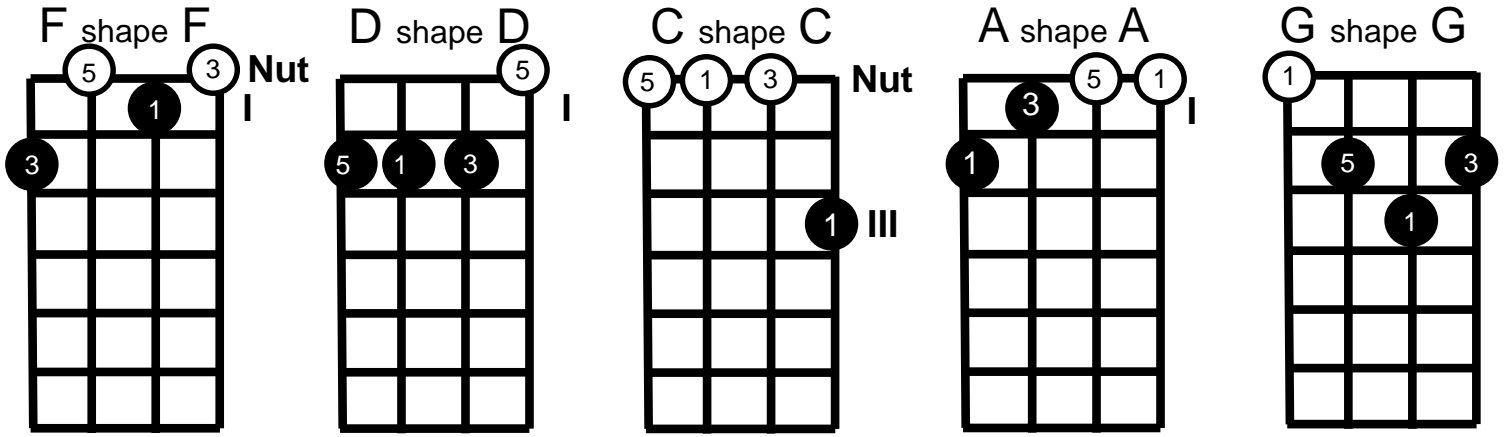


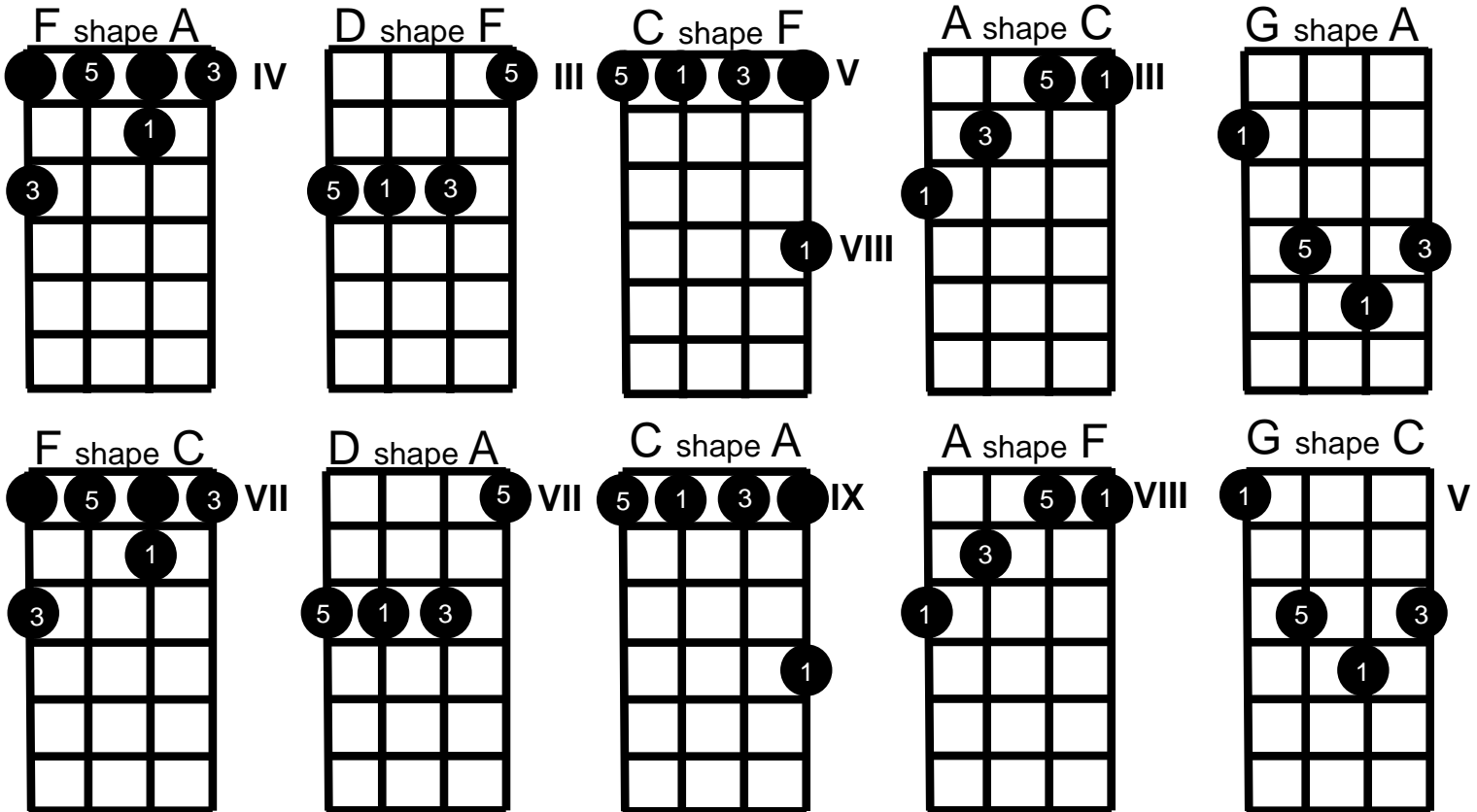
GCEA Ukulele FDCAG - the 5 Chord Shapes

Consider there to be only five Major chord shapes F, D, C, A & G – the open chords



Roman numerals refer to fret number. The numbers on each finger position relate to the note's position in the scale (below). Let these note positions go for now and focus on chord shapes/positions

Begin by playing the 5 basic shapes of ukulele chords - F, D, C, A & G. Then, start with the **F shape F** and then put a bar behind it and move to the 4th fret, and play an **A chord** using the **F shape**. Then, play the F shape at the 7th fret for C. The D shape and C shape are identical on strings 2,3 & 4 but differ on string 1. Take the D shape and move it up the fretboard as shown to the 3rd fret and 7th. Likewise, move the C, A and G shapes up the neck as shown to play other chords up the neck as shown.



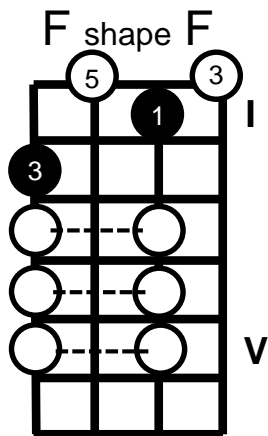
Note numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
F major scale	F	G	A	Bb	C	D	E	F
