



UKULELE ROCKS!

www.ukulelerocks.co.uk

Teaching Book 1

The Road to the 12 Bar Blues!



Jake Shimabukuro — Ukulele Virtuoso

The Road to the 12 Bar Blues!

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If you have a copy of the backing track CD then the track numbers are in the top right hand corner of each page. Look out for the CD



All of the content of this book can be found online at www.ukulelerocks.co.uk

There are examples of the pieces being played there and downloadable backing tracks as well as supplementary pieces surrounding each new learning.

If you have any questions regarding the learning of the ukulele please do feel free to contact myself at ukulelerocks@hotmail.co.uk or by using the form on the 'Contact' page on the web site.

There is also a busy and active Facebook group that all people are encouraged to join. However this is not open to children and is a 'Closed' group to protect its members from unsolicited content.

UkuleleRocks! Also tweets [@ukulelerocksUK](https://twitter.com/ukulelerocksUK)

Enjoy your playing and learning as you work your way through 'Teaching Book 1: The Road to the 12 Bar Blues!'

Best wishes, Mr C.

Ukulele Facts!

- Ukulele (pronounced 'You-ker-lay-lee' in the UK) means 'Jumping Flea!'
- The instrument started out life called the 'Machete de Braga.' Sailors from Portugal took this instrument across to an island called Hawaii around 125 years ago. It was on the island that the machete de braga developed in to the Ukulele that we know today.
- King David of Hawaii played the early ukulele which helped make it so popular and associated with the Island.

