MUSIC FUN BOOKS / TEACHER PREVIEW

Best Beginning Ukulele Book for Kids

Beginning ukulele | Younger students | Selected interior pages

From first strums to reading music and tablature

This friendly ukulele method begins with tuning, holding the instrument, first chords and familiar songs. Students learn down- and up-strumming patterns, then move into single-note playing, scales, key signatures and broader chord vocabulary. Later lessons introduce movable chords, tablature and a useful chord appendix. Free online video lessons support both classroom teaching and home practice.

Inside this preview

22 original book pages, in the order they appear in the method:

p. 1 **Parts, Tuning and Holding**
Ukulele anatomy, strings and playing posture

p. 2 **Learning the First Chords**
C, C7 and F diagrams and chord practice

p. 3 **Strummin' and Thumbin'**
Steady beat and G7 chord introduction

p. 4 **First Accompaniment Songs**
Mary Had a Little Lamb and Skip to My Lou

p. 5 **Down- and Up-Strokes**
Rhythm syllables, thumb and finger strokes

p. 6 **Repeat Signs and Reading**
Treble clef and longer strumming exercises

p. 10 **Strummin' Fun**
A new syncopated strumming pattern

p. 11 **A Minor Chord Changes**
Finger preparation for smooth transitions

p. 13 **First Single-Note Reading**
Open C string and beginning note values

p. 15 **F and G Single Notes**
Fretboard positions and reading exercises

p. 16 **Familiar Single-Note Songs**
Mary Had a Little Lamb and Lightly Row

p. 17 **More Chords and D7**
Hawaiian and barre D7 chord alternatives

p. 19 **Ties and Dotted Half Notes**
Rhythm explanation with When the Saints

p. 20 **C Major and Blues Dues**
Scales, B-flat and note-reading expansion

p. 21 **Key Signature and Repertoire**
B-flat and Yankee Doodle in F major

p. 24 **Additional Chord Vocabulary**
Dm, Gm and A7 taught in progression

p. 33 **Movable Chords**
Transposable chord shapes and two short pieces

p. 43 **Strumming Pattern Library**
A variety of rhythmic accompaniment ideas

p. 45 **Introduction to Tablature**
Standard notation paired with ukulele tab

p. 48 **Songs with Notation and Tab**
Mary Had a Little Lamb and Dreydl

p. 49 **Major Chord Reference**
Major chords across all pitch classes

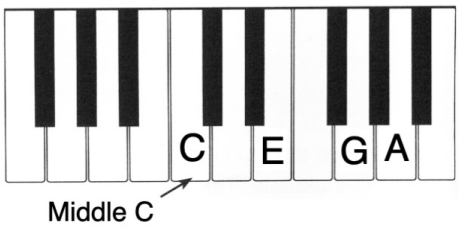
p. 51 **Seventh Chord Reference**
Complete seventh-chord diagram page

Full book and free page-by-page ukulele video lessons

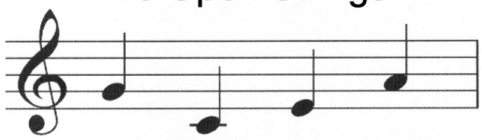
https://musicfunbooks.com/ukulele/

The Best Beginning Ukulele Book for Kids

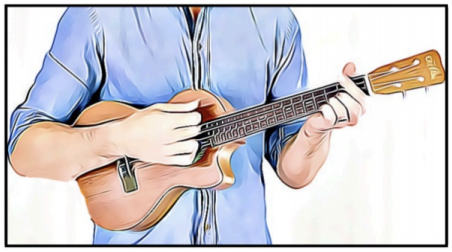
Tuning to the Piano

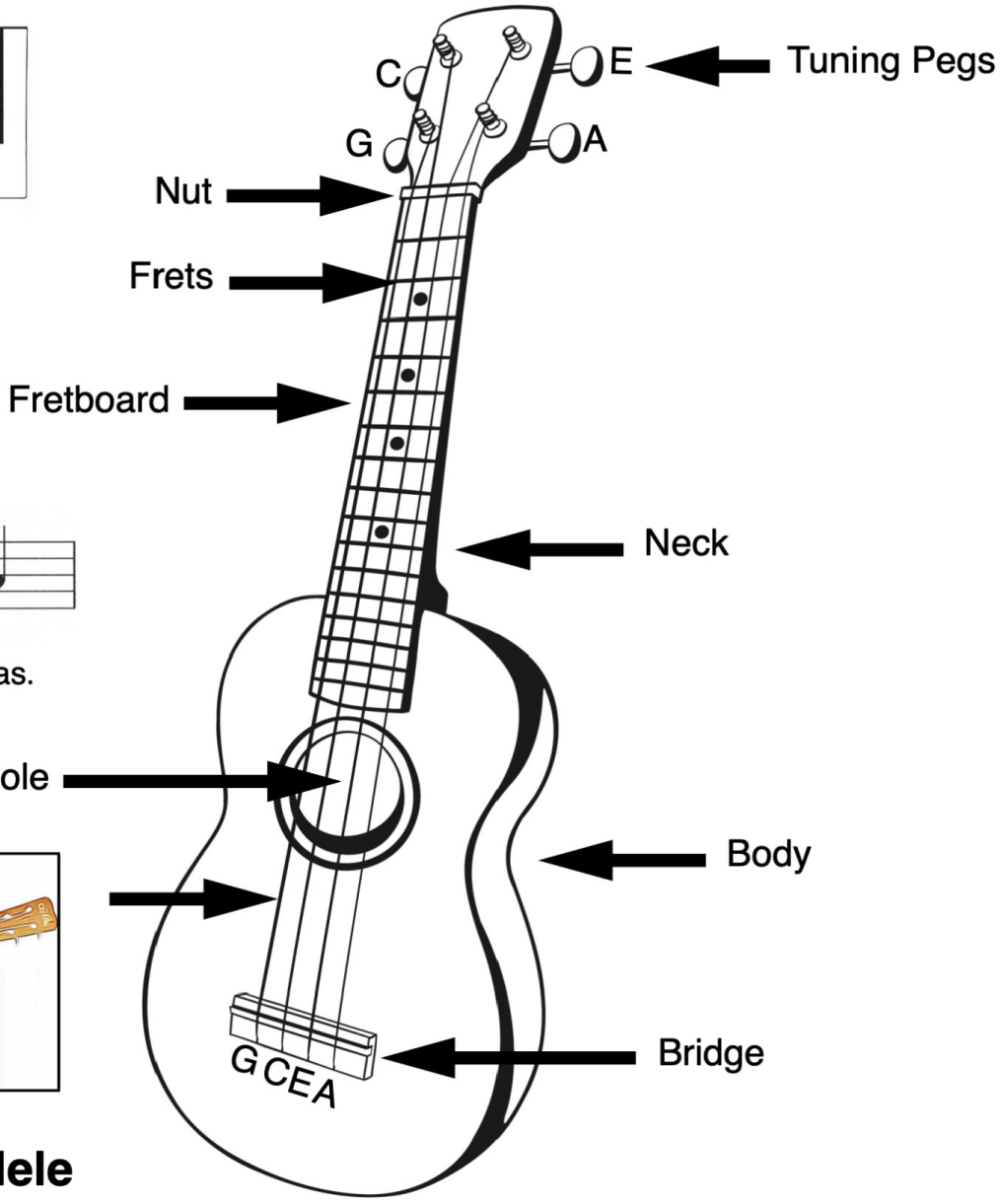


The Open Strings



My dog has fleas.





Holding the Ukulele

Squeeze the body of the ukulele between your right forearm and your body with the strings and the sound hole facing away from you.

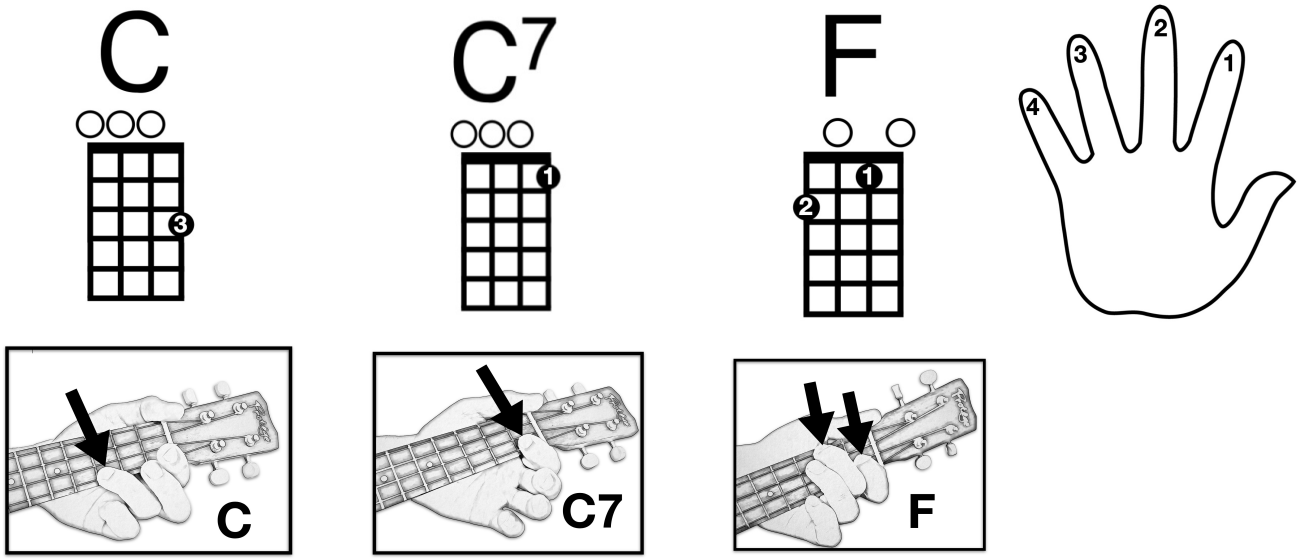
Keep it in place by lightly pushing it against the bottom of your rib cage.

With your forearm gently squeezing the ukulele to keep it close to your body, your wrist then becomes free to strum.

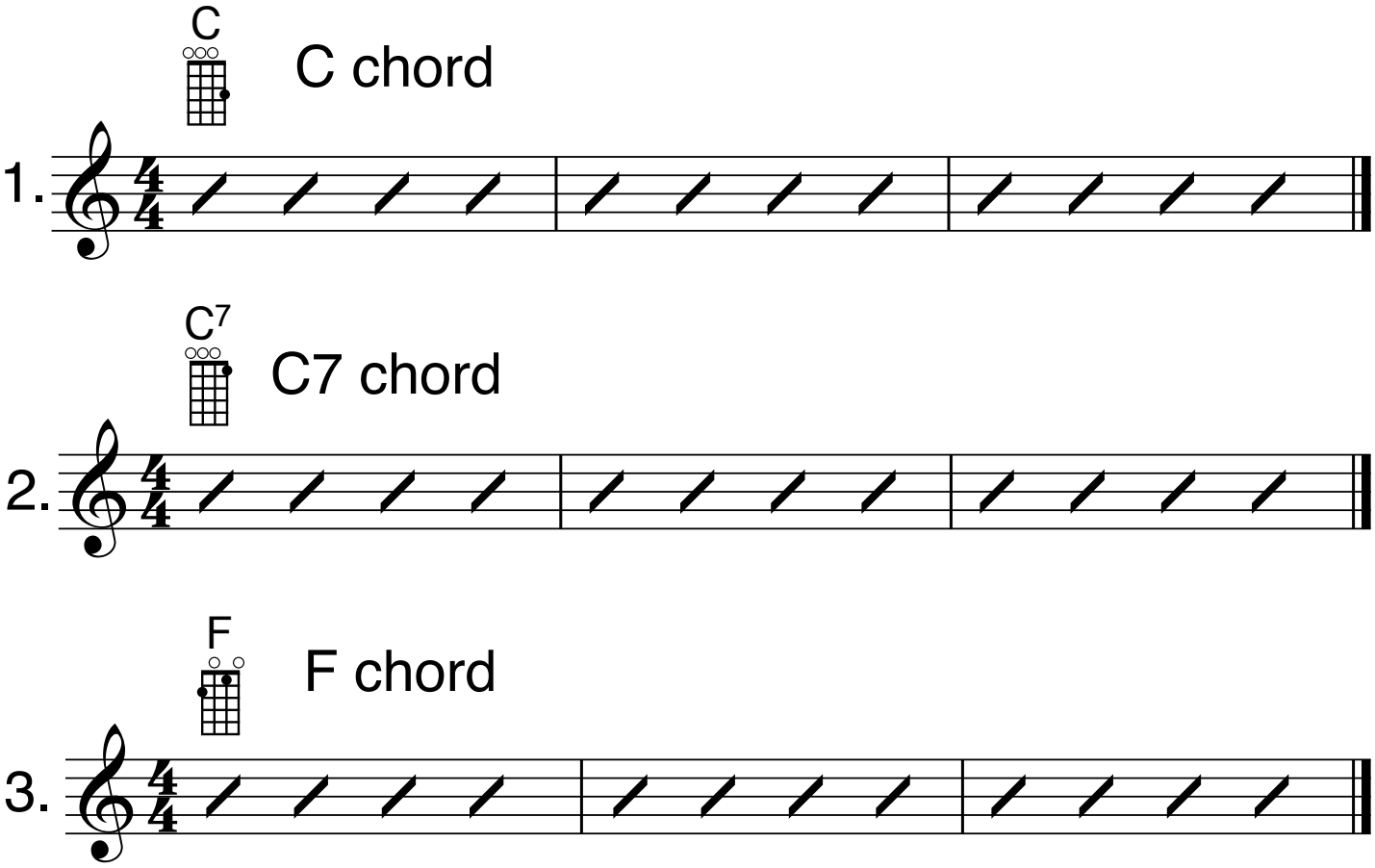
Your left hand thumb should be on the center back neck of the ukulele so that you are “pinching” the neck with your finger and thumb when you fret a note.

