

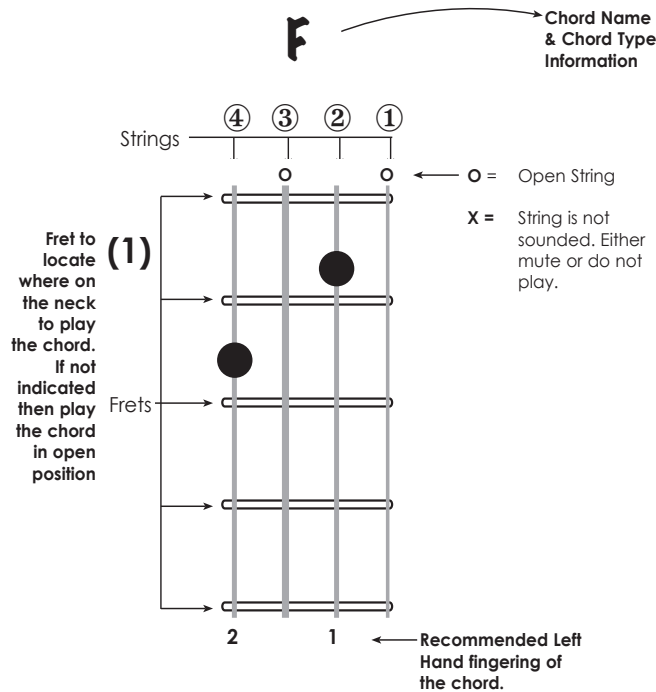
A Guide to Ukulele Chords

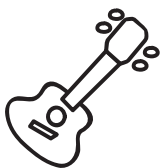
A Guide to Ukulele Chords **UkuleleWorkshop** goes over the types of chords possible on the ukulele. Covering basic ukulele chords, movable chord forms, rock uke chords, how to transpose chords, learning the ukulele fingerboard and an introduction to 4-part “jazz” chords.

A chord is three or more notes played together or almost together.

Chords can be grouped into four categories: Open Position Chords, Basic Movable Form Chords, 4-Part Contemporary or “Jazz” Chords and Free Form Chords.

Ukulele Chord Diagram





Basic Open Position Chords

Open Position chords are the basic, first chords most ukulele players learn. Typically learned by memorizing shapes and fingerings.

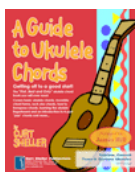
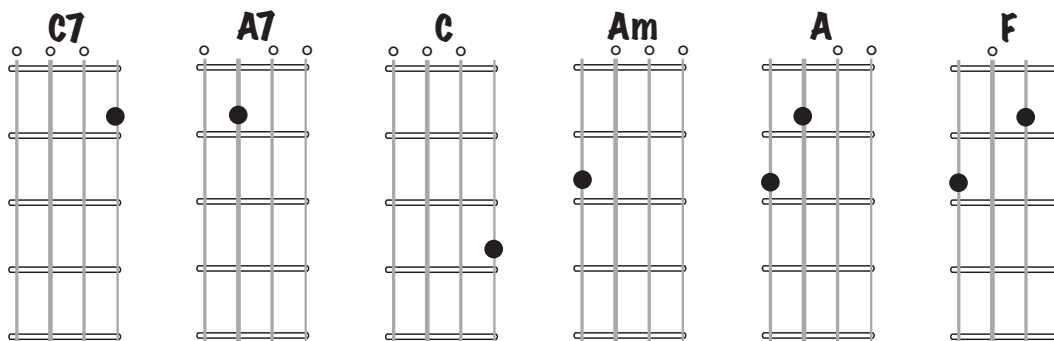
The chords to learn are typically dictated by songs, their keys and chords. The most common keys for folk, rock, pop, blues and country are C, G, D, A, and E. The common keys for jazz are C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db and G.

Here are a basic set of chords that should be mastered. These chords cover the basic chords for common non “jazz” keys. You should know at least one voicing for each.

E, Em, E7, A, Am, A7, D, Dm, D7, C, C7, G, G7, F, B7

These basic chords cover the primary chords in the keys of C, G, D, A, and E. Other chords can be added to you basic chord vocabulary as needed.

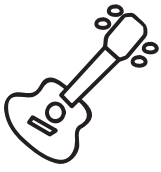
Here are some of the basic open position chords.



A Guide to Ukulele Chords

This book is designed as a guide to ukulele (pronounced “oo-koo-lele”) chords. Covering basic ukulele chords that ALL uke players MUST know, movable chord forms, rock uke chords, how to transpose chords, learning the ukulele fingerboard and an introduction to 4-part “jazz” chords and more...





