

! A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele

! 4-part "Jazz" Chords

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

! Building 4-Part Chords

There are several ways to build chords - but the best way to build chords on a ukulele, or any instrument for that matter, is by using numeric formulas based on the scale degrees of the fifteen major scales. These numeric formulas are taken from the major scales by numbering each scale degree 1 through 13, skipping the octave (8), 10th and 12th scale degrees, as these are duplicates of the fundamental triad chord tones.

Example C, G and D major scale and scale degrees

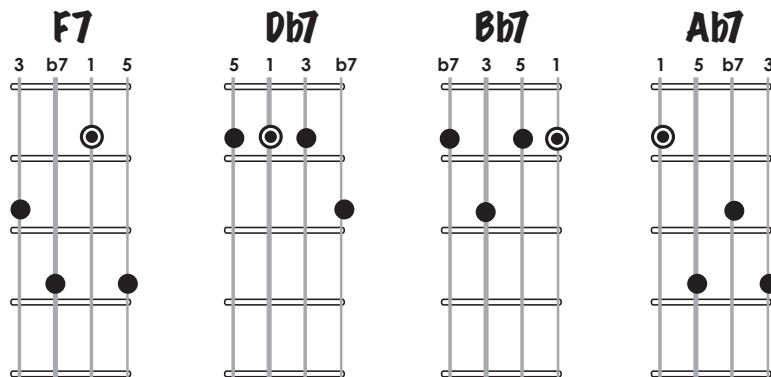
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	11	13
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	D	F	A
G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	A	C	E
D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	E	G	B

! Building Advanced Chords

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

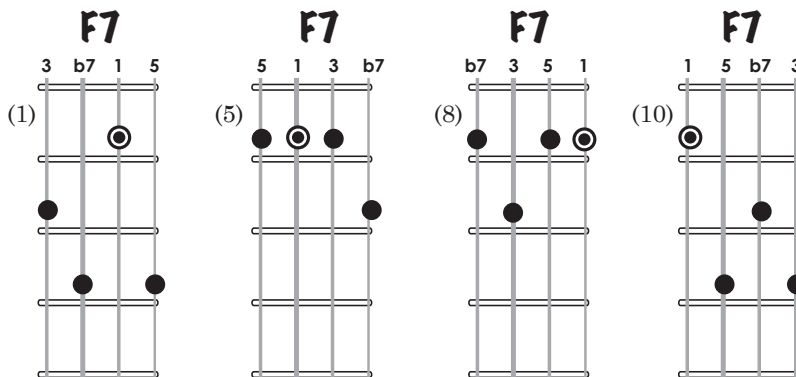
! Seventh Chords (7)

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.





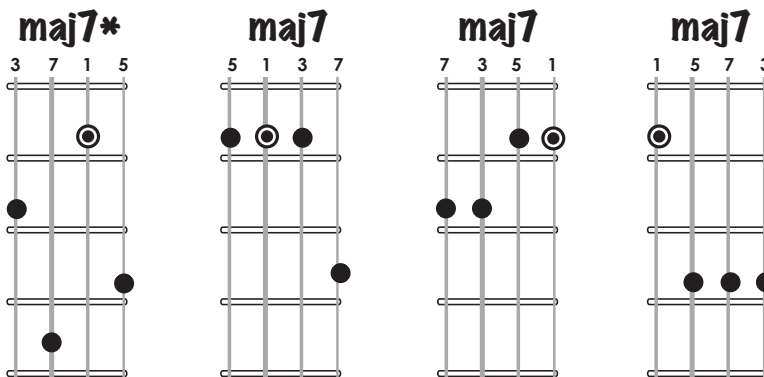
Here are the Db7, Bb7 and Ab7 first position chords transposed to F7.



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.



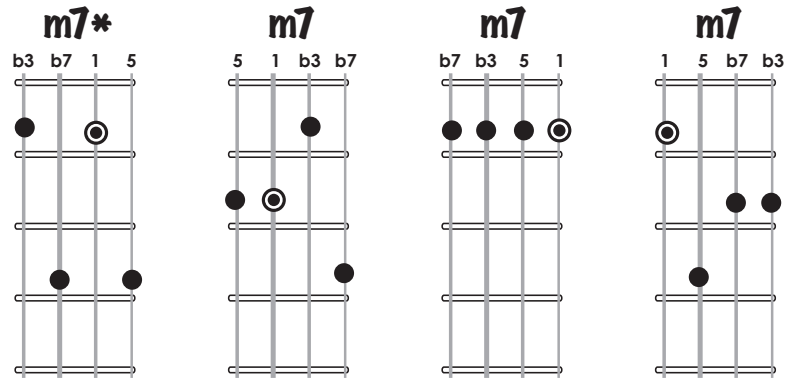
** Chords are shown as their generic shapes.
 Use a transposition chart or the roots to transpose.*





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.



Additional 4-Part Chords

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

Upper Partial or Extensions

9th

Ninth chords are created by raising the root of a chord two frets or lowering the third of a major chord two frets or the third of a minor chord one fret.

11th

Eleventh chords are created by raising the third of a chord. An eleventh chord can optionally contain a ninth.

13th

Thirteenth chords are created by raising the fifth of a chord. A thirteenth chord can optionally contain a ninth and eleventh.

Alterations

The fifth, ninth, eleventh and thirteenth (b5, #5, b9, #9, #11, b13) are possible chord tones that can be altered depending on the chord type.

Combinations of alterations and upper partials can be combined to create more complex chords.

See *A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele* for specific instructions.





