

Easy Fancy Chords (etc.) for beginners and non-beginners — Part 2

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Wood County District Public Library Ukulele Club — [WCDPL.org/ukulele-club](https://wcdpl.org/ukulele-club)
Grande Royale Ukulelists of the Black Swamp — grubsmusic.com

For more Ukulele Club stuff, including the “Uke Club Shorts” video series and Part 1 of this document, see the library website: <https://wcdpl.org/ukulele-club>

Questions? We’re reachable by email at grubs@grubsmusic.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/grubsmusic/>

Part 1 was aimed mostly at beginners, and the information in this document is a *bit* more advanced, but as always the goal is to start *making real music* as early as possible, in the easiest possible ways.

Ironically, **C, F, and G** are usually the three chords people expect beginners to learn first, so they can play songs in the “Key of C” ... but as you already know they’re *not* the easiest to play! Each of these chords, in first position on the ukulele, requires a *different number of fingers* and a *different hand shape*.

Here (*and in Uke Club Shorts #8 and #9*), we’ll show you how to play those “basic” C, F, and G chords at last — first the “easy fancy” way, and then the “standard” way.

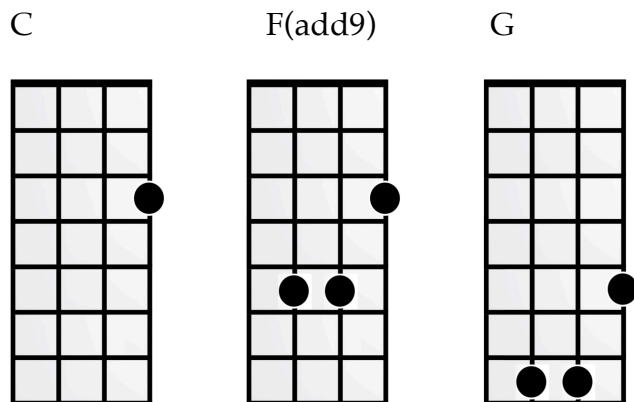
FYI: There are good reasons to start in the key of C when learning to play the **piano** and some other instruments, or when **learning to read music notation**, but it’s not the best place to start when learning to play the ukulele ... *or the guitar, or the trombone, or a lot of other instruments!*

🎧 The “Easy Fancy Way” to play in the **key of C** (*Shorts #8*)

The fretboard diagrams below are a little taller than usual, because this set of fingerings goes all the way up to the seventh fret. They’re still pretty easy, but they’ll get you out of “first position” and make you look and feel a little more like a rock star!

Start with a standard C chord (first string, third fret), and make sure you use your **index finger**. Then for the “F” chord [*another version of the easy fancy “F(add 9)” chord from Part 1*], add the next two fingers at the fifth fret on the next two strings. Finally, for the G chord, just slide

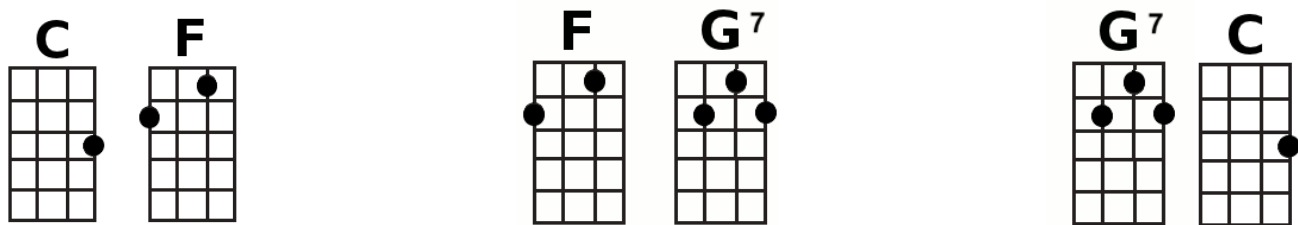
your *whole hand* up the neck so you end up on the fifth and seventh frets instead of the third and fifth frets.



This method works especially well for the type of rock-n-roll song (like “Wild Thing”, “Louie, Louie”, “Twist and Shout”, etc.) that goes up from C to F to G and then back down from G to F to C. It’s trickier to get directly from G to C, which is required in most other songs in the key of C.

🕒 The “standard” way to play in the **key of C** (*Shorts #9*)

There’s no magic formula to make these “easy”. The G7 chord requires three fingers in sort of an awkward position, and it is what it is. However, one of the best ways to make it “easier” in the long run is to just practice the transitions slowly, alternating between each pair of chords:



Practice gently, stop and take breaks before your hands get tired, and make each transition as simple and smooth as possible:

- Keep your “F” fingers in ready position while playing the C chord, and vice-versa.
- Keep the first finger on the second string as an “anchor” while moving the other fingers to alternate between F and G7.

Keep it interesting and musical by varying the techniques, rhythms, etc., that you use with the non-fretting hand at the same time.

Coming soon: Easy (and fancy) ways to play Blues in E minor!