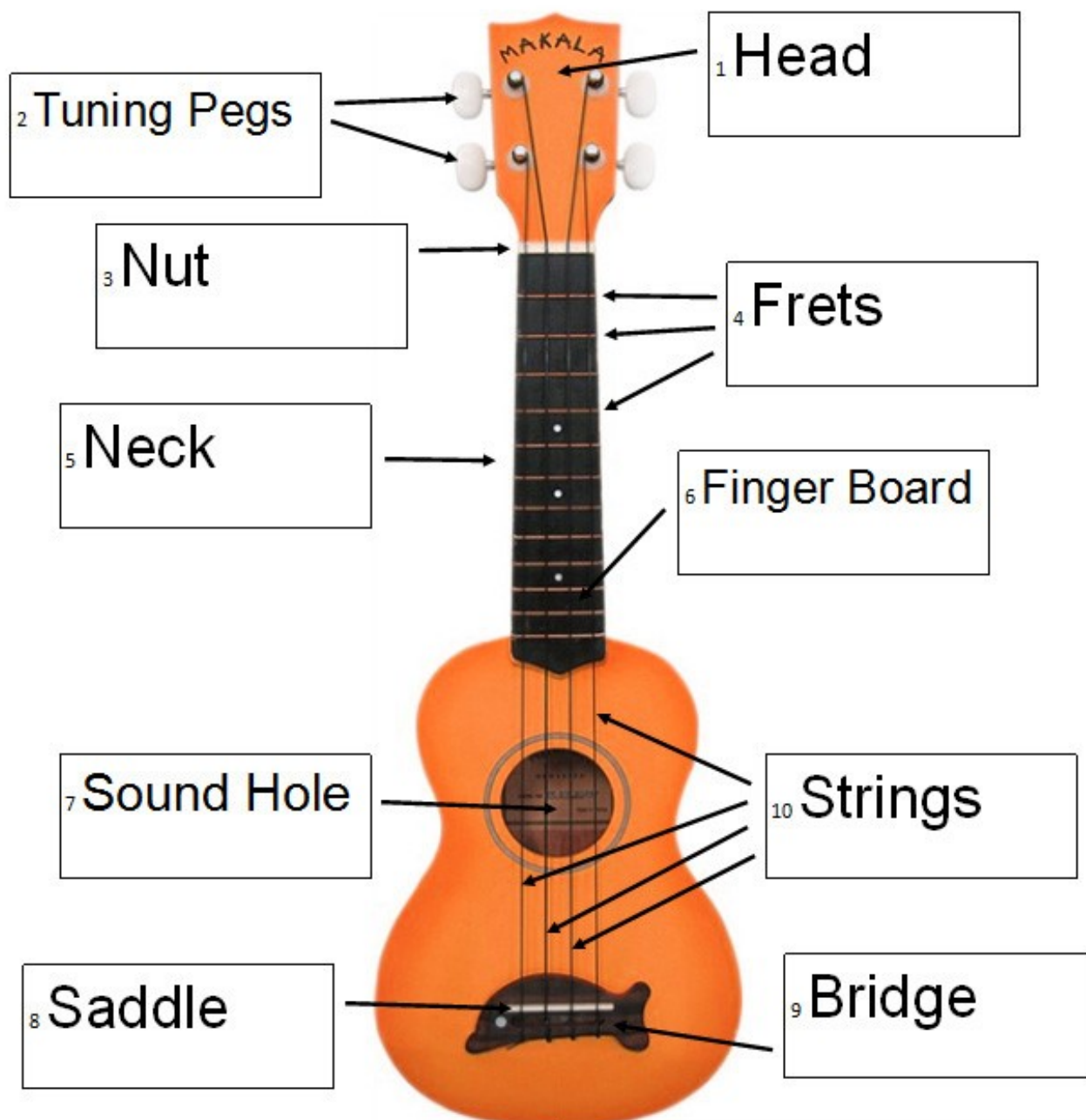


Machete de Braga

The Island of Hawaii on a map



Parts of a Ukulele...



‘Playing Position’ sitting down...

- Remember - there are three steps to getting a **GREAT** playing position...
- **'Back on your Belly!'** - Get the back of the ukulele flat against your stomach...
- **'On your pocket!'** - The ukulele should sit on your right trouser pocket area, not in your lap...
- **'Diagonal!'** - Make sure the end of the ukulele, where the tuners are, is held at a diagonal angle - nice and tall...it may look like a tiny guitar—but don't hold it like one!



How to play your ukulele...

- At first we are going to use two techniques to play the ukulele—A **'Flying Thumb'** and a **'Held Thumb.'**

The 'Flying Thumb'

- The Flying thumb is used for strumming all four strings of your ukulele.
- It is a free-flowing, unattached downwards movement
- You should try and strum downwards near the end of the fingerboard, at the top of the sound hole.
- Clamp the ukulele on to your belly with your forearm and strum away!



Flying Thumb...

The 'Held Thumb'

- The 'Held Thumb' is used for playing tunes on a single string.
- It's a more accurate way of hitting an individual string
- Use your fingers to hold the ukulele underneath and your thumb to pick the string needed.



The 'Beginner' pieces...1



'123Shush!'

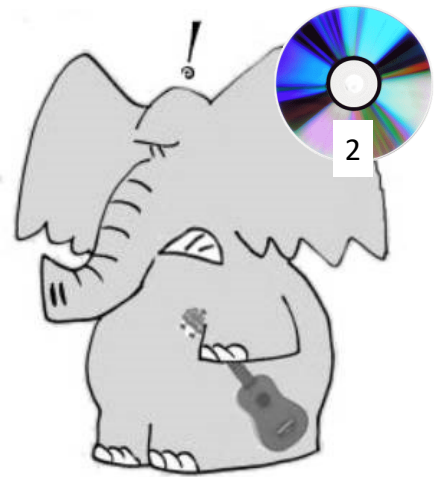
- Play the open strings downwards, with a flying thumb, 3 times and then bring your first finger on your strumming hand to your lips to make a 'shush' sound.
- Do this 4 times
- Next, instead of a 'shush' sound use your strumming hand to click, or flick, your fingers.
- So - 4 'Shushes' then 4 clicks or flicks.
- See if you can count them carefully and keep your clicking/flicking hand in the air on the last one!?



The 'Beginner' pieces...2

'All Elephants'

- This piece helps us to learn the name of the strings.
- The strings on a ukulele are named from the bottom rising up - A, E, C and G
- We can remember them with this phrase -
 “All Elephants Can Grumble”



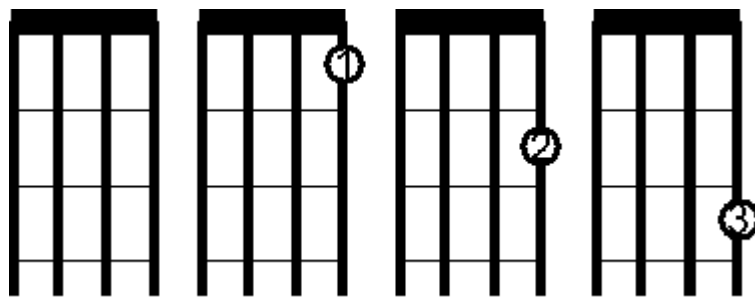
We can turn this into a simple piece.

