

Ukulele Chords

Four strings tuned G–C–E–A, with the G above the C rather than below it — which is why a ukulele sounds bright rather than deep. Each grid below is the top of the fingerboard seen head-on: the thick line is the nut, the four vertical lines are the strings, and the numbered dots say which finger presses where. A circle above a string means play it open; nothing at all means leave it out.

The chords, by family

Four fret spaces shown. Numbers are fingers: 1 index · 2 middle · 3 ring · 4 little. A circle above a string means play it open

MAJOR

C

F

G

D

A

E

B $\flat$

B

Am

Dm

Em

Gm

Bm

Fm

Cm

F $\sharp$ m

C $\flat$

D $\flat$

E $\flat$

F $\sharp$

G $\sharp$

A $\sharp$

B $\natural$

MINOR

Am

Dm

Em

Gm

Bm

Fm

Cm

F $\sharp$ m

C $\flat$

D $\flat$

E $\flat$

F $\sharp$

G $\sharp$

A $\sharp$

B $\natural$

SEVENTHS

C $\flat$

G $\flat$

D $\flat$

A $\flat$

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

F $\flat$

Am $\flat$

C $\flat$

D $\flat$

E $\flat$

F $\flat$

G $\flat$

A $\flat$

B $\flat$

KEY	I · V · VI · IV	EASIEST FIRST CHORD	WHY START HERE
C major	C · G · Am · F	C — one finger	The friendliest key on a ukulele; every chord is an open shape
G major	G · D · Em · C	C, then G	Good for singing — sits a little lower than C for young voices
F major	F · C · Dm · B $\flat$	C, then F	Only B $\flat$ needs a barre; keep it for last
A minor	Am · F · C · G	Am — one finger	The same four chords starting sad, for a verse or a slow song

Getting a sound out of it

Four things worth fixing early

Press behind the fret

Put the fingertip just behind the metal bar, not on top of it and not in the middle of the gap. Buzzing almost always means the finger has drifted backwards.

Strum over the fingerboard

Sweep down with the pad of the index finger where the neck meets the body — over the hole is harsher and over the bridge is thinner.

Keep the beat, not the chord

If a change is late, strum an open string on the beat and arrive next bar. A steady pulse with a wrong chord sounds better than a right chord out of time.

Tune before you play

G–C–E–A, and check it every time — nylon strings drift for weeks after they are fitted. Sing "my dog has fleas" up the four strings to hear it.

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