D major scale	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
C major scale	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
A major scale	A	B	C#	D	E	F#	G#	A
G major scale	G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G

Major chord has notes 1, 3, 5

F shape F is 3 5 1 3 = A C F A
 D shape D is 5 1 3 5 = A D F#A
 C shape C is 5 1 3 1 = G C E C
 A shape A is 1 3 5 1 = C E G C
 G shape G is 1 5 1 3 = D A D F#
 Root A D F C
 G A

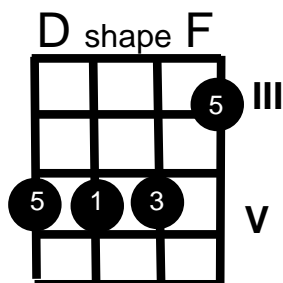
GCEA Ukulele FDCAG with Passing Chords

Navigating between the major chord shapes **F, D, C, A & G** – Key of **F**

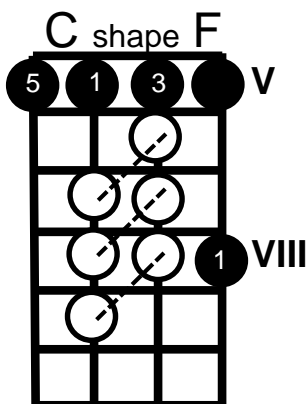


To find the position of the next shape more easily, you can play “passing chords” (double stops- paired notes at set intervals) as you move between chord shapes. These two note chords are shown as empty circles joined by dotted lines. The numbers on the finger positions refer to the position of the note in the F scale. The Roman numerals refer to the fret position shown to the right of the diagram.

