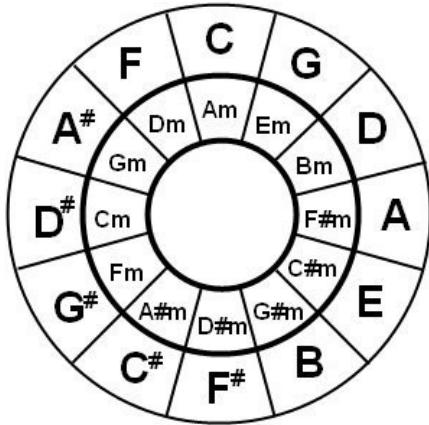


# Andy's ukulele blog

LESSON 10:

## What Do We Know So Far



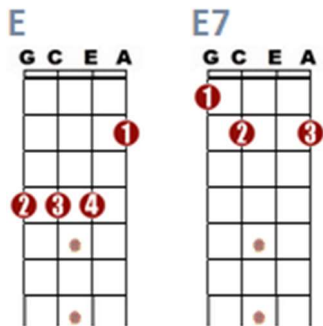
So far we have dealt with the way basic chords relate to each other using the circle of fifths. We should now be familiar with the basic major chords from F going clockwise to A.

These are commonly known as the open chords. They are played within the first three frets on the neck of the ukulele and include the use of open strings (strings which are played without being held down).

These are often referred to as the basic chords. With these five chords it is possible to play songs in five major keys. I hope that by this time you might have been a little more adventurous and

tried out some of the other chords that appear in popular chord charts, the chords which include a seventh, F7, C7, G7, D7, A7, and E7.

You may have been experimenting with easy options in the choice of chords you play. Some are easily substituted, for instance you can substitute any minor chord for its relative major chord so in a four chord song using F,C,G and Am you play a three chord song F, C, and G.



Likewise, there may be occasions, as with E major, where you find it is easier to play E7 then E. There are no rules about this. Unless you are playing in the key of E major (never advised) it is easier to play E7, so why not do it. Only the purists will object.

The only way you get to really working out what to play and when is to do it over, and over again. You experiment until you get it right. Also bear in mind what is right for you may not be right for the next player. This is where individual interpretation comes in to its own. So don't worry if you don't get all the notes in all the right places. Just go for it.

Let's finish this lesson with a bit of a treat. There is one song in particular which shows how the circle of fifths operates. Once you've played it, you'll come back to it time. It's [Ain't She Sweet](#) – song sheet number 7. After the first bar or so the chord progression skips from C all the way round to E7, and then works its way anticlockwise round the circle of fifths E7, A7, D7, G7 finishing at C.

It's a bit of fun.