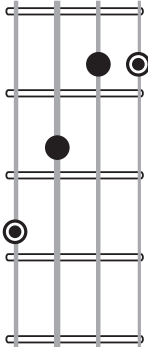
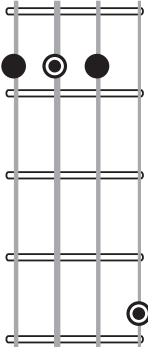
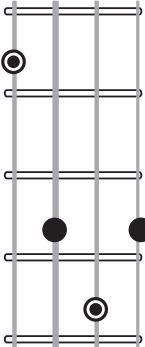
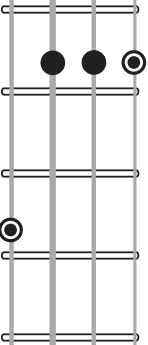
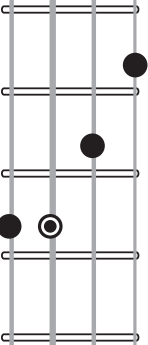
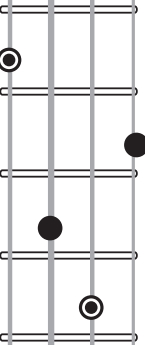
Movable Form Chords

Movable chord forms are chords with no open strings. These chords are transposable by moving each note of the chord the same number of frets up and down the neck.

Each movable form is based on a common open position chord. Movable forms allow you to play chords not found in the open position.

From these movable chord forms variations and more advanced “jazz” chords can be created and added to your chord vocabulary.

As with the open position chords, only the name, the chord type, the form of the chord and what fret to play the chord at need to be memorized. Knowing the names of the notes in the chord are a bonus.

<p>A/Bb Form maj</p> 	<p>C/Db Form maj</p> 	<p>G/Ab Form maj</p> 
<p>Am/Bbm Form minor</p> 	<p>Dm/Ebm Form minor</p> 	<p>Gm/Abm Form minor</p> 



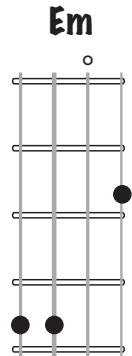


Free Form Chords

A Free Form chord is where you know the spelling of the chord (the chord tones) and the notes of the ukulele fingerboard.

Free Form chords are chords that does not fall under the category of basic open position chords, basic movable form chords or 4-part chords.

The Em shown to the right is a free form chord.



4-part Contemporary or “Jazz” Chords

Beyond learning basic ukulele chords most players struggle with advanced chords. Commonly called “jazz” chords, these more sophisticated voicings find a wide use in all forms of music.

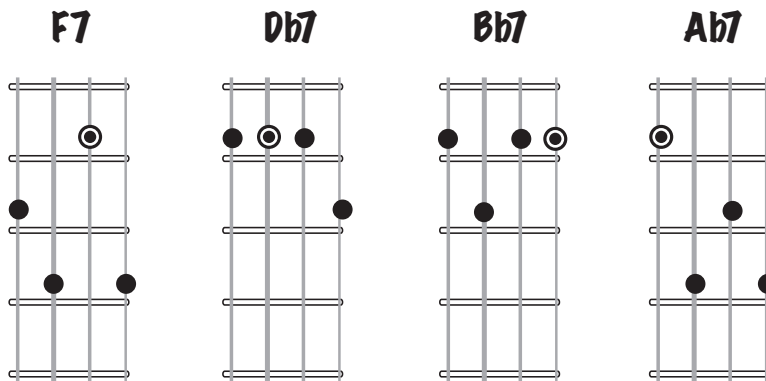
Building Advanced Chords

Beyond basic open position and movable form chords that can be learned by shape. There are just too many possible chords to learn this advanced chords by shape.

Building more advanced 4-part “jazz” chords can be accomplished using a seventh chord as your starting point.