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Learning to Play Chords



Chords are produced by playing more than one string at the same time.
The dots show which strings to push at which frets.
The numbers on the dots indicate which fingers to use.
Strum all four strings for each slash in the measure.



Video support at **www.musicfunbooks.com/ukulele**

Strummin' & Thumbin'

Brush your thumb down across all the strings using one strum for each slash.
When you bring your hand back up, be careful not to touch the strings.
Count the beats as you play each bar. Work for a nice steady beat.
1 - 2 - 3 - 4, 1 - 2 - 3 - 4, etc.

C

Strummin' **C**

Each box of music is called a **measure**.

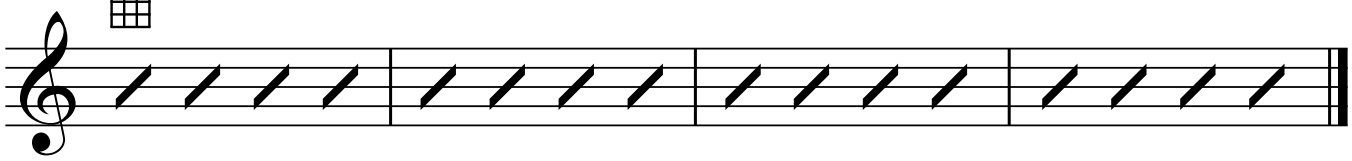
4.



C^7

Strummin' **C7**

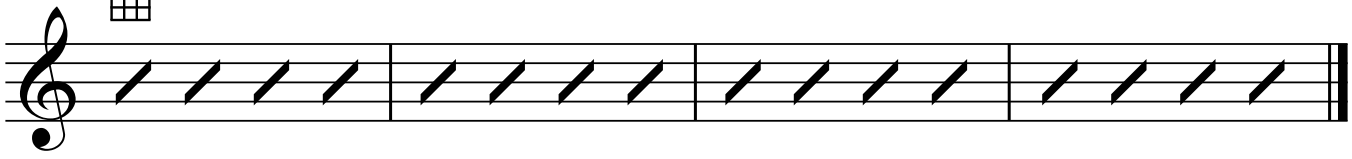
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F

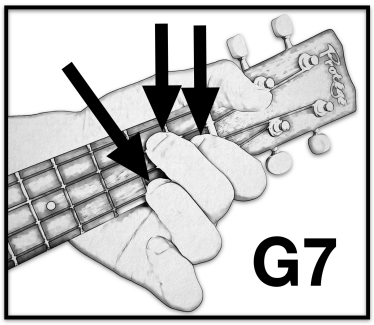
Strummin' **F**

6.

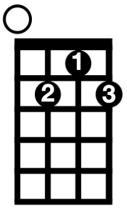


Strummin'
G7

G^7



G^7





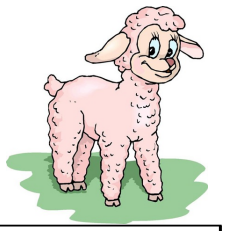
G^7

7.



4 Mary Had a Little Lamb

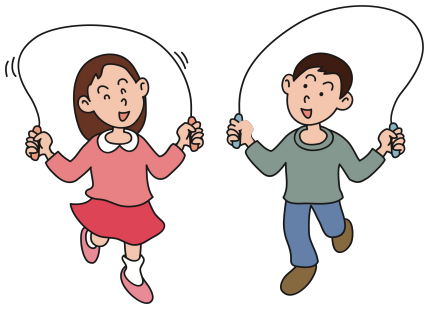
Everyone knows this famous song. Practice using your thumb to brush the chords while you sing the words to Mary Had a Little Lamb.



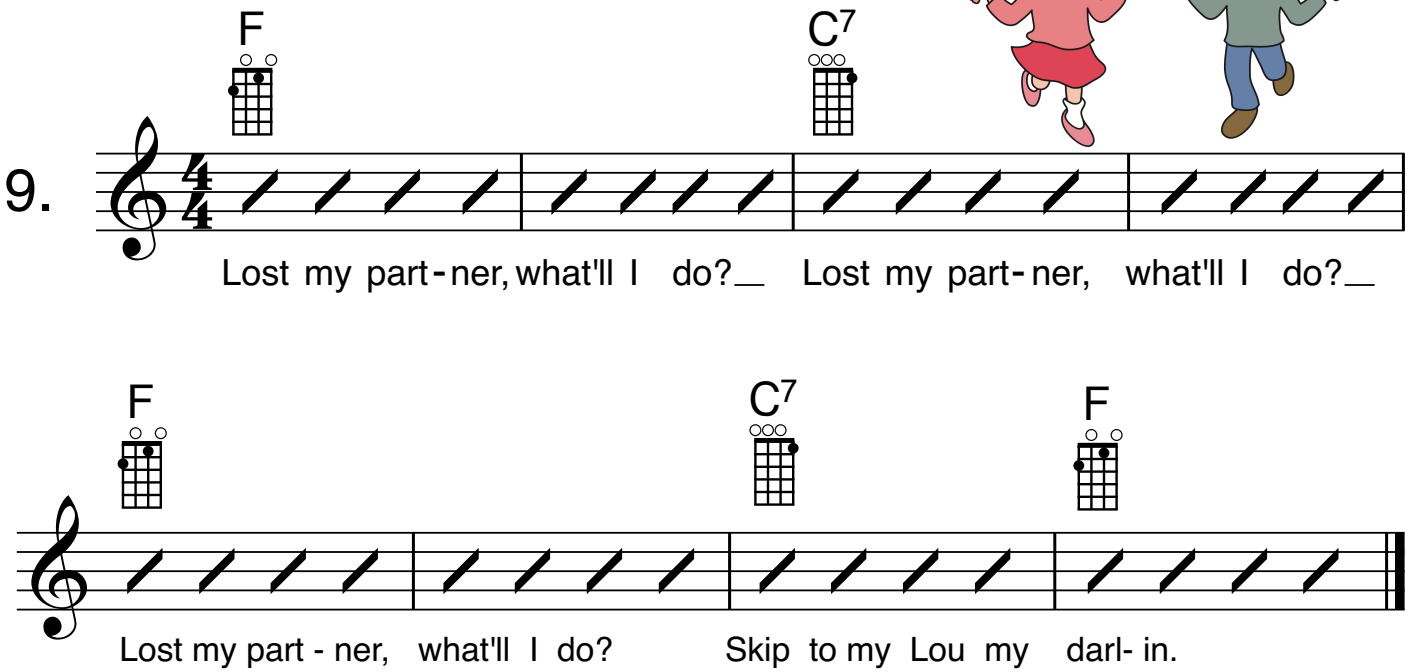
8.

Using your thumb is the easiest way to play your ukulele, but using your first finger to strum the notes is the standard method for strumming. Curl the first finger of your right hand while making a relaxed fist. Then, use the tip of your finger to strum downward.

Skip to My Lou



9.



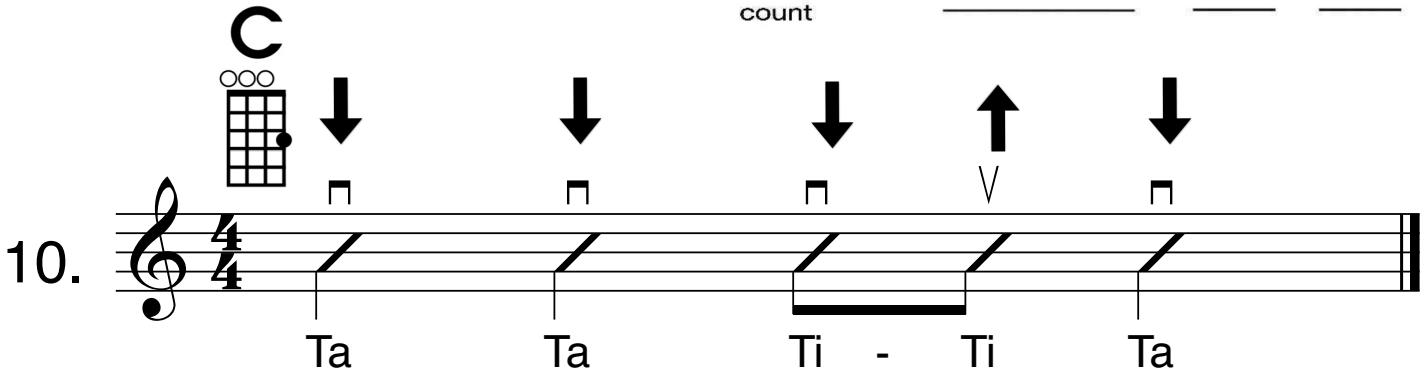
Now let's use both our first finger and our thumb to strum.
On the down stroke, use the thumb.
On the up stroke use your finger.
Notice the special symbols for DOWN and UP.

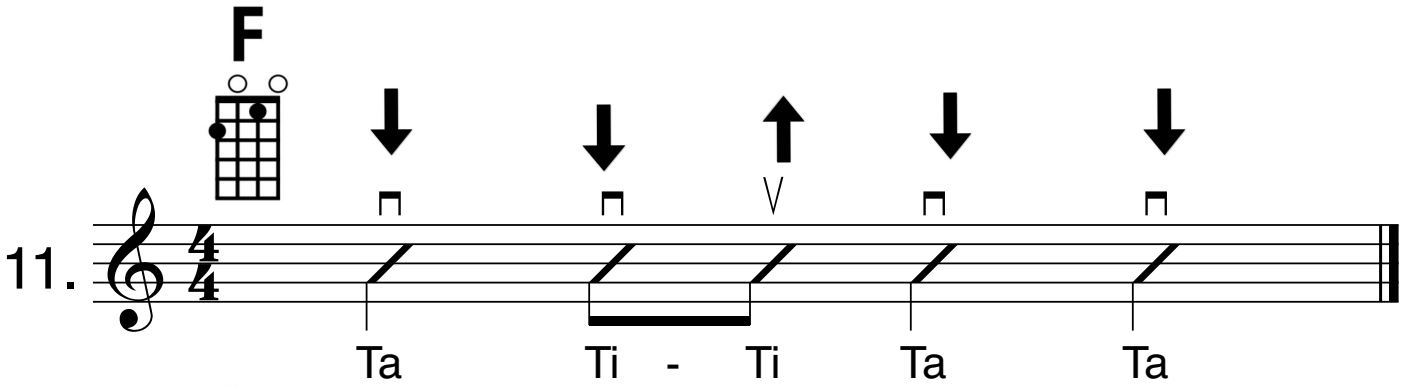
We call the quarter notes "**Ta**".
We call the eighth notes "**Ti Ti**".

