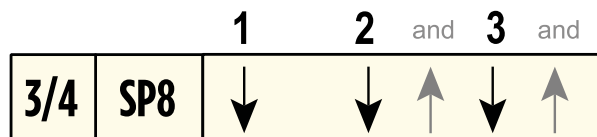
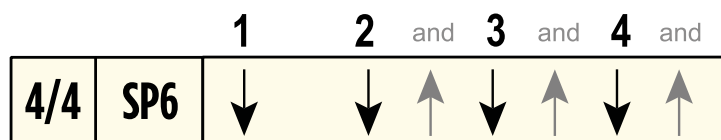
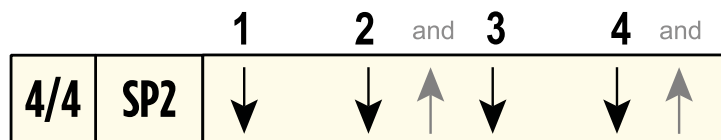
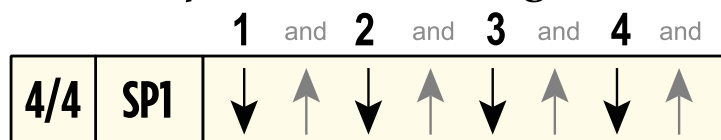


First Steps 3 - Strumming Patterns & More Chords



The two most important elements of playing the ukulele are chords and strumming. Strumming is the act of brushing over the strings with one hand while forming the chords with the other. The *default* is strumming pattern No.1 (SP1: *down-up-down-up-down-up-down-up*), but it's tiring and doesn't sound very good, so we aim to use various combinations of down-strums and up-strums.

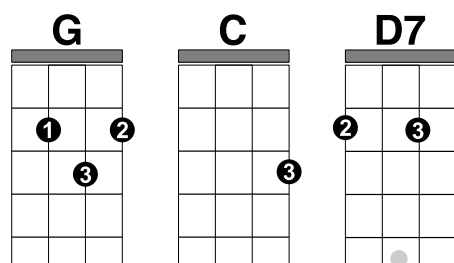
Different songs require different strumming patterns. The three most common strumming patterns are SP2, SP6 and SP8, so practise them first.

More Chords!

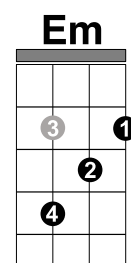
THE MORE CHORDS you know, the more you can play, but be cautious; don't move on to learn new chords before you're comfortable with the older ones.

Also, remember that every new chord has its challenges, and you're asking your fingers to twist themselves into positions they've never been in before, so have patience. That said, when you're ready, the new chords will mean you can play lots more of your favourite songs, so let's go for it!

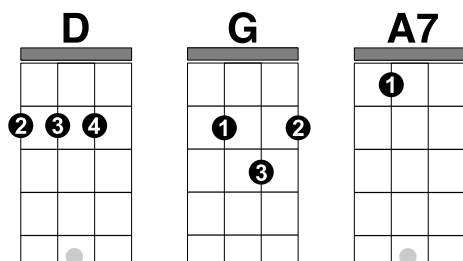
The Key of G



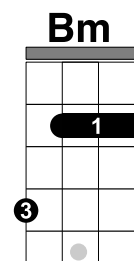
The three main chords in the key of G are G, C and D7. One minor chord which may come up in that key is E minor. One trick to going from G to Em is to leave all your fingers in the G position, but add your 4th finger (pinkie - see diagram on the right).



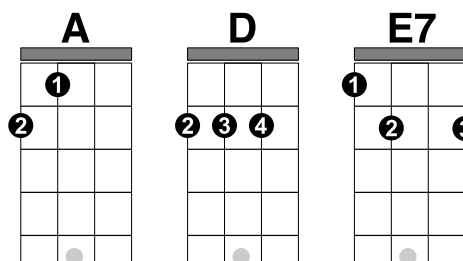
The Key of D



The three main chords in the key of D are D, G and A7. One minor chord which may come up in that key is B minor. Unfortunately the Bm is quite difficult. It involves flattening your 1st finger and placing it across 3 or 4 of the strings on the second fret, then adding your 3rd (ring) finger.



The Key of A



The three main chords in the key of A are A, D and E7. One minor chord which may come up in that key is F# minor. It's quite easy: just add your third finger to the A chord.

