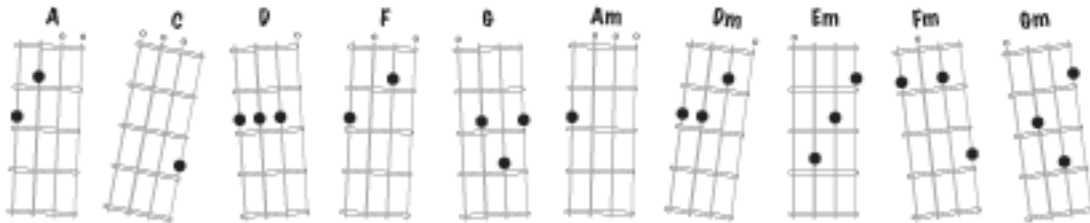


Chord Shapes and Learning* Chords



It's the notes that make the chord shape!

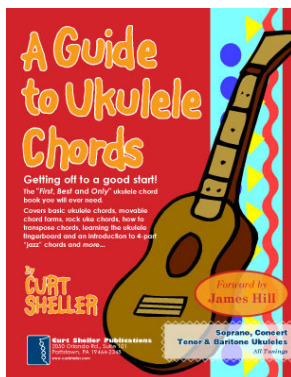
There's no way to memorize "ALL" the possible chord shapes. Even memorizing a few hundred chord shapes is time consuming and not practical.

A chord "shape" is a function of a particular instrument and its tuning. Knowing how chords are built and their individual notes can help you on any instrument.

Beyond a few "core", basic open position chords and their movable forms, you need to learn how chords are constructed. Then you can build ANY chord you will ever need by moving or displacing notes from your "core" chord foundation.

It's ultimately the notes that create the chord shape – Not the other way around.

A Guide to Ukulele Chords



Getting Started...

A Guide to Ukulele Chords is designed as a guide to ukulele (pronounced "oo-koo-lele") chords. Covering the basic ukulele chords that ALL ukulele players SHOULD know, A Guide to Ukulele Chords covers movable chord forms, rock chords, how to transpose chords, learning the ukulele fingerboard and includes an introduction to 4-part, a.k.a "jazz" chords and more...

From a few "core, basic chord shapes and an understanding of how chords are constructed. Your chord vocabulary can be dramatically increased without memorizing countless chord shapes. There are too many chord shapes to memorize.

This book takes the mystery out playing and understanding chords on the ukulele, whether it's a standard, concert, tenor or baritone ukulele in "C", "D" or "G" tuning, low or high string four.

For More Information visit • www.CurtSheller.com/books/BC1UKE/



Pick up any chord dictionary and you'll think, "There is now way I can memorize all those shapes". You would be better off learning how the author came up with all those shapes.

Chord Symbols

Chord symbols contain the instructions for building chords. The symbol contains a capital letter and chord type information.

What the Pros Do

From a solid, "core" chord foundation, pro players build their chords on the fly for chords that are not part of their current chord vocabulary. They can build ANY chord that is called for. Over time new chords become part of their chord vocabulary by simply playing them a lot.

Managing Your Chords

Chords can be categorized into four groups; open position chords, basic movable chords, 4-part advanced chords sometimes called "jazz" chords and free form chords.

Most chord books, mine included, can be simplified down to the basic building block chords. My book, "A Guide to Ukulele Chords" does just that for the first three categories. Free Form chords are chords that do not fall into the other three categories.

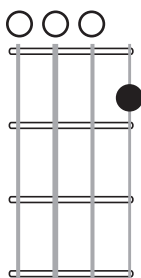
Only open position chords and basic movable form chords shapes and a *core* set of chords for building more advanced 4-part chords should, and need to be memorized. Beyond that it is the notes of the chords and how chords work that is more helpful. This is essential for *free form* chords where you need to know the note spelling of a chord and the ukulele fingerboard. Then create the chord as needed.

Here are the minimum number of chords needed for **guitar** using **C7** as an example:

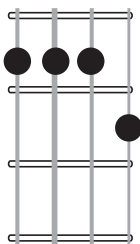


Here are the minimum number of chords needed using C7 as an example:

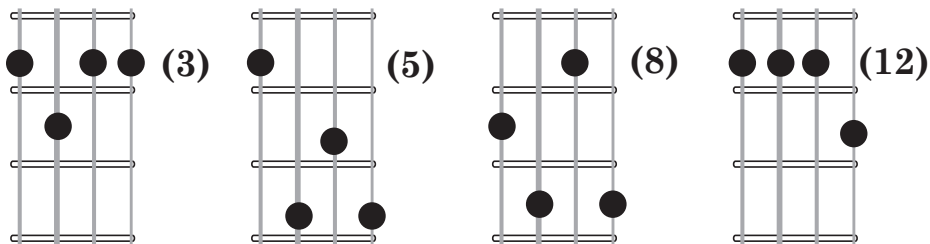
- 1 Open position C7 shape to memorize



- 1 Movable C7 shape based on the previous open position chord you memorize.



- 4 Four part C7 chords to memorize.



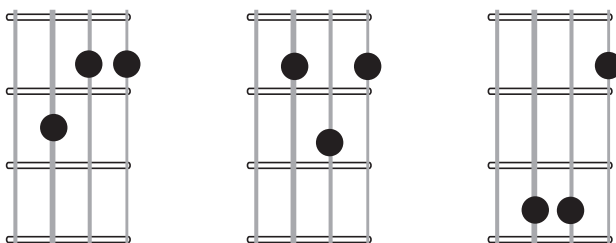
On *ukulele* it's only four, 4-part C7 chords that are needed to build a solid foundation of jazz chords.

As you can see it's a big jump from the basic chords to advanced chords. And it's these advanced chords that typically fill chord dictionaries. These advanced chords are the bread and butter chords for jazz ukulele.



A nice bridge between the basic chords and the more advanced 4-part chords are triads. They are only three notes and only four basic types: major, minor, augmented and diminished.

Here are the three major triads voiced across strings 1, 2 and 3.



Two factors always come up when students and workshop attendees tackle these advanced chords.

- 1) Really knowing the notes of the fingerboard *and*
- 2) There is a limited set of essential chords that you need to build a solid jazz vocabulary of chords.

The fingerboard can be memorized using a key fret concept. Building advanced chords utilizes a system of core chords – *NOT* memorizing a bunch of chord shapes.

I see people chasing that mythical chord book of shapes all the time. It doesn't exist. If it did it still couldn't memorize it all. I give the principles and tools for chords and not just throw a bunch of shapes at people.