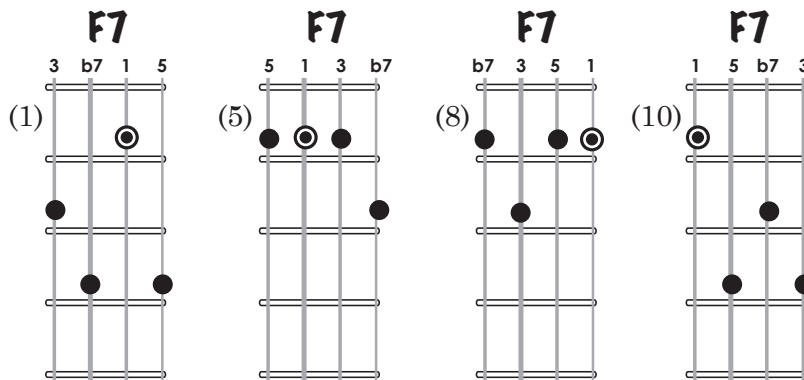
Seventh Chords (7)

Here are four Seventh chords played at fret one of a standard tuned (g C E A or G C E A) ukulele. A seventh chord is sometimes referred to as a Dominant Seventh chord.





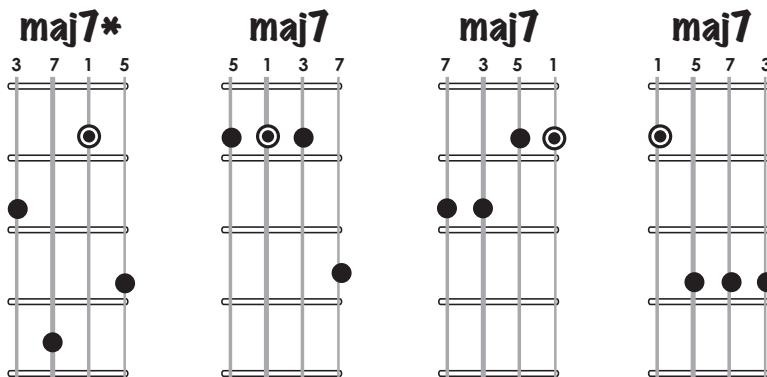
Here are the Db7, Bb7 and Ab7 chords transposed to F7.



These seventh chords are major chords types, and the foundation for building the 4-part major chord types.

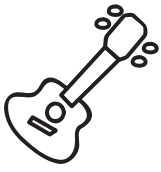
Major Seventh Chords (maj7)

Create four **Major Seventh** chords by raising the seventh of each seventh chord one fret.



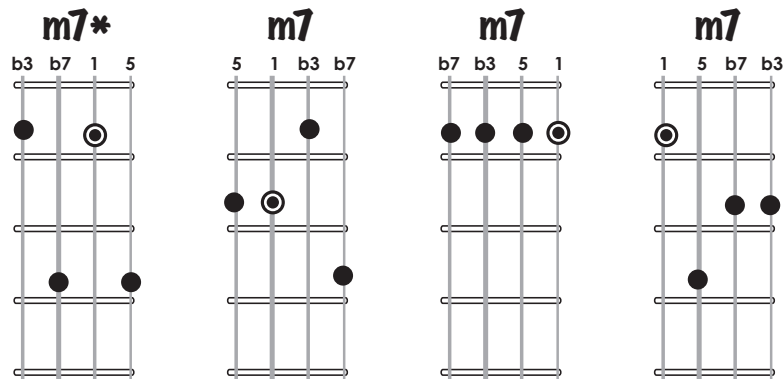
** Chords are shown as their generic shapes.
 Use a transposition chart or the roots to transpose.*





Minor Seventh Chords (m7)

Create four **Minor Seventh** (m7) chords by lowering the third of a seventh chord one fret. These minor seventh chords are minor chord types, and the foundation for building all 4-part minor chord types.



* Chords are shown as their generic shapes.
 Use a transposition chart or the roots to transpose.

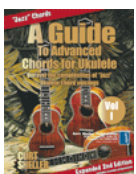
Additional 4-Part Chords

This same process is used to create the *diminished* and *augmented* 4-part chord types.

Upper Partial, Extensions and Alternations

Upper partial 9ths, 11th and 13ths, alterations -5, +5, +11, b13 are where the fun happens with these 4-part chords.

For more information see my book: **A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele.**



A Guide to Advanced Chord for Ukulele

Commonly referred to as "jazz" chords, this guide provides detailed information on voicing 4-part chords. It covers all major, minor, diminished and augmented chord types, their upper partials, alterations, add, sus and slash chords.





Transposing Chords

Transposition is the process of moving a musical passage from one key to another key. All music can be transposed, from a single note to a complex musical score.

