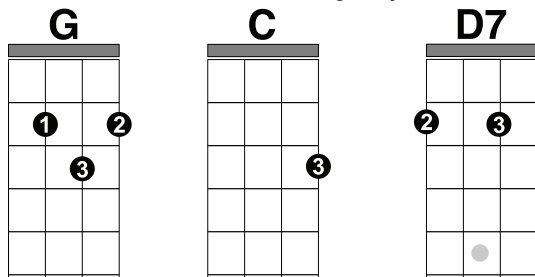
First Chords: The 3-Chord Trick

Every key has a set of three chords which are the most common chords used in that key. That set of chords is known as "The 3-Chord Trick", because once you know the three chords, you can play many, many songs. The chords for the key of C are C, F and G7; for the key of G they're G, C and D7; for the key of D they're D, G and A7. Notice that different keys have some of the same chords in common.

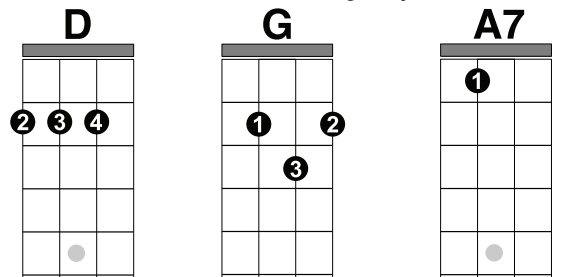
3-Chord Trick: Key of C



3-Chord Trick: Key of G



3-Chord Trick: Key of D



Subsidiary Chords: Minors and Sevenths

