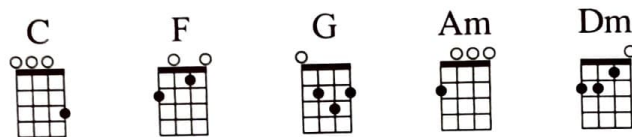




MON

**Chord Vocabulary:** The more chords you know, the more versatile of a player you'll be. This applies not only to accompanying yourself or others but also when playing solo ukulele arrangements. And there's no better way to expand your chord vocabulary than by learning a few new chords every week. We'll start with five common chords in the key of C: C, F, G, Am, and Dm.



TUE

**Strumming:** We'll start at the very beginning here for your first strumming exercise, strumming quarter notes (one strum per beat) on just two chords: C and F. Begin by using your thumb to brush through the chords with a downstroke (toward the floor). The ▢ symbol between the notation and tab indicates a downstroke, while a ▽ symbol indicates an upstroke (toward the ceiling), which you'll see a little later. Try counting along with the beat as you strum.



WED

**Fingerstyle:** For the fingerstyle technique, you'll be using the thumb and fingers of your plucking hand to pluck strings, as opposed to strumming through the whole chord. This doesn't mean that you'll always pluck only one string at a time, but that's where you'll begin. Today, you'll play the same C and F chords you did on Tuesday, but this time as an **arpeggio**, which simply means the notes of a chord played separately as opposed to all together. Note that the plucking-hand fingering is indicated in the music: t = thumb, i = index, m = middle, and r = ring (which you'll see later).



**Scale Exercise:** We'll start with a simple C major scale, ascending and descending, played in quarter notes in open position (meaning open strings are used). You're only using strings 3–1 here, which are the most common melody strings due to the high tuning of string 4. Pluck these notes with either your thumb or your first finger.



**Legato:** The term **legato** in music means “smooth and connected.” It’s used when you want notes to flow into one another as smoothly as possible. On the ukulele, you accomplish this mainly with two different techniques: **hammer-ons** and **pull-offs**. (We’ll look at other methods as well in a bit.) To perform the hammer-ons below (measure 1), pluck the open string and then forcefully “hammer” down a finger to sound the note on fret 2 or 3 of that string. For the pull-offs (measure 2), pluck the fretted note and then pull your finger down and off the string—essentially plucking the open string with your fretting hand. **Tip:** It may help to think of pushing in toward the fretboard as you pull off the string. Strive for even volume throughout.



**Licks & Riffs:** Saturday is fun day, when you get to learn little phrases that you can actually play in songs. We’ll start off with a nice, easy run from the C major pentatonic scale (C–D–E–G–A). This one works great as an ending to a song in C.



**Miscellaneous:** For this first Sunday workout, we’ll take a look at how you can create different chords by simply moving one note. Starting with a C major, notice the different chords that are created simply by moving the note on string 1. This idea can often be applied in songs where you remain on one chord for several measures, to add a bit of ear candy.