- Use a 'Held' thumb to play each string four times through.
- Play all the strings (A, E, C, G) twice through
- The first time you play it say the words to go with the first pick of the string;
 “All Elephants Can Grumble!”
 A A A A E E E E C C C C G G G G
- The second time through say the string name instead of the rhyme word.

The 'Beginner' pieces...3

'The Chill Out Walk'

- This piece has a lovely gentle and relaxed feel about it. Use a Flying Thumb for best effect.
- The 'Chill Out Walk' takes your fingers for a walk up the A String of your ukulele.
- Remember to put one finger in one space (fret) of the ukulele and push down hard on the string with the pad of your finger.



| Open Strings (No fingers) | 1st finger in the first space/fret | 2nd finger in the second space/fret | 3rd finger in the third space/fret |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | |



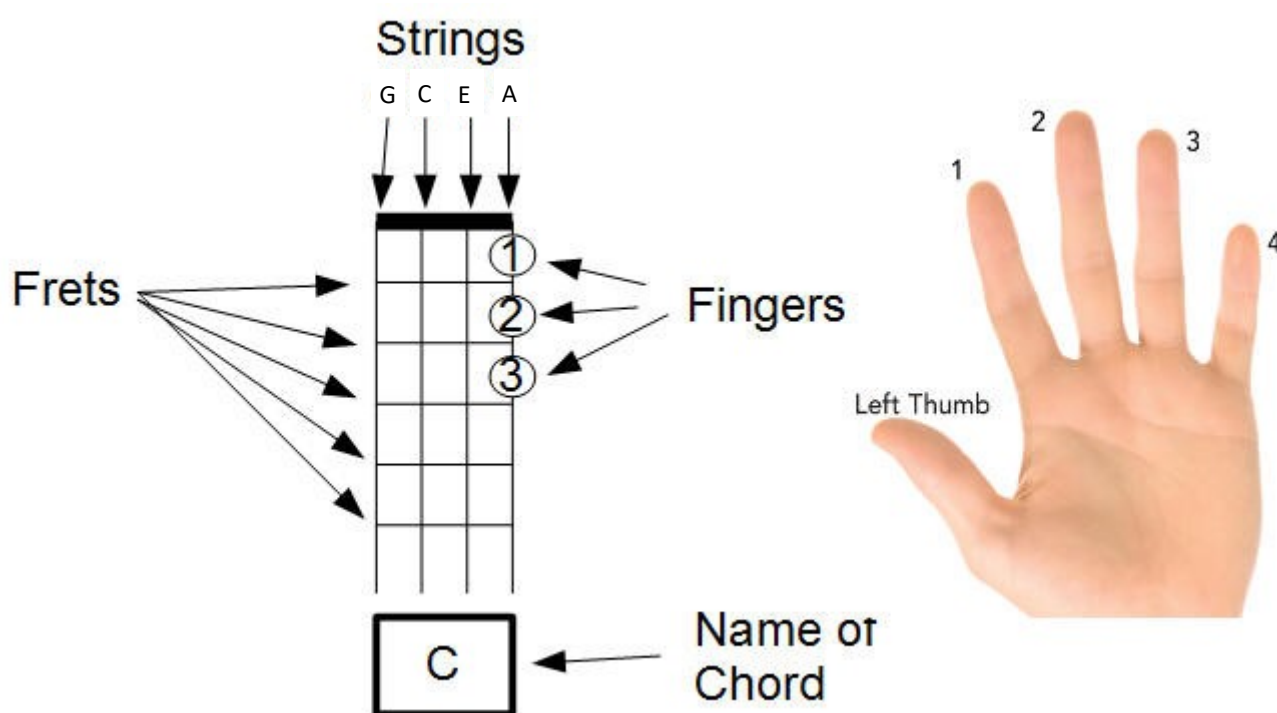
- We will strum all the strings in each 'shape' 4 times. When we get to the last 'shape' then we'll work our way backwards and then stop at the 'Open' shape.

