

Five Ukulele Chords to Learn

+Two
+One
Eight

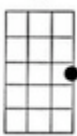
Chord Progressions

| Key | I | II ^m | III(7) | IV | V(7) | VI ^m | VII ^{dim} |
|-----|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| C | C | D ^m | E(7) | F | G(7) | A ^m | B ^{dim} |
| D | D | E ^m | F#(7) | G | A(7) | B ^m | C# ^{dim} |
| E | E | F# ^m | G#(7) | A | B(7) | C# ^m | D# ^{dim} |
| F | F | G ^m | A(7) | B ^b | C(7) | D ^m | E ^{dim} |
| G | G | A ^m | B(7) | C | D(7) | E ^m | F# ^{dim} |
| A | A | B ^m | C#(7) | D | E(7) | F# ^m | G# ^{dim} |
| B | B | C# ^m | D#(7) | E | F#(7) | G# ^m | A# ^{dim} |

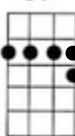
The Five Chords

By learning these five chords, you can play three-chord songs that use I-IV-V7 chord progressions, and you can play them in two different keys.

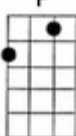
C




D7




F



G

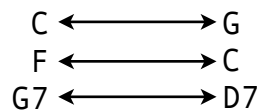


G7



| Key | I | IV | V7 |
|-----|---|----|----|
| C | C | F | G7 |
| G | G | C | D7 |

If a song is too low or too high for your voice, you can transpose by changing one set of chords for the other.

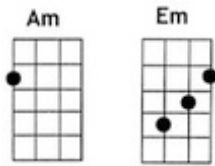


Example:

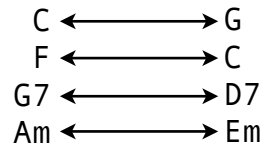
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">F G7</p> <p>The answer, my friend,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>is blowin' in the wind.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F G7 C</p> <p>The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> | ↔ | <p style="text-align: center;">C D7</p> <p>The answer, my friend,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>is blowin' in the wind.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C D7 G</p> <p>The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> |
|---|---|---|

+Two

Adding these two chords will allow you to play songs with I-IV-V7-VI progressions.



| Key | I | IV | V7 | VI |
|----------|---|----|----|----|
| C | C | F | G7 | Am |
| G | G | C | D7 | Em |



Example:

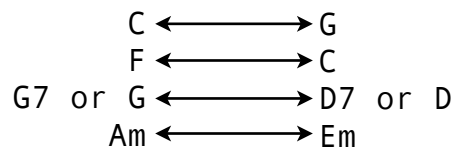
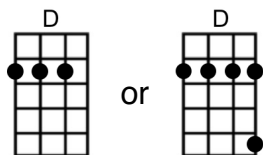
| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>F G7 The answer, my friend, C Am is blowin' in the wind. F G7 C The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> | ↔ | <p>C D7 The answer, my friend, G Em is blowin' in the wind. C D7 G The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> |
|--|---|--|

+One

The "7" in the V7 chords are often left off. In other words, G can be substituted for G7, D can be substituted for D7, etc.

| Key | I | IV | V(7) | VI |
|----------|---|----|------|----|
| C | C | F | G(7) | Am |
| G | G | C | D(7) | Em |

By adding the D chord to your collection of learned chords, you'll be able to play a different variation of these chord progressions.



Example:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>F G The answer, my friend, C Am is blowin' in the wind. F G C The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> | ↔ | <p>C D The answer, my friend, G Em is blowin' in the wind. C D G The answer is blowin' in the wind</p> |
|--|---|--|

Transposing

What if you're playing with someone who's playing in a key other than C or G? Well, you'll eventually want to learn all the chords that will let you play along but, in the meantime, there is another option. Use a capo!

| For a song in the Key of... | ...place the capo on fret... | ...and play the chord shapes for the key of... | You will be playing these chords without having to learn new chord shapes. | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|----|-------|-----|
| | | | I | IV | V(7) | VI |
| C | 0 | C | C | F | G(7) | Am |
| D | 2 | C | D | G | A(7) | Bm |
| E | 4 | C | E | A | B(7) | C#m |
| F | 5 | C | F | A# | C(7) | D |
| G | 0 | G | G | C | D(7) | Em |
| A | 2 | G | A | D | E(7) | F#m |
| B | 4 | G | B | E | F#(7) | G#m |

Exercises

Use the chord progressions chart to complete the following exercises.

1. You have a song in the key of G that doesn't fit your vocal range. Transpose it to the key of C. Cross out the listed chords and write the new chords in.

G C G
 Little boxes on the hillside, little boxes made of ticky-tacky,
 D7 G D7
 Little boxes, little boxes, little boxes all the same.
 G
 There's a green one, and a pink one,
 C G
 And a blue one, and a yellow one,
 D7
 And they're all made out of ticky-tacky,
 G D7 G
 And they all look just the same.