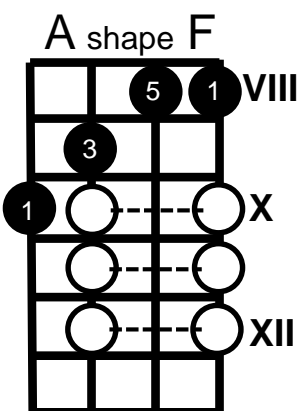
Begin with the **F shape F**, shown on the left - play the C chord, then the 1 and 3 notes of the C scale together, on the 2nd and 4th strings, then continue with the 2 notes connected by dotted lines on the 2nd and 4th strings - play the next two connected notes, then the third pair, leading you to fret V. Play an **D shape F** at frets III and V.



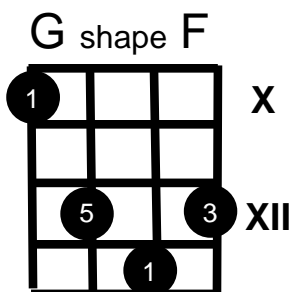
Play the **D shape F** at frets III and V, then bar the V fret with your index finger and play the **C shape F** at fret V. Continue to move up the fretboard playing the 1 and 3 notes now found on strings 3 and 2, then the paired notes as passing chords. These can be played in unison or in sequence (arpeggios). Use index and long fingers. This now leads you to play the **A shape F** at fret VIII. Finally, play the paired notes up to fret XII where you and play the **G shape F**. If you find this shape unplayable at this location, just play the first 3 strings for the D shape.



Practice this sequence until you can remember how the passing chords fit – also use your ear to help find the location. Then, use this to move up the neck in D, C, E and D. Start with the **A shape A** at the nut and use the passing notes to find the **G shape A**. Then, bar the 4th fret to play the **F shape A**. Use the passing note positions to find the correct location for the bar **D shape A** (VII) and up to the **C shape A** (bar VII) – then, come back down the fretboard using the passing chords to find the next shape. Likewise, begin with the **C shape C** at the nut and use the passing note positions (strings 2 and 3) to find the correct location for the **A shape C** (III) and up to the **F shape C** (VII)



You can use these passing chords to generate an intro – or turnaround for a song. They could also be used to connect two locations for playing the same chord, especially while descending. These also work well to create a new location and “voice” to play when soloing. Another use would be to run through these as warm ups for the keys of the songs that you will be playing. See example below of California blues yodel – can be used for an intro.



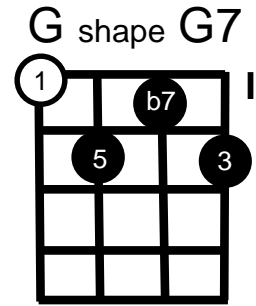
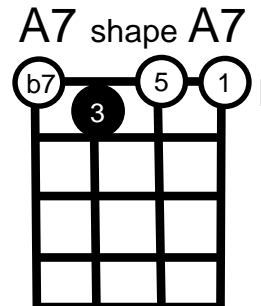
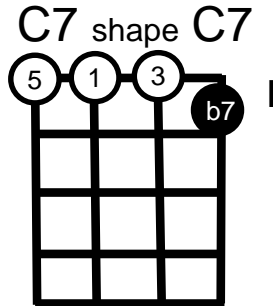
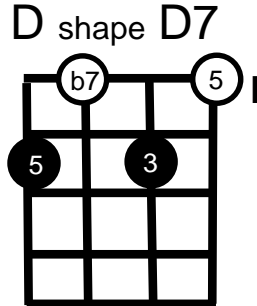
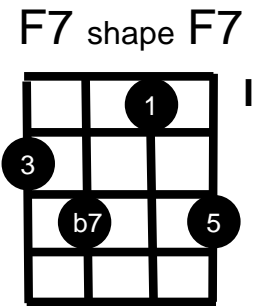
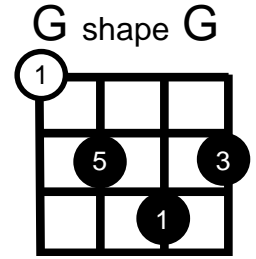
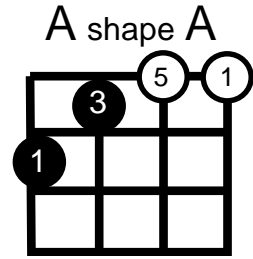
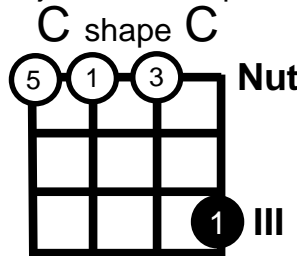
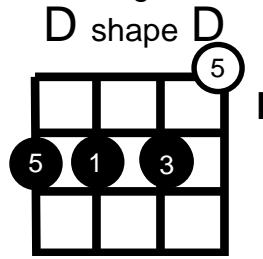
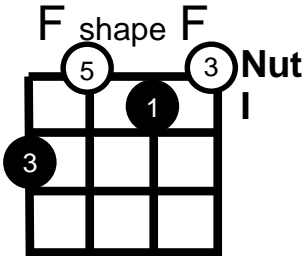
California Blues intro C moving from fret 7 F shape C to fret 3 A shape C

E-----7- -----5- -----3- 3-	to fret 3 A shape C
B----- ----- ----- 3-	
G--4-5--7-- -4/5--- -3/4-- -4-	
D ----- ----- ----- -5-	

Spend sufficient time with these shapes and positions to get them under your fingers and the notes in your ear so to play then without looking at the paper. These 5 shapes are key - get these, and we'll see how they serve as a basis for understanding 7th and minor chords as well.