WELL DONE! YOU'VE COMPLETED THE BEGINNER PIECES!!

The Chords...

Chord of 'C'

- In the 'Chill Out Walk' we walked our fingers up the A string to make a tune. If we keep all three fingers down on top of the A string - and strum all 4 strings at once - we get our first chord called 'C!'
- We can write it down using a chord diagram;



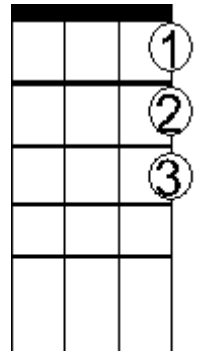
- If we strum this chord over and over we can play a simple song called 'Row, Row, Row your boat'
- Take a look on the next page to learn the words and sing along as you strum!

The Chords...



'Row, Row, Row your Boat'

- You will need a chord of 'C' to sing and play this song;
- Use your 'Flying Thumb' to strum downwards with your fingers firmly pushing the string down.



Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream



Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
If you see a crocodile
Don't forget to scream!



Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the river
If you see a polar bear
Don't forget to shiver!



Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the shore
If you see a lion there
Don't forget to roar!



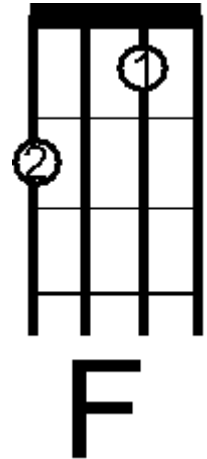
C

The Chords...



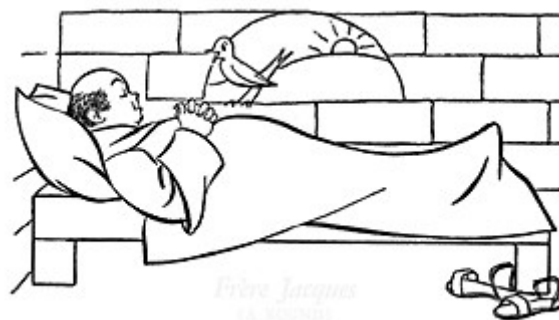
'Frere Jacques'

- For this well known French song we need to learn a new chord of 'F'
- Put your first finger on the E string and your second finger on the G string. Make sure they stand up nice and tall and round - don't let them be 'squashed slugs,' flat across the strings!
- Strum the chord of F while you sing the words;



Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines, Sonnez les matines
Di, din, don! Di, din, don!

- If you would like to sing some 'alternative' words to the same tune there are over 60 variations online!



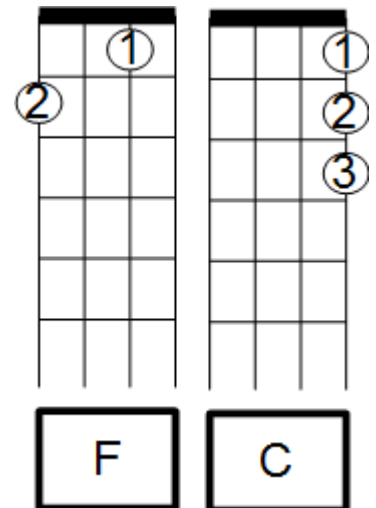
Changing Chords...

- Not many songs and pieces in the world have just one chord. So we need to be able to move from one chord to another and this is where it gets tricky!
- In the next song we will need both of our newly learned chords!



'Cockles and Mussels'

- Start by just playing the chords where the red letters are, once. As you get more confident try strumming them many times inbetween.
- Try not to leave a big gap when jumping from F to C and back again.
- Good Luck!



F **C**
In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty
F **C**
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone
F **C**
As she wheeled her wheel barrow, through streets broad and narrow
F **C** **F**
Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live, alive-o!"