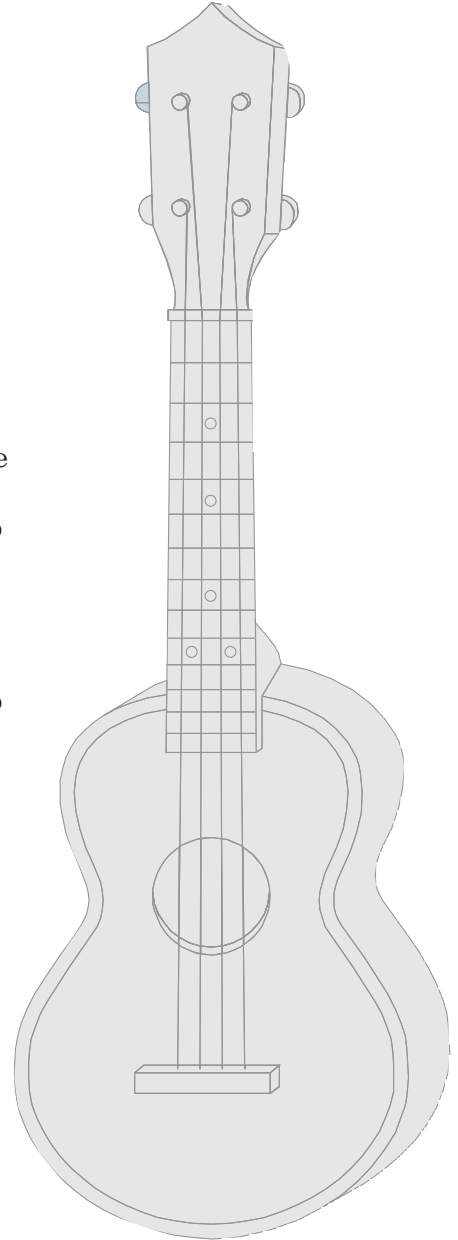
(Excerpt from my book **A Guide to Ukulele Chords**)

- All chords without open strings are movable and can be transposed to any key. This also applies to scale shapes that do not use open strings
- In order to transpose a chord you need to determine what string and fret the Root of the chord is on.
- Method 1** - Following the Transposition Chart below, move all the notes of the chord the number of frets ascending (higher in pitch) or descending (lower in pitch) to place it so the Root of the chord is on the proper fret.
- Method 2** - Know the notes of the ukulele neck and move all the notes of the chord the number of frets ascending (higher in pitch) or descending (lower in pitch) to place it so the Root of the chord is on the proper fret.

Method 1

How to Use the Transposition Chart

- Pick a chord without any open strings.
- Determine what string and fret the *root* is on. The root is the letter name of the chord. An example would be, A is the root of an A7 chord.
- To transpose upward, use the left (ascending keys) chart. To transpose downward, use the right (descending keys) chart.
- Each new key is 1 fret above or below the original key.
- Don't forget to transpose each note of the chord.

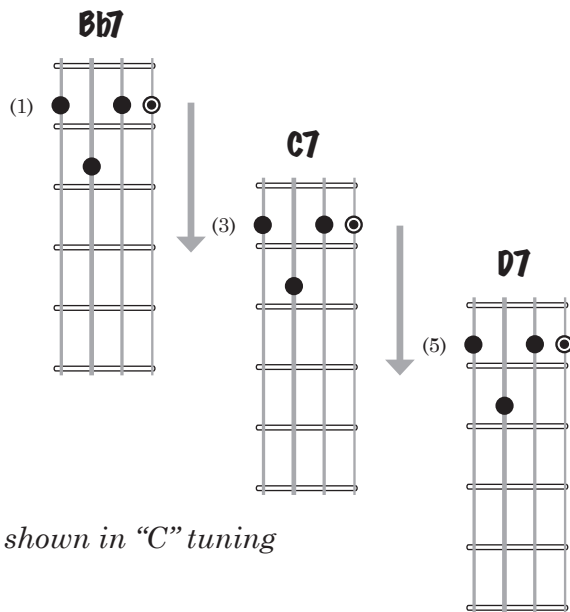




Examples

If you are in the key of Bb and move all notes of the chord up 3 frets, you are now the key of C.

If you are in the key of Bb and move all notes of the chord up 5 frets, you are now the key of D.



Examples shown in "C" tuning

Transposition Chart

Ascending		Descending
B	↓	C
A#, Bb		B
A		Bb, A#
G#, Ab		A
G		Ab, G#
F#, Gb		G
F		Gb, F#
E		F
D#, Eb		E
D		Eb, D#
C#, Db		D
C		Db, C#

Ascending refers to higher in pitch and descending, lower in pitch.