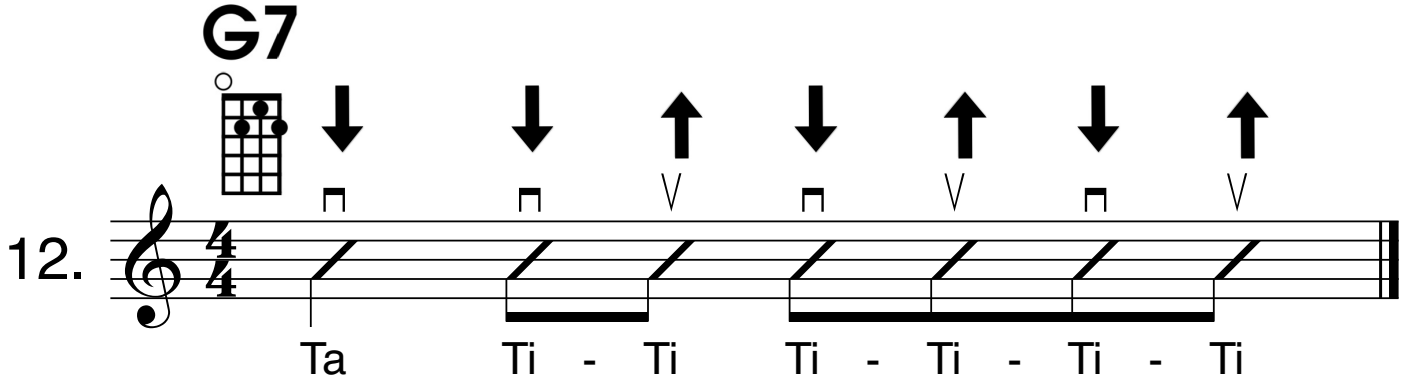


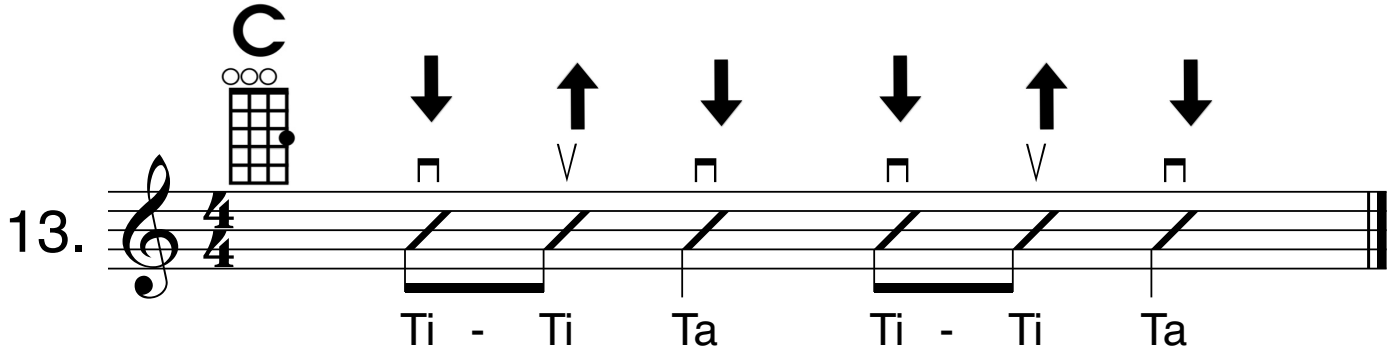
These are two eighth notes.
Together they get one count.

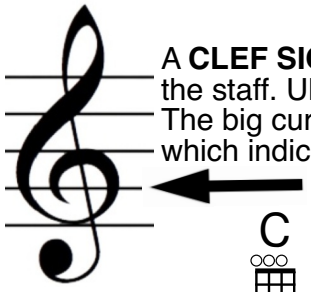




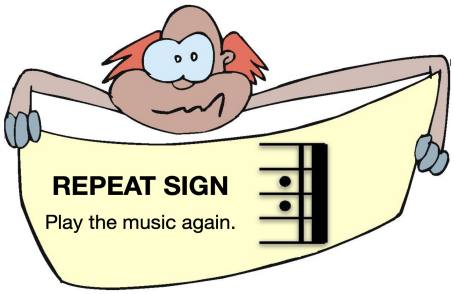




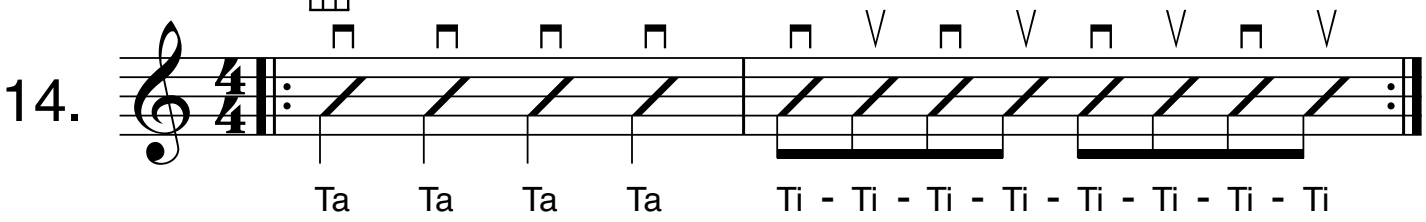




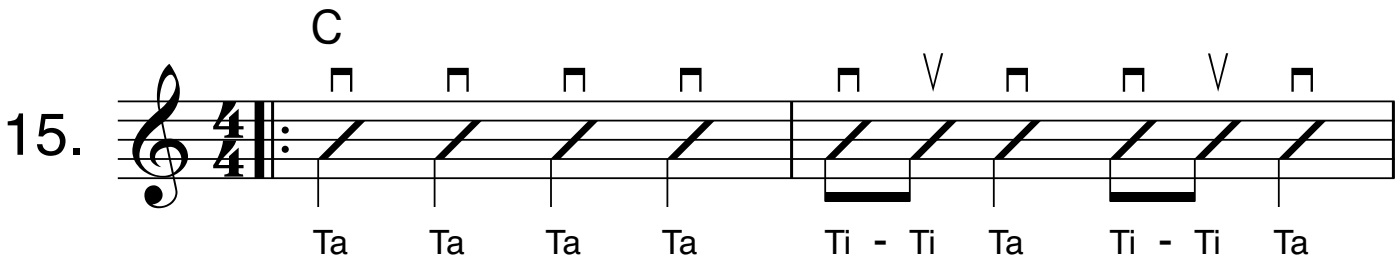
A **CLEF SIGN** tells us the names of the notes on the staff. Ukulele music uses a **TREBLE CLEF**. The big curly part circles the second line of the staff which indicates that it is the **G** line.

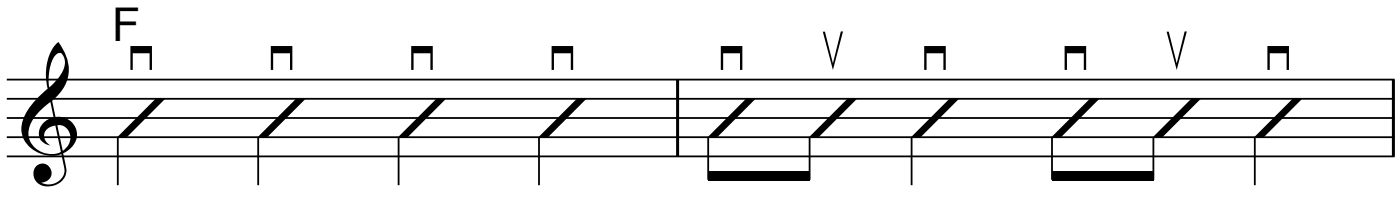


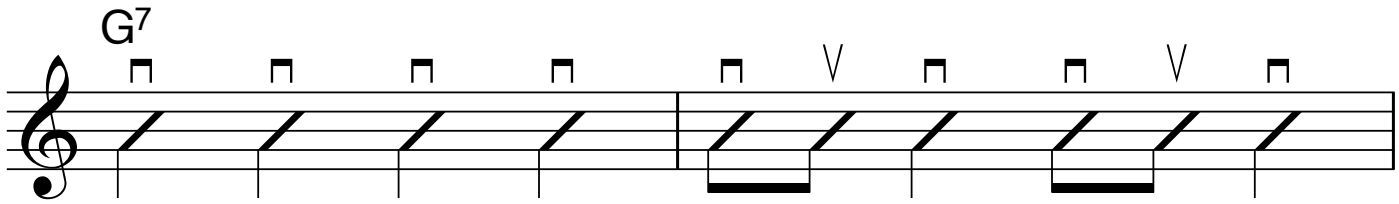
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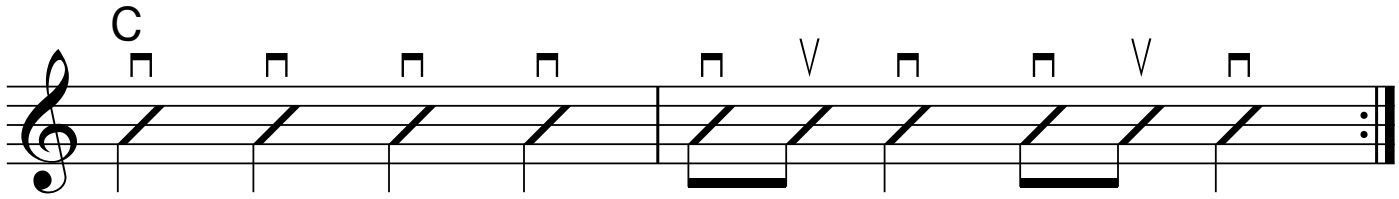


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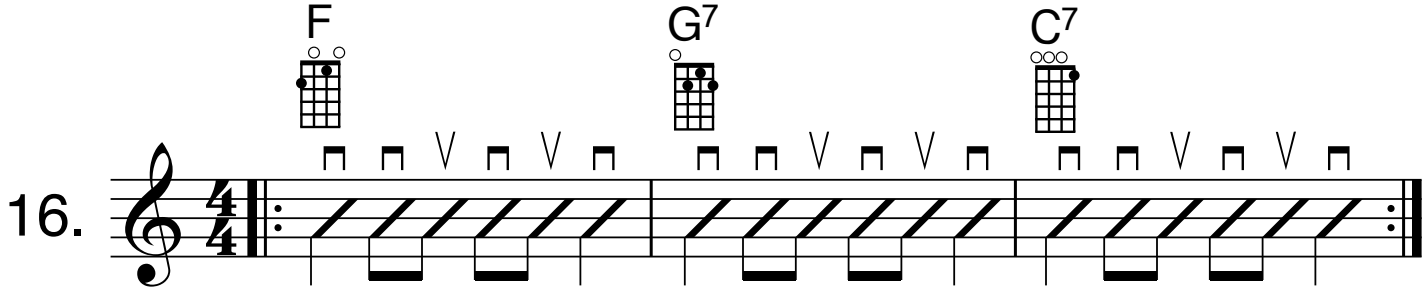




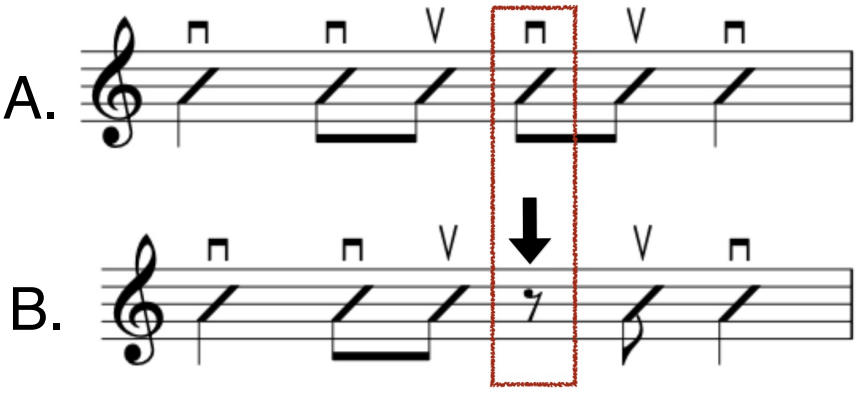




16.