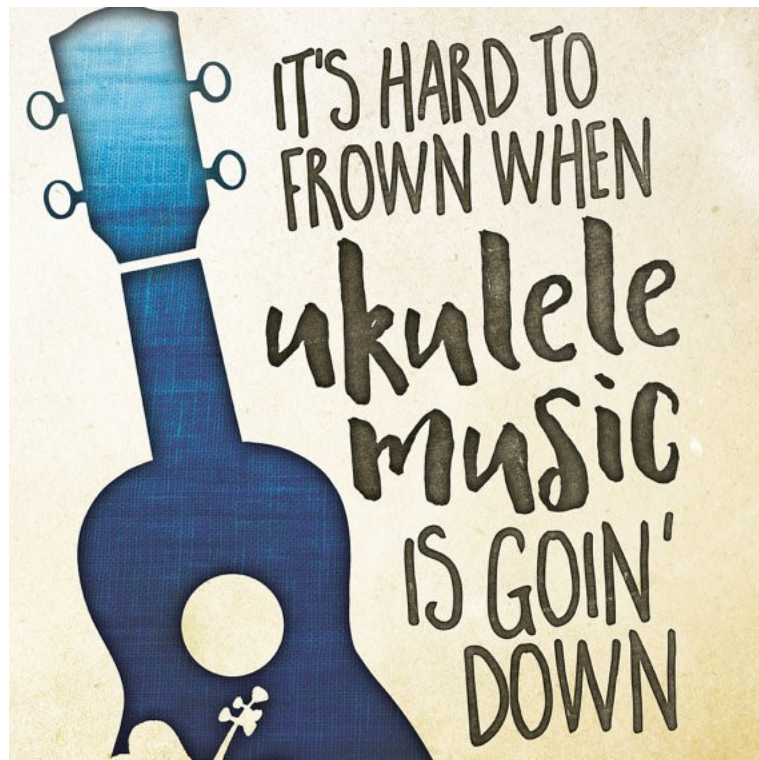
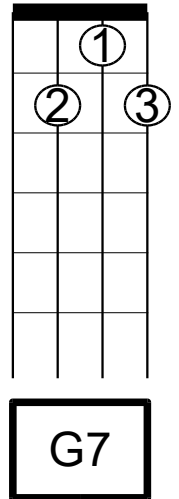
CHORUS

F **C**
A-live, Alive-o, A-live, Alive-o
F **C** **F**
Crying "Cockles and Mussels a-live, alive-o!"



Introducing the chord of G7...


- G7 is a toughie of a chord! You need 3 fingers and they have to go in the right spaces or frets.
- When you make the chord start with your 1st finger on the E string
- Next, put your 2nd finger on the C string in the second space/ fret.
- Finally, place your 3rd finger on the A string **IN** the second space/ fret
- Take care! That 3rd finger on the A string will want to sit in the third space/ fret - **DON'T LET IT!** Slide it back in to the proper space/ fret (second)
- G7 is a challenging chord, take your time and practise it carefully and you will get it!

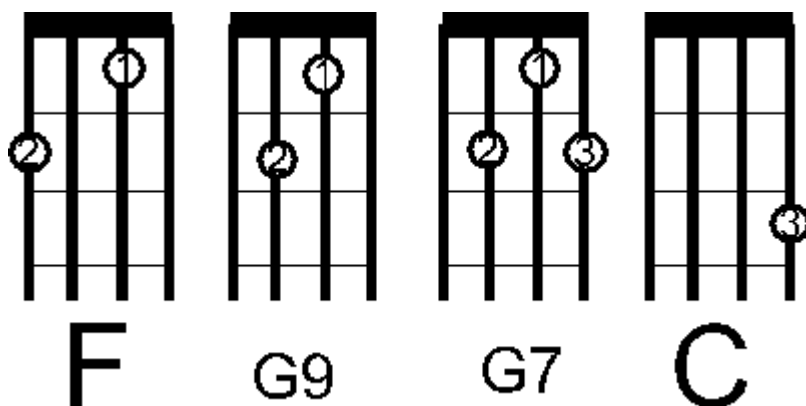


Introducing the chord of G7...



'How I Lang to go to Sea'

- This piece has 'rests' or silences in it. They look like this ; 
- To keep yourself in time and in the right place try quietly saying 'shush' when you get to a rest instead of playing.
- When playing this piece notice that there is no gap between the end of the first line and the beginning of the second line! So quick chord change there!

