

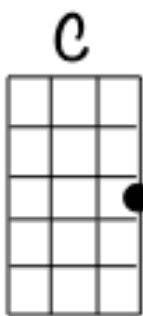

CHORD BOXES

WHAT IS A CHORD?

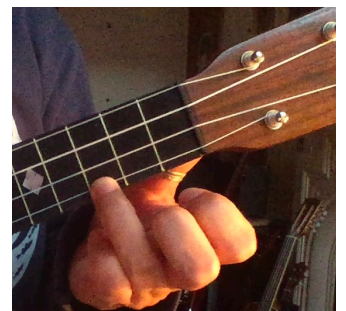
A chord is a group of 3 or more notes played together in harmony to create a that wonderful sound for strumming to back your vocals. Chords come in all kinds of shapes but the emphasis is on the SHAPE. Some chords will have open strings so will be much easier to play than those with say 3 fretted notes. This course will explore Major, Minor and 7th chords.

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF CHORD BOXES.

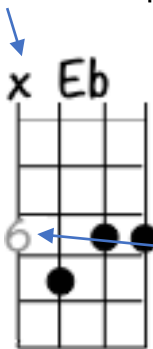
Chord boxes (or chord diagrams) contain lines and dots which are representation both the frets the fretting positions of where you need to place your fingers for each chord. It's almost like looking at the fretboard but from a different angle, which takes a bit of getting used to but once you get the hang of it they become as clear as day. The top of the chord box represents the NUT on the ukulele.



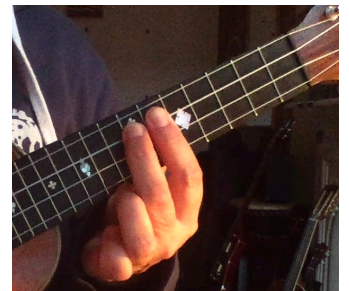
Here is an example of a C Major chord, which utilises 3 open strings and just one fretted string, on the 3rd fret of the A string. The note that you should fret is the bottom string (*the one nearest to the floor*). The picture on the right, is an example of how you would play that chord on the ukulele.



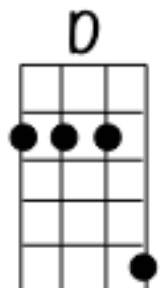
Sometimes chords or notes will require the blocking of certain strings in which case you will see an X at the top of the chord box above the string that should NOT be played (see Eb chord box below).



There are a few ways to stop unwanted strings ringing out but more on that later. This is a more advanced technique so let's get the basics down first. You will notice that this chord shape also contains a number 6 over on the left side string (or top G string on your Uke). This means that you should position the chord from fret number six onwards, just like the example to the right.



You may also notice that I am just using two fingers to play a 3 note chord in the 2nd example. This can be done by using your index finger to cover two or more notes on the same fret. When you are fretting 2-3 strings, this is what we call a MINI BAR. A FULL BAR is when you fret all four strings with your index finger and utilise other fingers to get the required shape like in the D Major diagram to the right.



It is important to work out which fingers work best for each chord shape, so please refer to **THE FINGER CHART** PDF sheet as this will help you understand the instruction provided in the introductory video tutorials with ease. Correct finger placement is paramount for chord cognition and muscle memory development and learning the correct way to play will save you a lot of trouble later. Once you try out the basic chord shapes, next step is switching from shape to shape.