

Welcome to the Left handed Ukulele Guys.



You are going to love this little instrument which has taken the World by storm. It is being played by young and old alike. All you need is a ukulele, a willingness to have a go and a yearning to enjoy yourself.

Let's begin

How to hold your ukulele (See the pictures below) The answer is where it "feels most comfortable" for you. Whether High up on your chest, midway, low down or sitting down. Or you may even decide to use a strap!



The ukulele is held in place against your body using your forearm (as you see in the first 3 pictures above) unless you choose to sit down of course. Push the ukulele into your body using your left forearm and elbow and you will experience the **see-saw effect** as the ukulele is pushed against your right hand. This will be very helpful as it saves you having to press too hard with your fingers when playing notes and chords.



How to strum If you are left handed you will **strum** with your **left hand**.



Open strings only
Strum; Down, Down, Down, Down.

Use this hand shape to begin. You can see that you are pointing at yourself. Strum down across all the strings until you are pointing at the floor.

Don't press down any strings just yet.

Open strings only Strum; Down, Down, Down, Down.

Repeat this several times in a regular timing pattern. **Count out loud 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4 etc.**

Now let's try fitting **Up strums** in between the **Down strums**. Just like this and count out loud **1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &**. Point to yourself then point to the floor. Try to **"roll your wrist."**

Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Repeat this several times until you feel comfortable with the pattern.

We are almost ready to play our first chords.

But, before we can do that, we need to take note of a few things.

1 How to hold the neck of your ukulele (see the photo below)

Put your ukulele on the first knuckle of your right hand (if you are left handed)

Then wrap your other fingers around the neck. Keep your thumb where it feels most comfortable.

Left handers strum with their left hand and fret chords with their right hand



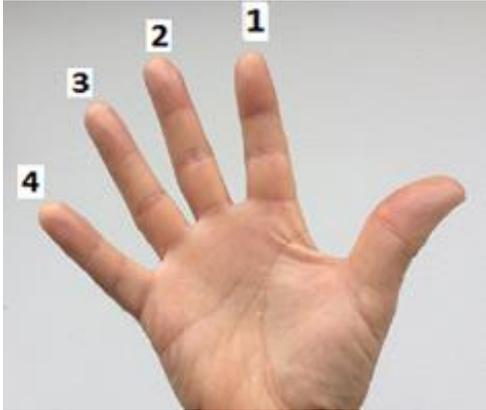
Then wrap your fingers around the neck

Aeron's Ukulele Basics for Beginners

2. Your fingers will be given numbers as in the photos below.

Starting with the index finger as 1, middle finger as 2, ring finger is 3 and pinky is 4.

Picture A Left handed players will use their right hand to fret chords



3. The strings have numbers too as in the photo below. The ukulele strings are tuned to the notes **G C E A**. These can be easily remembered by the simple mnemonic

Goats Can Eat Anything

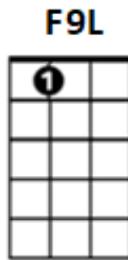


4. The last set of numbers are given to the **FRETS** which are the shiny bits of metal which run cross the neck of the ukulele. These show you where to put your fingers in order to change the pitch of a note on a particular string.

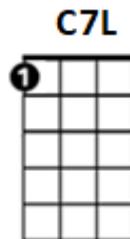


Here are the first 2 chords you are going to learn to play

The first one is called **F9**. You only need to use your index finger on the second string of the first fret for this chord. See the diagram below



The second chord is a **C7**. You only need to use your index finger on the first string of the first fret for this chord. See the diagram below



You will be able to play a lot of songs with these 2 chords. There's a great song below called Jambalaya

Jambalaya (On The Bayou) (Williams & Mullican) Hank Williams 1942

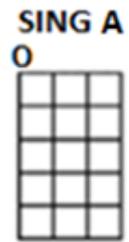
Note F9L and C7L are left handed chords

Count in 1 2, 1 2

Strum D_DUDUDU

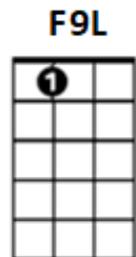
Starting note A

[F9] Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh [C7] my oh
 Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the [F9] bayou
 My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh [C7] my oh
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou



Chorus

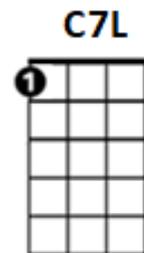
[F9] Jambalaya crawfish pie and filet [C7] gumbo
 'Cos tonight I'm gonna see my ma chera-[F9]-mio
 Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be [C7] gay..o
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



[F9] Thibodeaux, Fontaineaux, the place is [C7] buzzin'
 Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the [F9] dozen
 Dress in style, go hog wild, me oh [C7] my oh
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.

Chorus

[F9]Settle down far from town get me a [C7] pirogue
 And I'll catch all the fish in the [F9] bayou
 Swap my mon' to buy Yvonne what she [C7] need..o
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



Chorus

Outro;

Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.
 Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.
 Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



Deep in The Heart Of Texas (Swander/ Herchey) Performed by Perry Como 1941

Note F9L and C7L are left handed chords

Intro: Count: 1..2..1 2 3

Starting note is E

The **[F9]** stars at night are big and bright **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

The prairie sky is wide and high **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas

The **[F9]** sage in bloom is like perfume **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

Reminds me of the one I love **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas

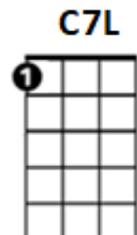
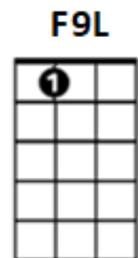
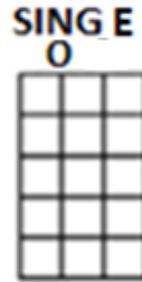
The **[F9]** cowboys cry ki-yip-pee-ay **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

The doggies bawl an' bawl 'ya-all' **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas

Repeat song from beginning

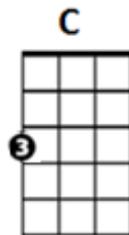


Here is our first 4 chord progression in the key of C major (Part 1)

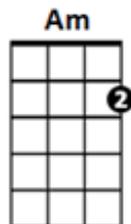
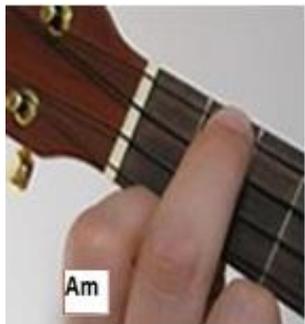
Try 8 down strums for each chord. This will allow you time to work on your down strums and give you time to prepare for the change to the next chord in the progression
The count is 1 2 3 4 ,1 2 3 4 on C major then change to 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4 strums on Am and so on. The plan here is to keep the strumming continuous whilst changing from one chord shape to the next. **TIP Don't stop at the change! Strum through it! You can do it!**



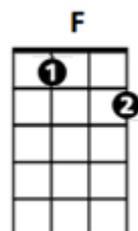
Step 1. Use your third finger for this chord C major



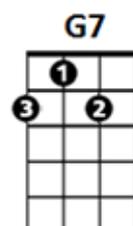
Step 2. Move 2nd finger on to 4th string at 2nd fret Am chord
This is the A minor chord.



Step 3. Leave 2nd finger where it is and add your first finger on 2nd string at 1st fret as indicated in the picture and chord window below.



Step 4 Leave your index finger in place as a "pivot" and move fingers 2 & 3 to form the G7 chord



Step 5. Finally we need to **slide your 3rd finger** up to the 3rd fret to return to the C chord again. Simple!