10 Strummin' Fun



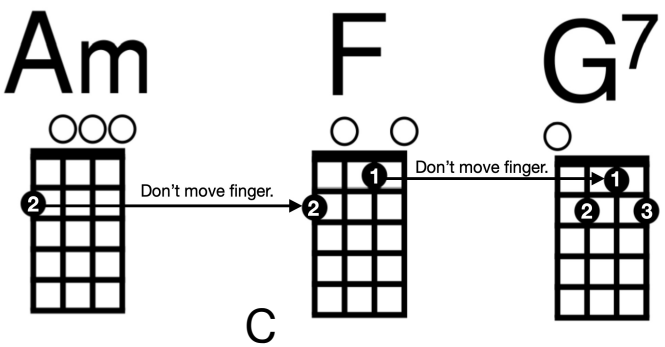
Now let's try this fun strum stroke.

Do Line A just as we did earlier in the book.

For Line B, do the same but "miss" the ukulele strings where you see the rest on the third down stroke.

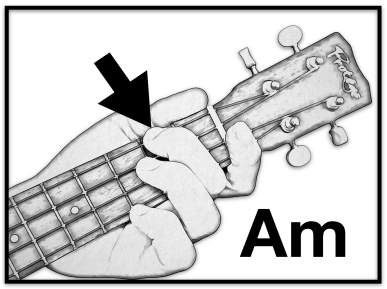


Learning the A minor chord



When doing this progression, don't move your second finger when you change from Am to F.

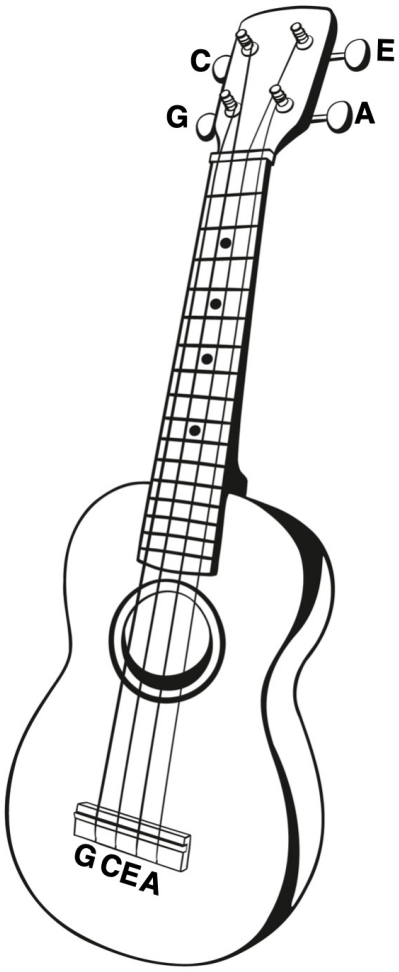
Don't move your first finger when you change from F to G7.



Keep your left hand fingers slightly curved and over the correct strings and fretboard postions.

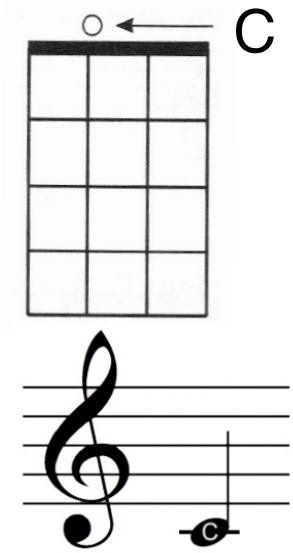


Learning to Play Single Notes



So far in the book, we have been learning chords.
But, you can also play single notes on the ukulele. Let's learn a few.
To begin, we'll do notes on just the third string -- our **C string**.

Pluck with your thumb.



The Open Strings

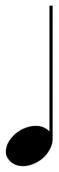


My dog has fleas.

Quarter rests get one count.



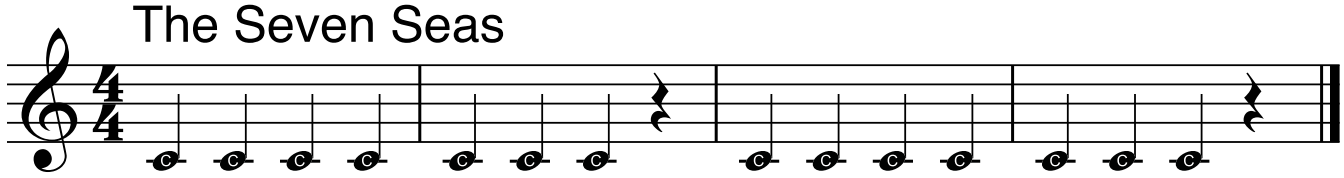
Quarter notes get one count.



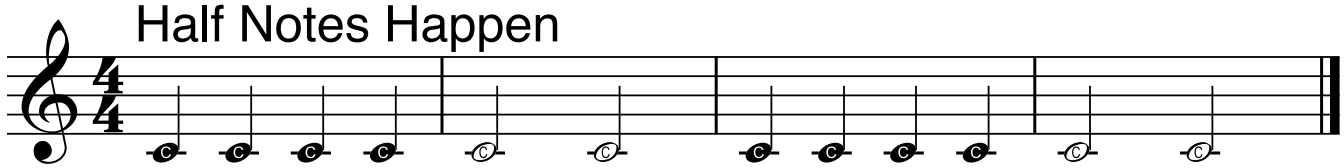
Half notes get two counts.



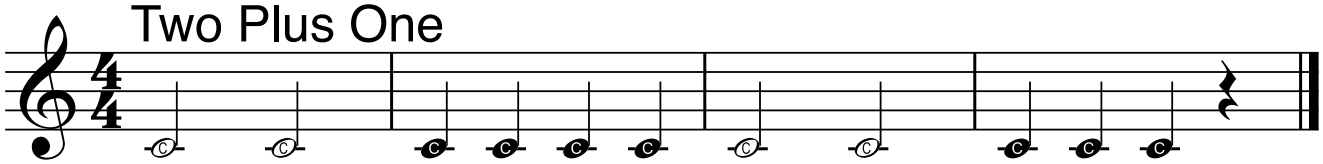
23. The Seven Seas



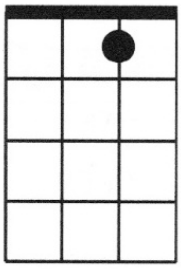
24. Half Notes Happen



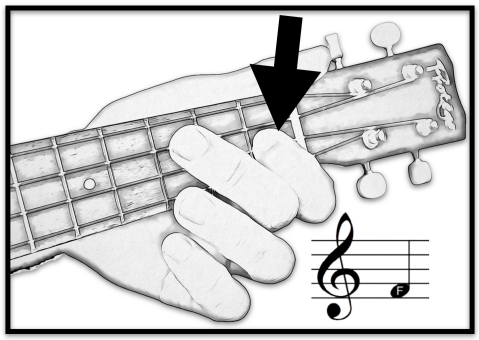
25. Two Plus One



F



1st fret

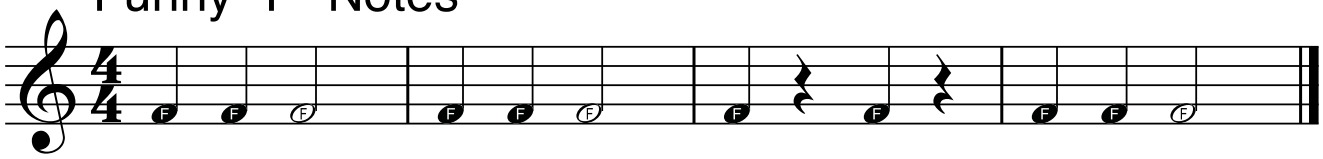


Use your first finger on the first fret to play the single note, "**F**".

(This note is played on the **E** string.)

Funny "F" Notes

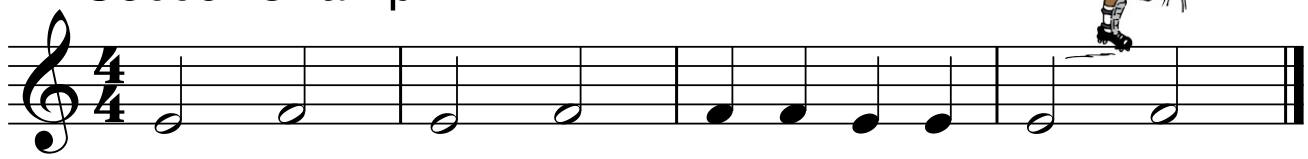
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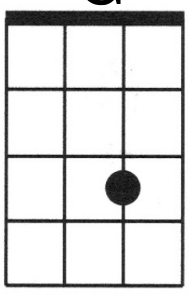
Soccer Champ



31.



G



3rd fret

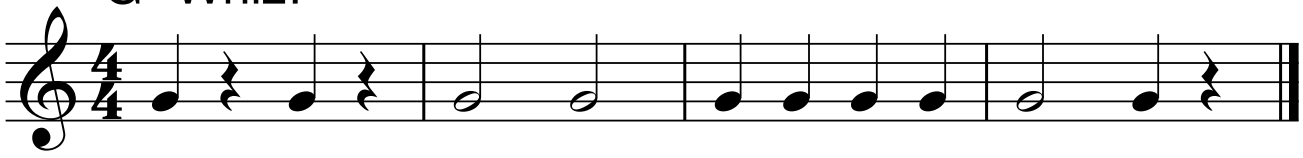


Use your third finger on the third fret to play the single note, "**G**".

(This note is played on the **E** string.)

"G" Whiz!

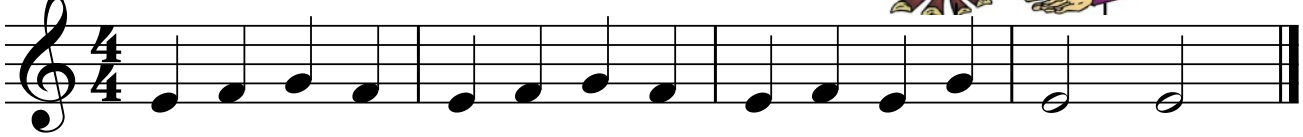
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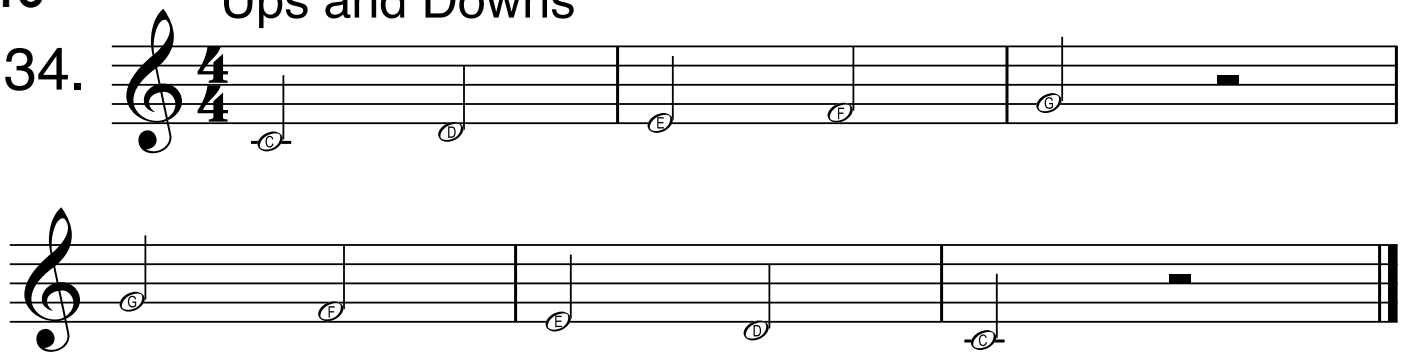
The Campfire



33.