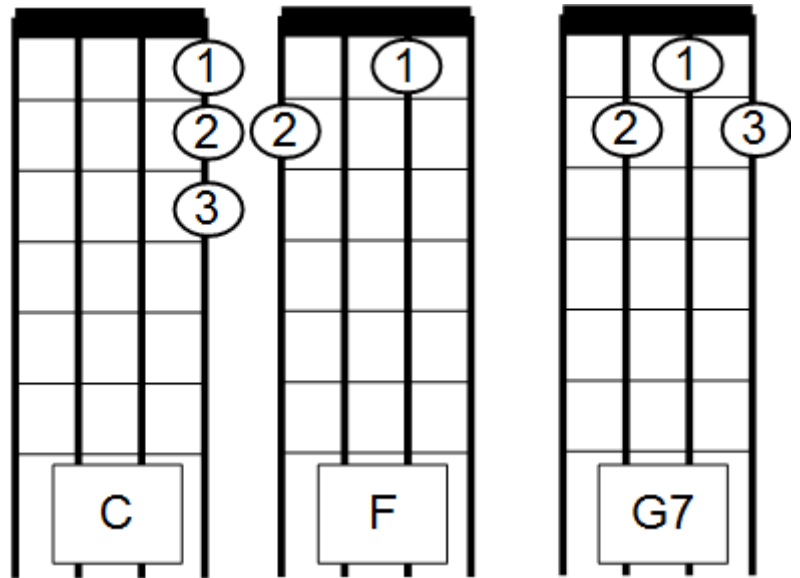


F F ♪ ♪ | G9 G9 ♪ ♪ | G7 G7 ♪ ♪ | C C C C |
F F ♪ ♪ | G9 G9 ♪ ♪ | G7 G7 ♪ ♪ | C C C C | C _____ ||

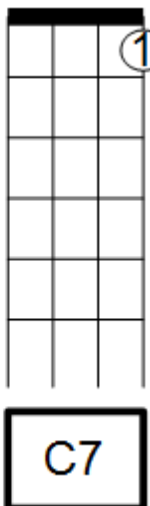


'The 12 Bar Blues'

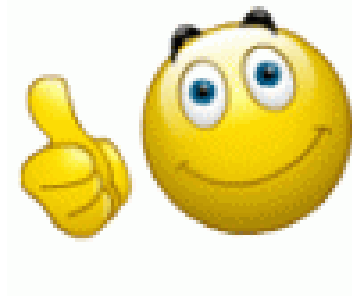
- Well done for getting this far! Now you're ready and equipped to play the Blues!
- You are going to need the 3 chords we've learned so far;



- BUT...we're even going to sneak another chord in - but don't worry, it's easy!

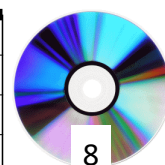
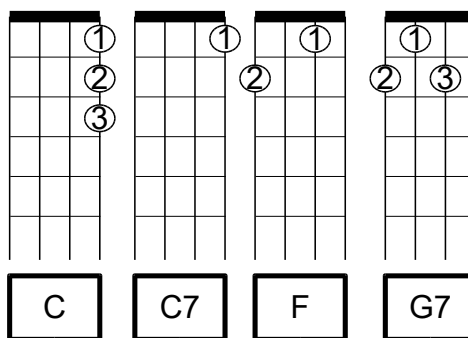


- 'C7' is your first finger in the first space/ fret on the first string (A) - now that is easy to remember isn't it?!



Performing 'The 12 Bar Blues'

- The 12 Bar Blues gets its name because there are 12 chords or bars in the piece.
- At first play each chord just once and count the beats in between as below...



C 2 3 4 **C** 2 3 4 **C** **C7**
 (Beats)

F **F** **C** **C7**

G7 **F** **C** **C**

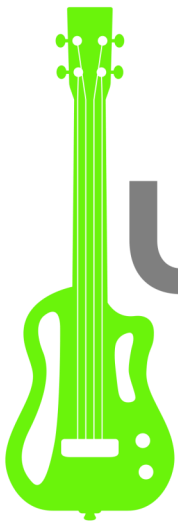
- Now let's arrange it to go with the backing track;
- 1st time = Play each chord **ONCE**...
- 2nd time = Play each chord **TWICE** on beats 1 and 2
- 3rd time = Play each chord 4 times (strum)
- 4th time = Play each chord **ONCE**...
- 5th time = Play each chord 4 times (strum) **AND** end on a C7 Blues-y rapid strum!



Congratulations



on completing the



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Teaching Book 1

The Road to the 12 Bar Blues!

Date:

Signed:

