

Andy's ukulele blog

LESSON 4:

G and G7

Ok, so we're motoring along with two chords, and now we are going to do two more, G and G7.

G has a special place in C's heart when it comes to the key of C. G is the dominant note in the key. However, from your perspective it will be the trickiest chord yet.

Finger 1, string 2, fret 2.

Finger 2, string 4, fret 2.

Finger 3, string 3, fret 3.

This forms a little triangle which on a ukulele is the chord of G.

When you strum, it you play G on the open string 1 (open means that there are no fingers holding it down), you play a D on string 2, a higher G on string 3 and a B on string 4. G, B, and D are the three notes in the chord of G major.

I'm going to introduce you to the Seventh chord of G. This is a specialist chord (G7) which is used as a transition chord (played to join two other chords together). In this chord one of the Gs (the higher one) is lowered by a tone to get a slightly different sound.

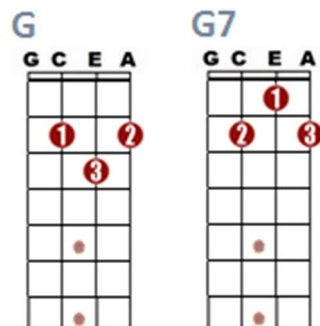
Finger 1, string 3, fret 1.

Finger 2, string 2, fret 2.

Finger 3, string 4, fret 2.

This also forms a triangle albeit inverted from the other one.

Muscle Memory exercise: Strum G twice – swap to G7 – twice – swap back- twice- etc....



The diagrams demonstrate what I mean about triangles. It's a useful psychological trick to apply familiar shapes to chords, and you often hear people talking about chord shapes.

As with F you will soon see why you play the C with your third finger. With G, it means it is already in the right place to move one string across to form the chord of G.

Now you have two more chords, you might want to try nudging between all four of them.