34. Ups and Downs

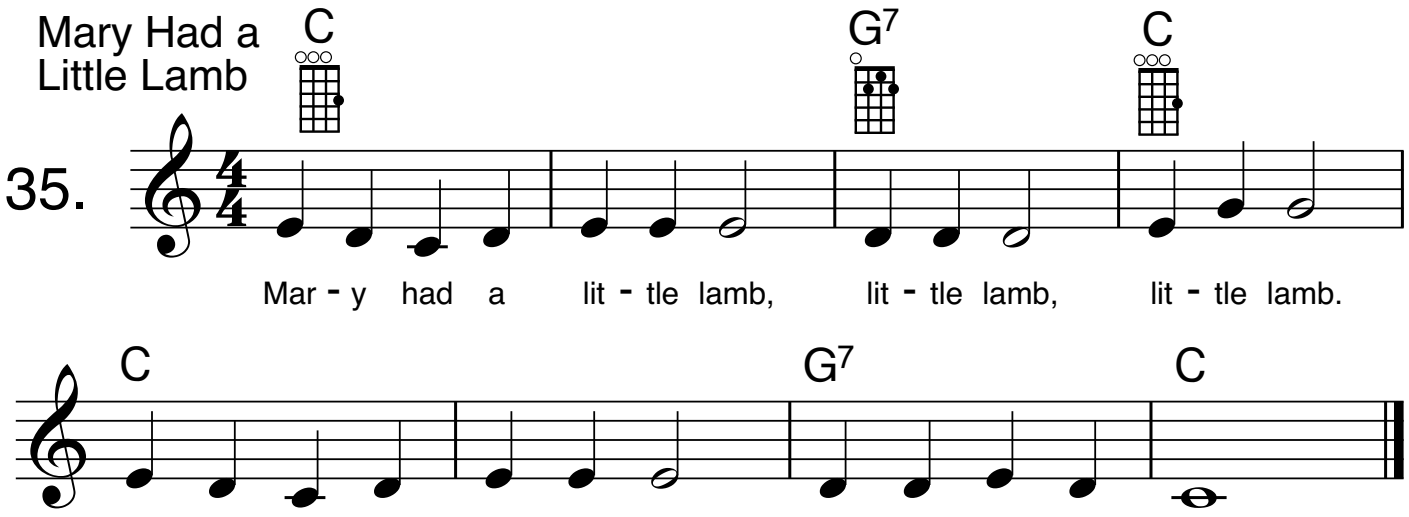


Whole notes get four counts.

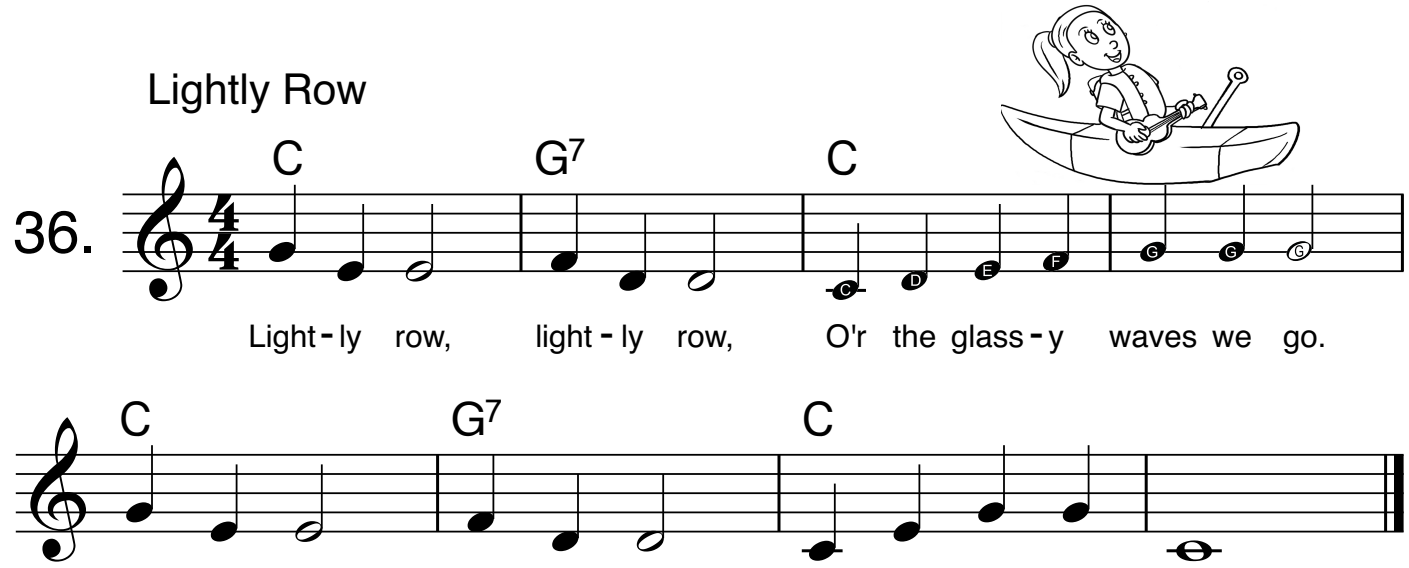
Half notes get two counts.

Quarter notes get one count.

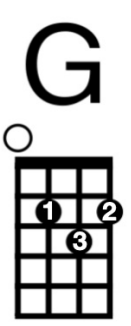
35. Mary Had a Little Lamb

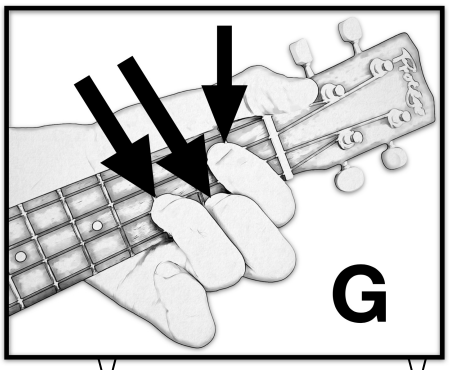


36. Lightly Row

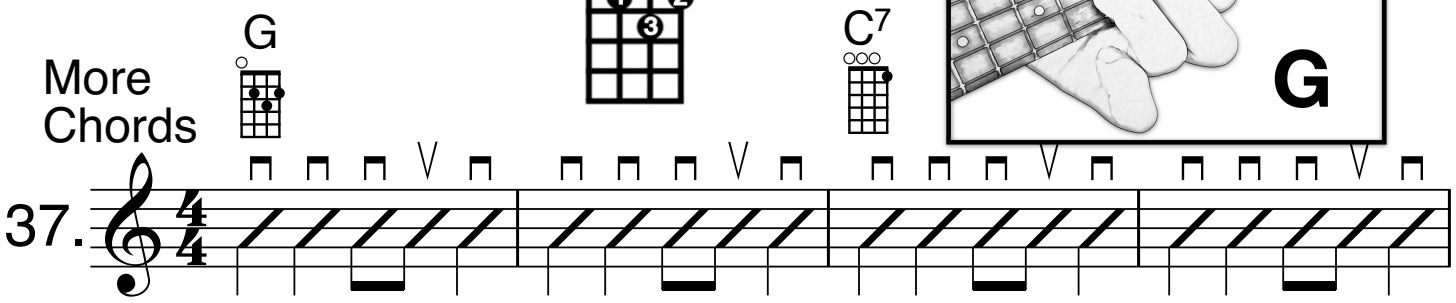


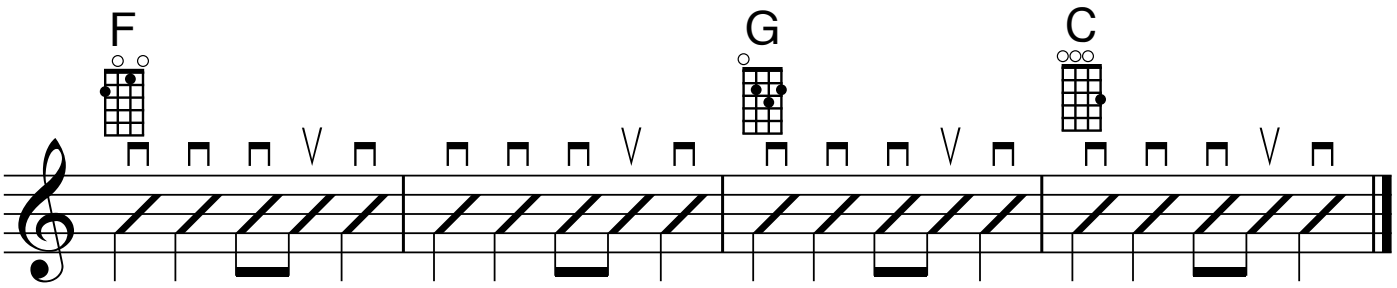
Learning **G**



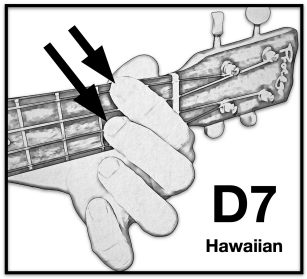


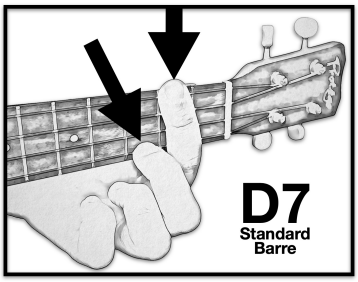
More Chords





Learning **D7**





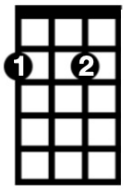
Did you know there is more than one way to play a chord?

To play the Hawaiian D7 ukulele chord, place the index finger on the 2nd fret of the top g-string and the middle finger on the 2nd fret of the E-string. Let the other two strings ring open.

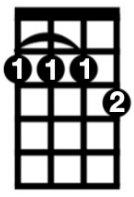
To play the standard D7 barre ukulele chord, take the index finger & *barre* or *press down* on all four strings at the 2nd fret. Place the middle finger on the 3rd fret of the bottom A-string.
Which D7 chord should you play? Although the Hawaiian D7 is easier to play, it doesn't contain all of the pitches of a full D7 chord. We recommend beginners challenge themselves to play the standard D7 barre chord.

It takes a bit more time to master but it will always work and sound amazing.

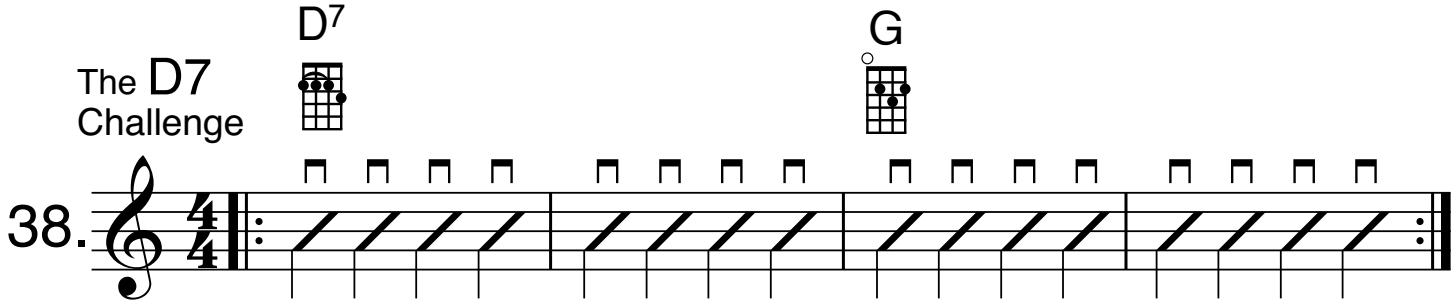
D7 Easy Hawaiian



D7 Standard barre

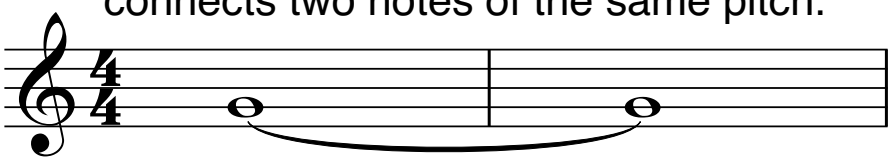


The D7 Challenge



Learning About the Tie

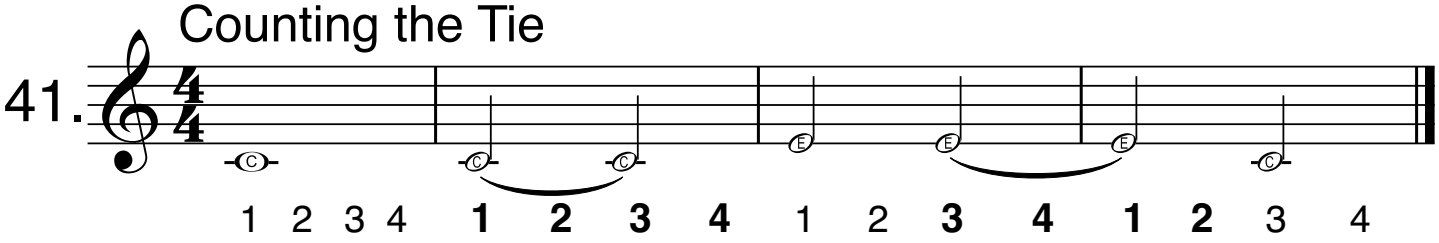
A "**tie**" is a curved line that connects two notes of the same pitch.



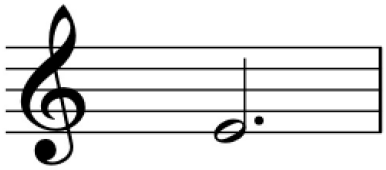
Hold the note for the combined value of the two notes.

Counting the Tie

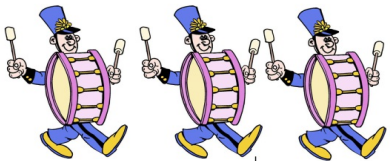
41.



The Dotted Half Note

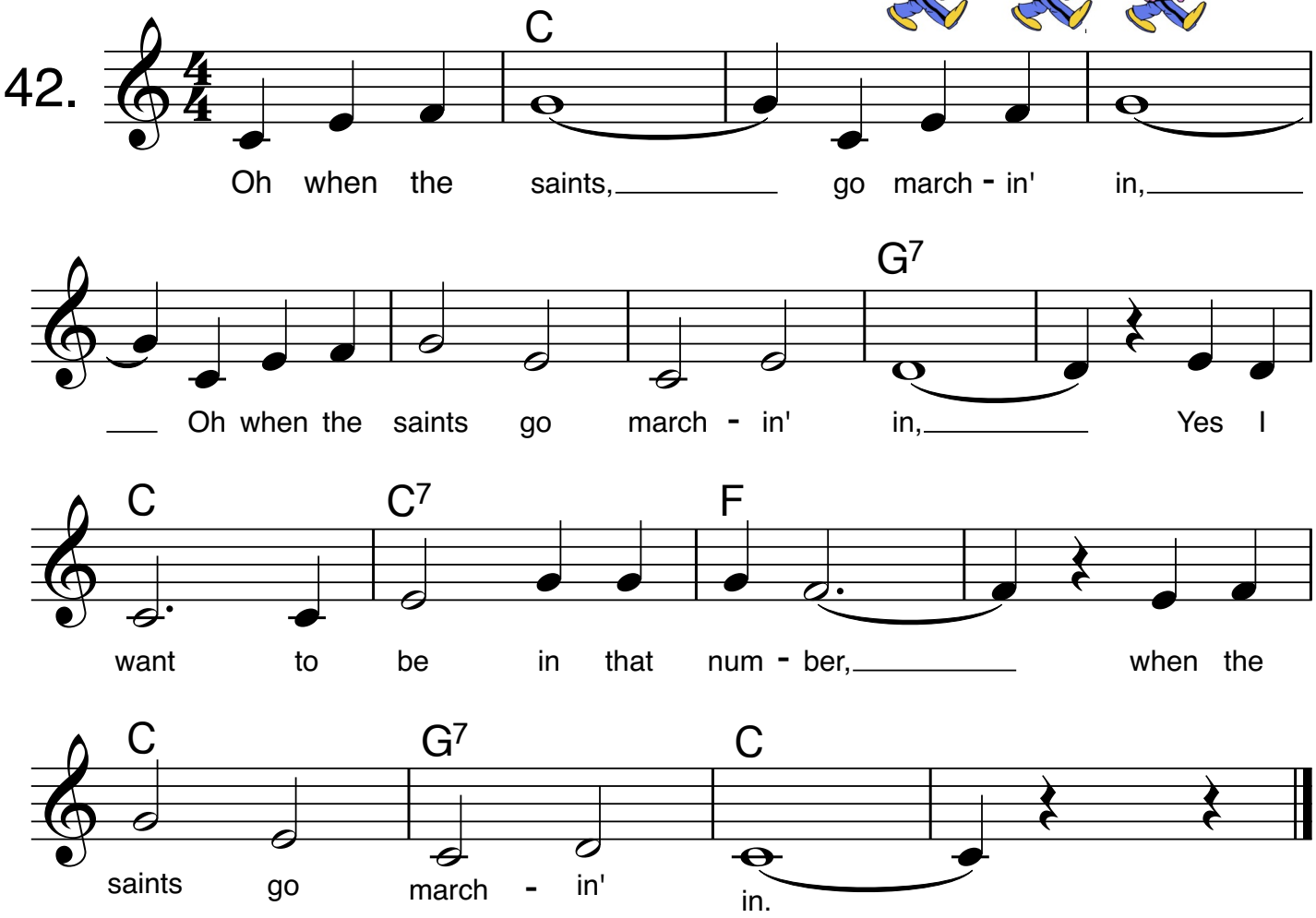


The dotted half note gets three counts.



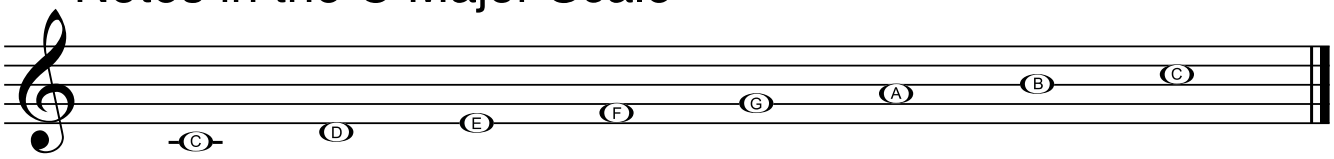
When the Saints Go Marchin' In

42.



Notes in the **C** Major Scale

43.

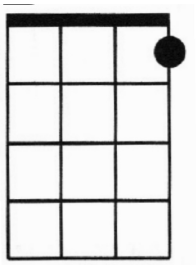


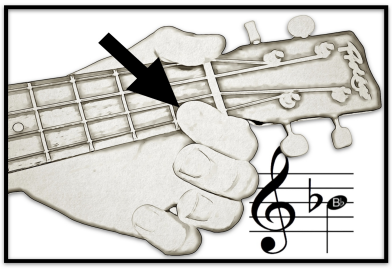
C Major Scale - Up and Down

44.



B♭ 1st finger - 1st fret

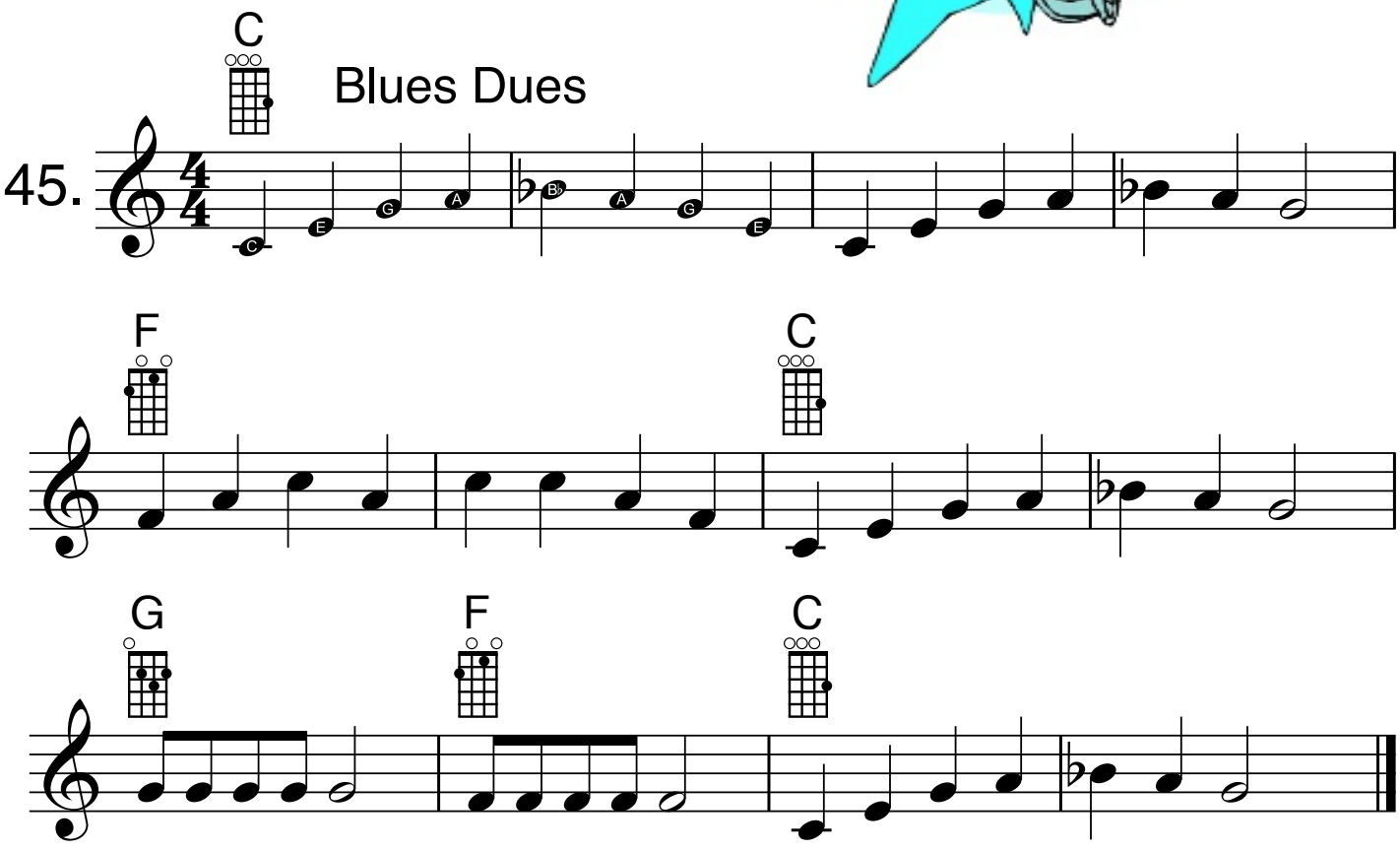




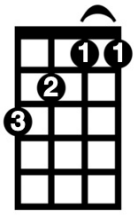


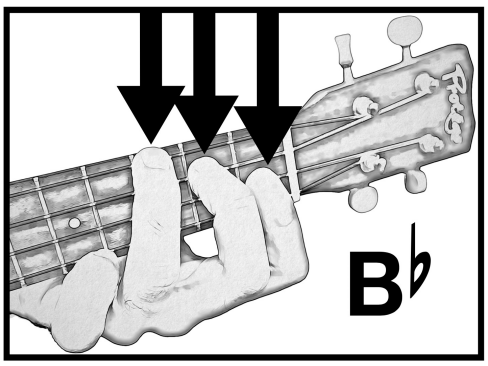
Blues Dues

45.



B♭





Key Signature

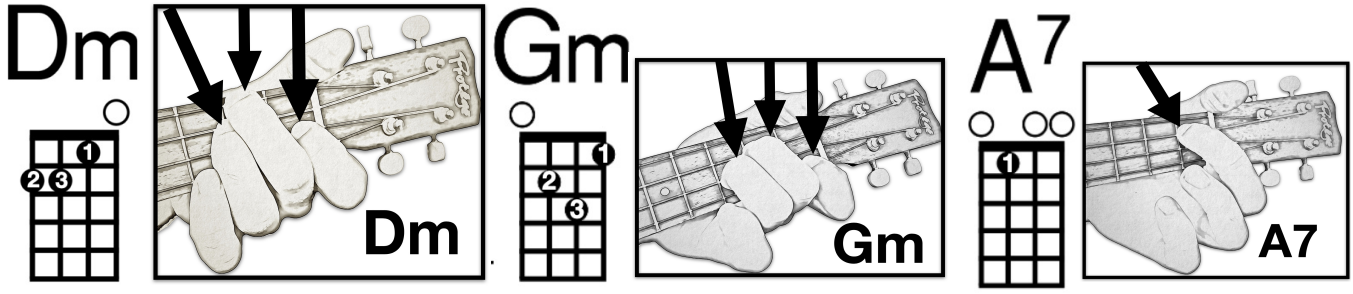
A "key signature" changes certain notes throughout a piece of music. When you see a flat in the key signature, play all the "**B**"s as "**B flats**".