! Suggested Learning Order

Core Chords

7, m7, maj7, m7b5, dim7, aug7

Additional Core Chords

6th, m6, mL7

Diminished and Augmented Chords

m7b5 to dimL7 (*Very Rare*)

aug7 to augL7 (*Very Rare*)

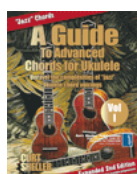
Upper Partial-Extensions

9, 11 and 13

Alterations

b5, #5, b9, #9, #11, b13

For more information on building 4-part chords, shameless plug coming, see my book *A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele*. This book provides detailed information on voicing all of the above 4-part chords. The book covers ALL major, minor, diminished and augmented chords types, their upper partials, alterations, add, sus and slash chords. A complete system for creating chords.



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.





Cool Chords

Cool Chords - These are the chords do not typically show up in chord dictionaries or song books. They might show up in software programs that produce chords based on some underlying computer algorithm.

These are the chords players ask, “What is that chord?”

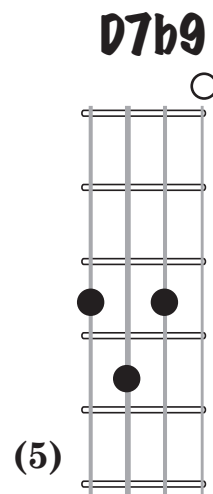
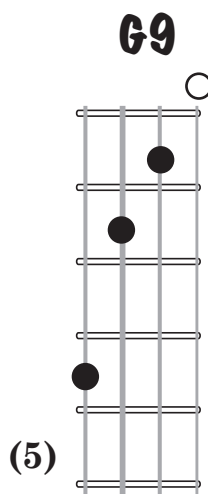
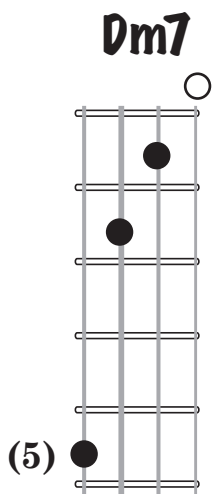
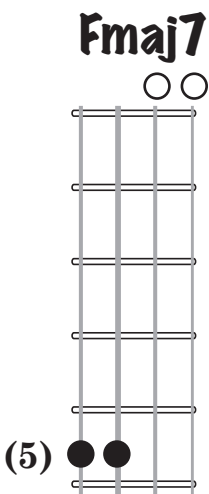
Chords can be grouped into one of four categories: open position chords, basic movable form chords, 4-part contemporary chords and free form chords. It is the free form chord category that these cool chords fall into.

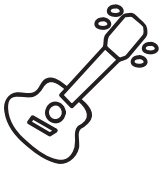
One problem with chords are the number of possible chords and the shapes they produce. Memorizing chord shapes is fine for basic open position and basic movable for chords. But that are just too many shapes to memorize and the remembering shapes approach quickly falls apart if applied to 4-part chords and is useless in remembering these free form chords.

Free form chords typically include open strings, wide stretches, displaced chord tones and close chord voicings. Plus they just sound “cool”.

A free form chord is where you know the notes of the chord and the notes of the ukulele fingerboard. You can then play chords not found in to other three categories.

Fmaj7 F A C E, **Dm7** D F A C, **G9** G B D F A, **D7b9** D F# A C Eb.





! Alteration and Upper Partial

Flat nine, sharp nine, sharp five, flat five, augmented eleventh, sharp nine flat five

How can anyone remember all those chords? You don't have too!

All you need to do is remember how to create chords on the fly when needed.

It all comes back to knowing the basic chords for building other chords and knowing the ukulele fingerboard.

The instructions for creating a chord is built into the name of the chord.

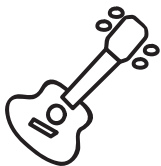
Knowing the location of the fifth and ninth of a chord you can create many combinations common in jazz.

Here are some examples of alteration and upper partials using the 5th, 9th and 13th. The 11 is left for a future workshop.

<p>F7</p> <p>3 b7 1 5</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>F7</p> <p>5 1 3 b7</p> <p>(5)</p>	<p>F7</p> <p>b7 3 5 1</p> <p>(8)</p>	<p>F7</p> <p>1 5 b7 3</p> <p>(10)</p>
<p>F7b9#5</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>F7#9#5</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>F9b5</p> <p>(1)</p>	<p>F7b9b5</p> <p>(1)</p>

You will notice that some of the chords are familiar shapes with other names. F7b9b5 is also Bb7. Knowing this after the fact is fine – but to try and perform the mental gymnastics before the fact is not worth the effort.





Jazz Blues Key of "C" Major

4/4

G C E A TUNING

H

C7 F7 C7 Gm7 C7

2 3 4

D G B E TUNING

H

C7 F7 C7 Gm7 C7

3fr 3fr 3fr 3fr

F7 C7 A7

5fr 3fr 2fr

5 6 7 8

F7 C7 A7

3fr 5fr 5fr

DM7 G7 C7 A7 DM7 G7

3fr 2fr 3fr 2fr 3fr 3fr

9 10 11 12

DM7 G7 C7 A7 DM7 G7

3fr 3fr 2fr 3fr 3fr





Rhythm Changes

9 C E A
TUNING

A

B^b MAJ7 G M7 C M7 F 7 B^b MAJ7 G M7 C M7 F 7

1

B^b MAJ7 B^b 7 E^b MAJ7 E^b M b C M7 F 7 B^b MAJ7 F 7

2

B^b MAJ7 F 7 B^b MAJ7 D 7 G 7

B

C 7 F 7

A

B^b MAJ7 G M7 C M7 F 7 B^b MAJ7 G M7 C M7 F 7

B^b MAJ7 B^b 7 E^b MAJ7 E^b M b B^b MAJ7 F 7 B^b MAJ7

