

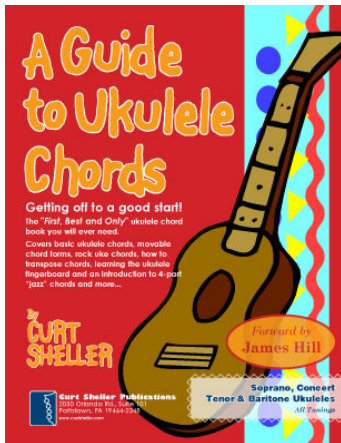


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A Guide to Ukulele Chords

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A Guide to Ukulele Chords is organized to cover the following four chord categories on the ukulele.

1) Basic Open Position Chords - There are the first chords that most beginning ukulele players learn. There are typically memorized as shapes with no regard as to what the notes are. A lot of simple folk, pop, rock and country songs can be played using these basic open position chords. *A Guide to Ukulele Chords* covers these basic chords in three common ukulele tunings: C, D, and G.

2) Basic Movable Form Chords. A movable chord is any chord that does not include an open string. These can be transposed up and down the ukulele fingerboard to different keys by moving each note the chord the same number of frets.

There are two ways to transpose these chords: 1) memorize a transposition chart or 2) by knowing the location of the root of the chord and the notes of the fingerboard you can move the chord to a new position with the root now in a new key.

3) 4-Part Chords - aka "Jazz" chords or advanced chords. There are more advanced chords that find their way into a wide variety of music. *A Guide to Ukulele Chords* contains an introduction to these chords.

These 4-part "jazz" chords are where one needs to start to drop any dependence on memorized shapes beyond a core set of 4-part chords. You only need to memorize 4 voicings for each of the core chords and learn the principles behind chord building to create other 4-part chords. Learning what notes can be displaced, etc... There are just too many chord shapes beyond a basic set of chords to memorize. Learning how chords are built leads to being able to create ANY chords you will ever need.

Here is a link to an article on **Building a Solid Chord Foundation**:

<http://www.curtsheller.com/lessons/uke/buildingASolidChordFoundationUKE.shtml>

Here is a link to a PDF from my **Introduction to Jazz Chords** workshop for ukulele that addresses learning these more advanced 4-part chords:

<http://www.curtsheller.com/lessons/uke/ukuleleJazzIntro.html>

Then finally the fourth category of chords are **Free Form Chords**. These are chords that do not fit into category 1, 2 or 3 and at this point you know the notes of a chord and the notes of the fingerboard and can play wherever you want. All this would surely not fit into a chart. Chord categories 1, 2 and possibly 3 could fit into a chart of their own - but Free Form Chords wouldn't need a chart.

Curt Sheller Publications' mission is to provide musicians of all levels the educational materials to help them obtain their musical goals. Each product will address a specific need and thoroughly explore that topic. Each product will become a valuable addition to your music library and development.