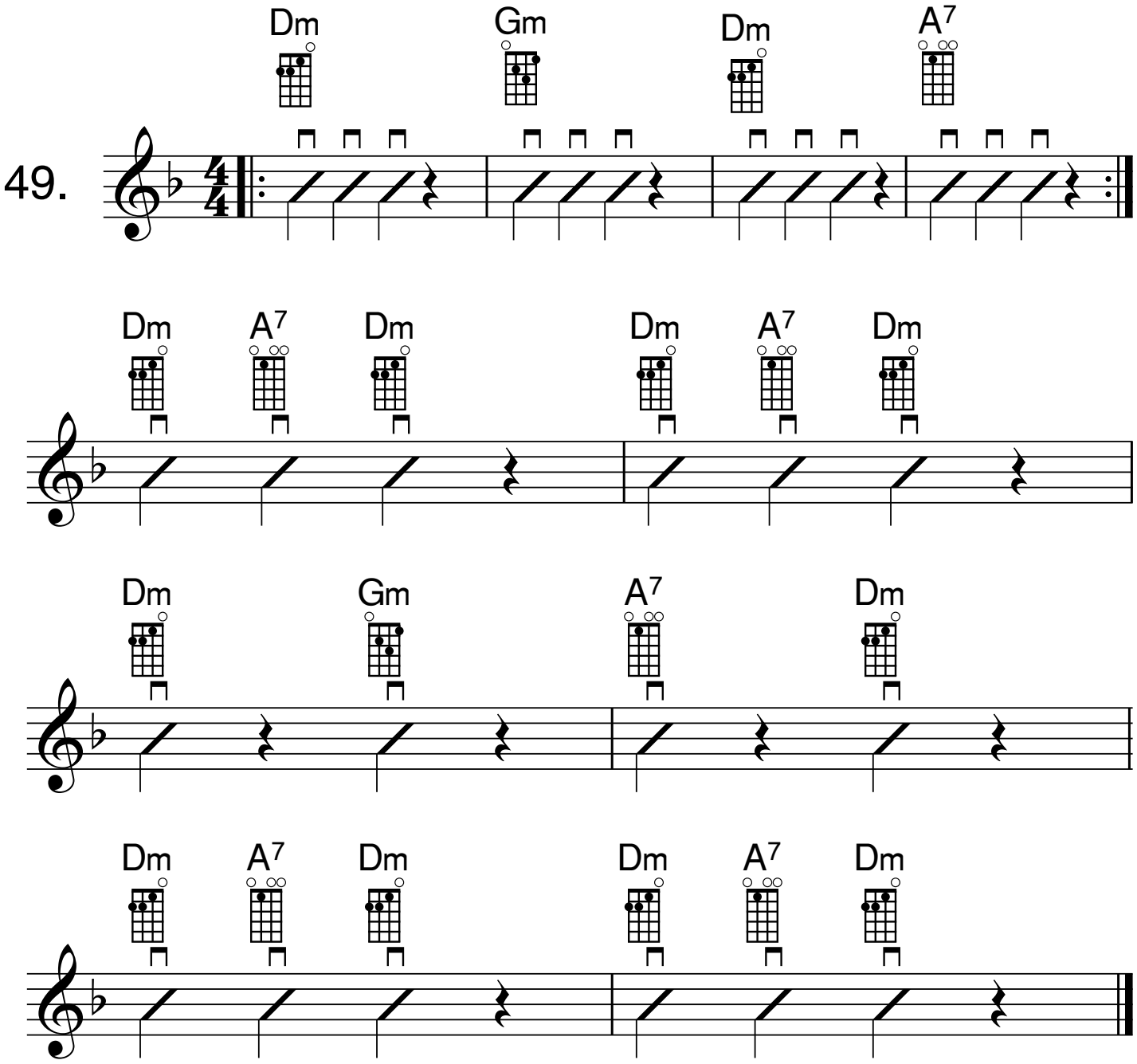
Yankee Doodle



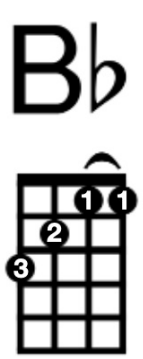
More New Chords



49.



Video support at **www.musicfunbooks.com/ukulele**

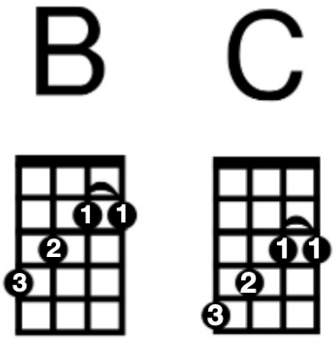


You know how to play the Bb chord (on left).

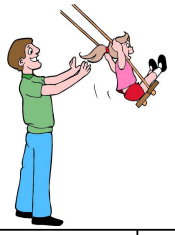
By simply sliding your fingers down one fret, you can play a B chord using the same fingers.

Slide down one more fret and you will make the C chord (fingered differently than usual).

We use moveable chords to easily and quicky slide to different chords.



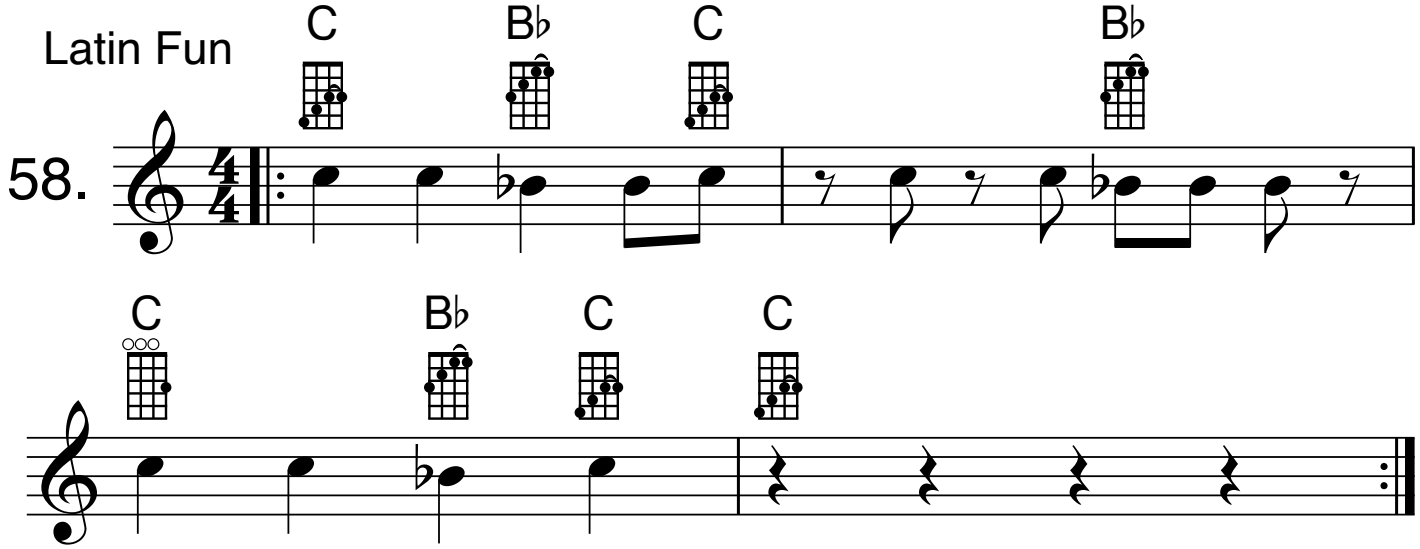
Swinging Up and Down (Version #1)



57.

Latin Fun

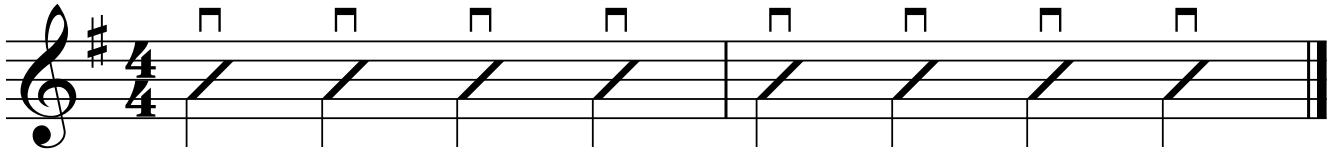
58.



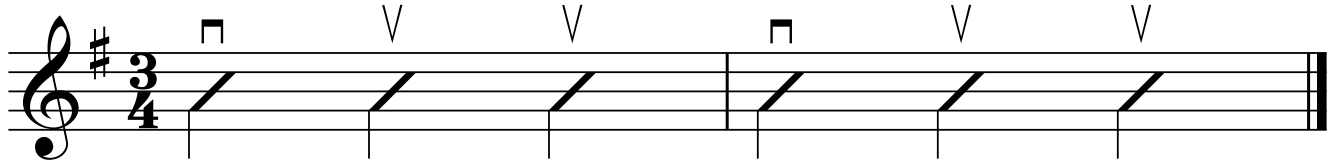
Strumming Patterns

This page and the next review some of the strumming patterns we have used in this book.
You will also find some new patterns here to use in your music making.
Pick a pattern and try using it with one of the songs you have previously learned.
There are many more patterns, too. Make up some new ones of your own.

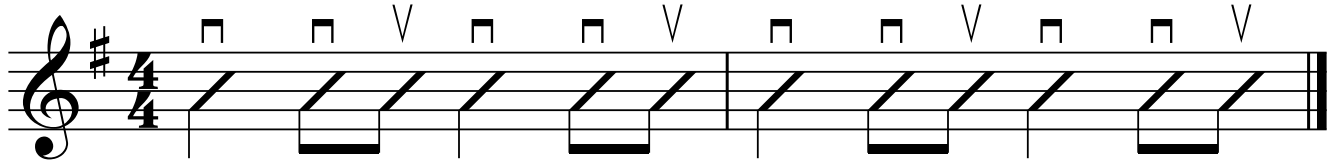
A.



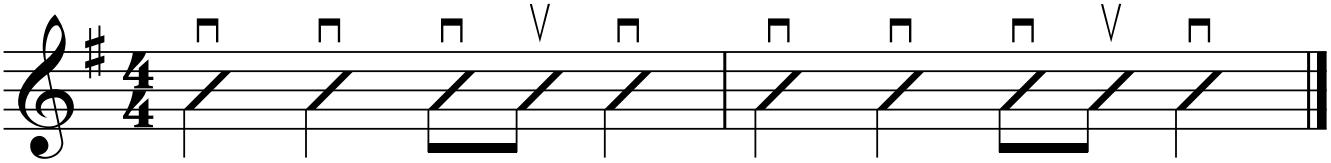
B.



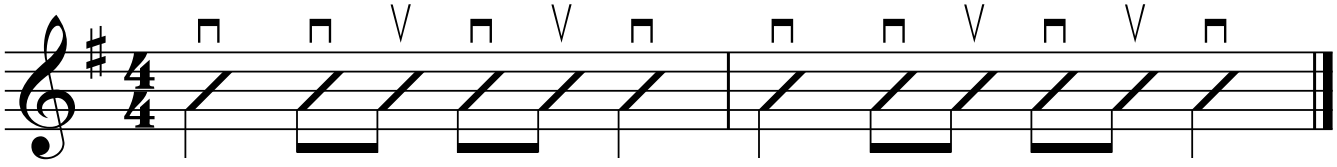
C.



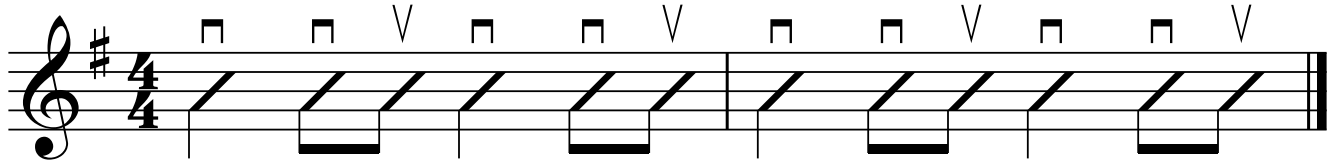
D.



E.



F.



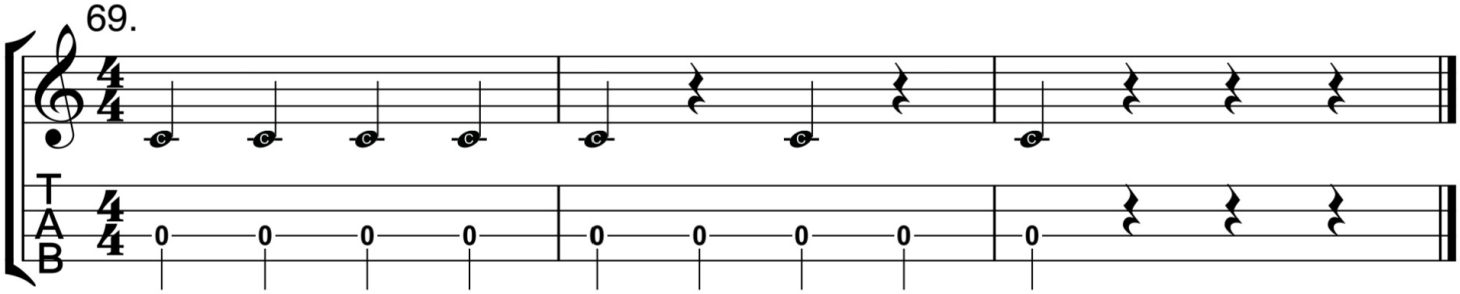
What is Tab?

Until now, this ukulele method has not included how to read tab (short for "tablature"). We have been learning to read traditional music notation with the treble clef staff since this relates to other instruments and provides a good musical foundation. Let's learn a little about ukulele tab now.

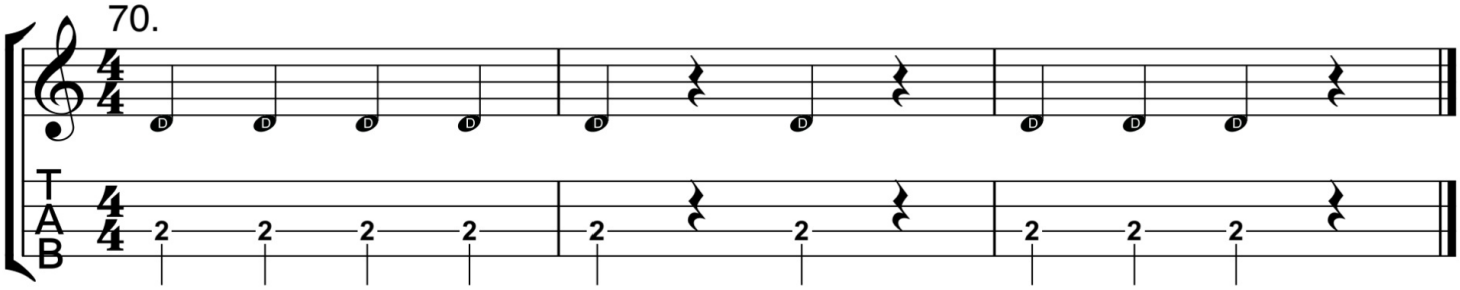
Tab is a kind of diagram with numbers on four lines to show you where to put certain fingers (the numbers) on certain strings (the four lines). The lines of the tab from bottom to top are ths strings on your ukulele (**G - C - E - A**).

Try reading the music below with the tab and with the regular notation.

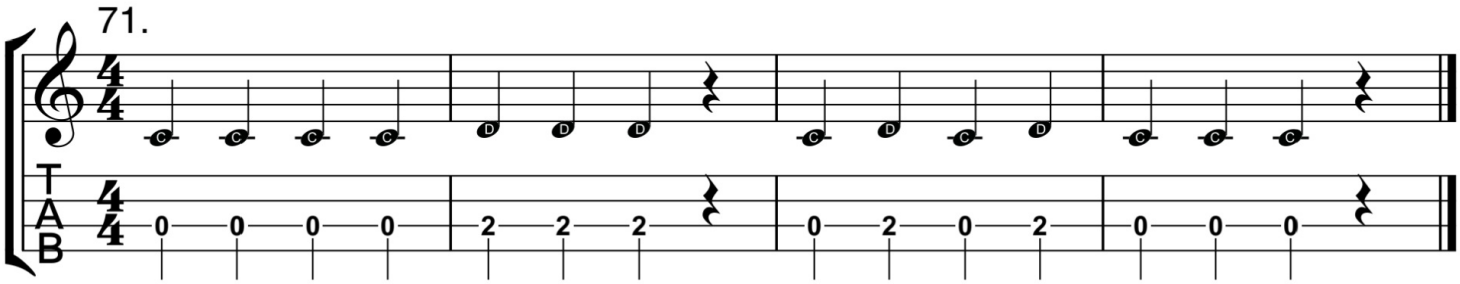
69.



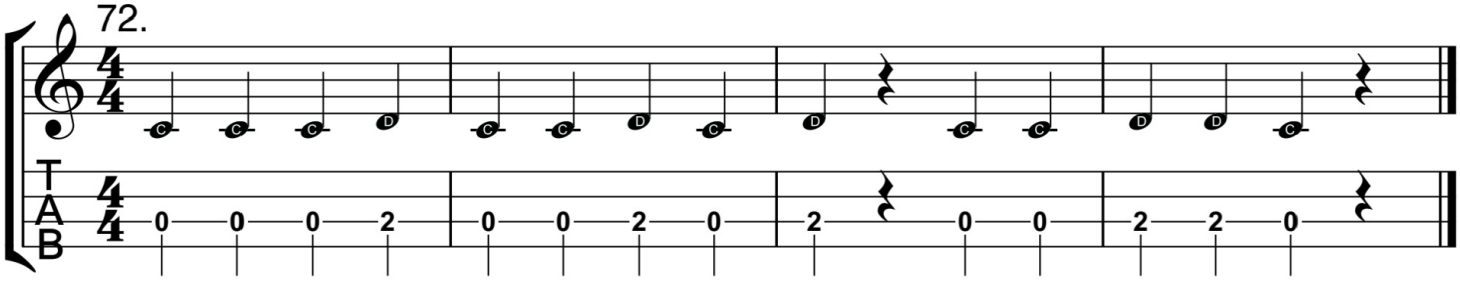
70.



71.



72.



83. Mary Had a Little Lamb

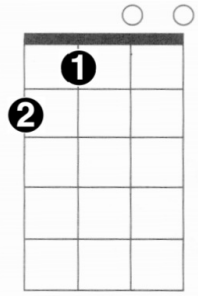


84. Dreydl, Dreydl

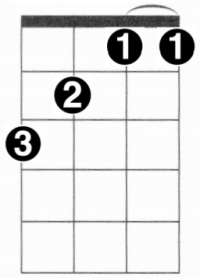


Major Chords

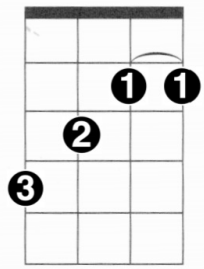
A



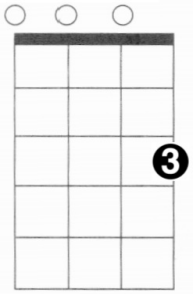
A#/Bb



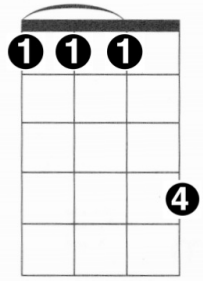
B



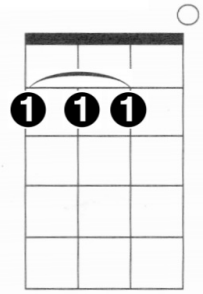
C



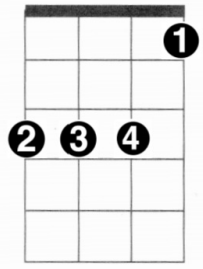
C#/Db



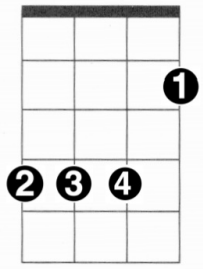
D



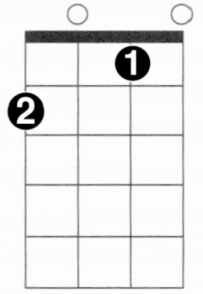
D#/Eb



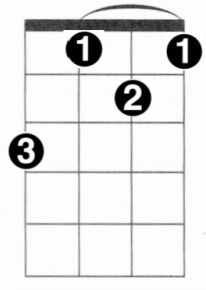
E



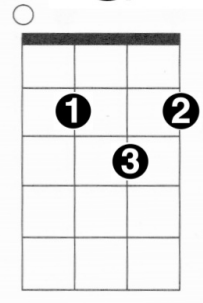
F



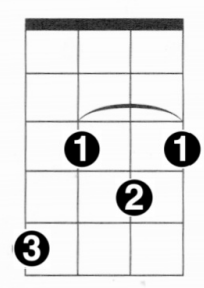
F#/Gb



G

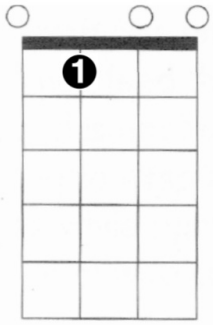


G#/Ab

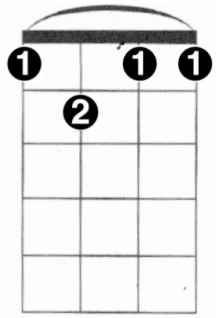


Seventh Chords

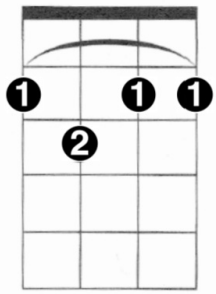
A7



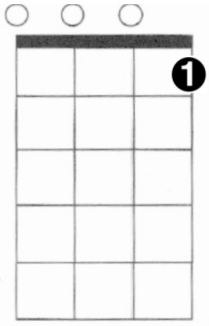
A#7/Bb7



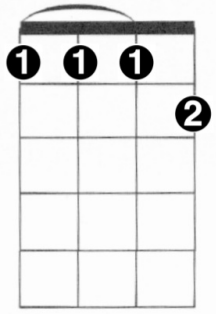
B7



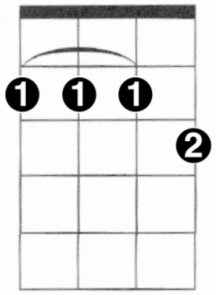
C7



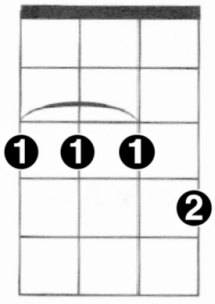
C#7/Db7



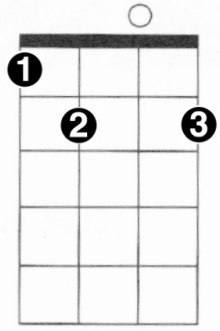
D7



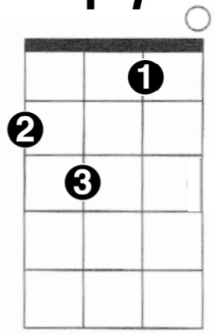
D#7/Eb7



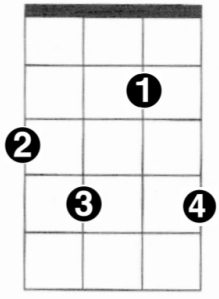
E7



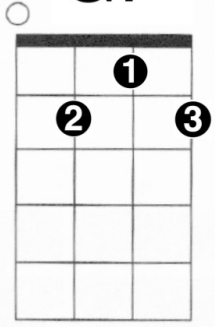
F7



F#7/Gb7



G7



G#7/Ab7