GCEA FDCAG - 7th Chords (add the flatted 7th note)

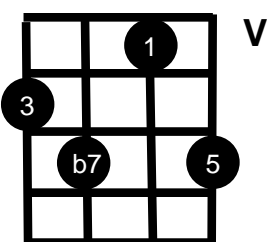
Begin with the major chord shapes for reference



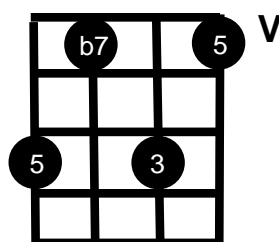
The 7th chord a.k.a. the **dominant 7th chord** is made by adding a **flatted 7 note** to the triad 1, 3, 5. Let's look at each of these keys to see how the 7th is formed from the major chord

<p>For the key of F F major scale F G A Bb C D E F Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1</p> <p>F Major chord = F A C Dominant 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7 F 7th chord = F A C Bb</p> <p>We need to fret the 3rd fret of the 3rd string to make a G7. The 5 note can be added at the 4th fret 1st string</p>	<p>For the key of D: E major scale D E F# G A B C# D Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1</p> <p>Major chord = 1 3 5 E Major chord = D F# A Dominant 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7 E 7th chord = D F# A C</p> <p>We will need to move the root note 1 on string 2 down 2 steps to C, the b7</p>	<p>For the key of A G major scale A B C# D E F# G A Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1</p> <p>G Major chord = A C# E Dominant 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7 G7th chord = A C# E F</p> <p>We will need to move the root note 1 on string 3 down 2 steps to C, the b7</p>
<p>Think of the nut as a barre – these chords can be played up the neck without learning a new shape - just a new position. Let's see what happens at the 5th fret. The D7 shape is seldom used above the nut.</p>	<p>For the key of C C major scale C D E F G A B C Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1</p> <p>C Major chord = 1 3 5 C Major chord = C E G Dominant 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7 C 7th chord = C E G Bb</p> <p>We need to fret the 3rd fret of the 3rd string to make a G7. The 5 note can be added at the 4th fret 1st string</p>	<p>For the key of G G major scale G A B C D E F# G Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1</p> <p>G Major chord = G B D Dominant 7th chord = 1 3 5 b7 G7th chord = G B D F</p> <p>Need to fret the 1st fret of the 2nd string, not the 3rd fret to make a G7 The 5 note can be added to the 1st string</p>

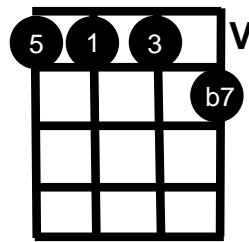
F7 shape A7



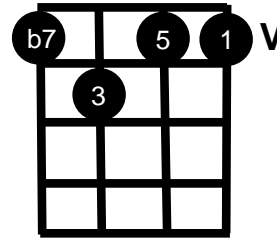
D7 shape G7



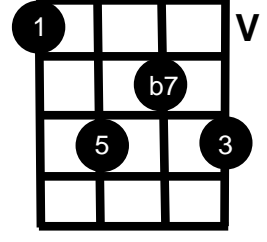
C7 shape F7



A7 shape D7



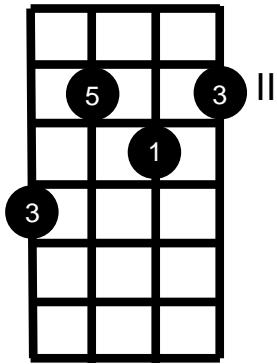
G7 shape C7



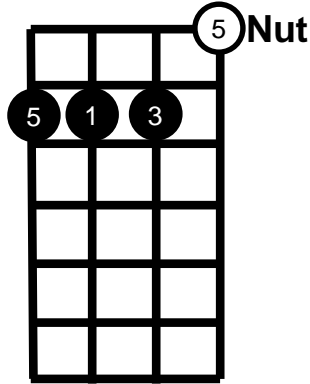
GCEA Ukulele FDCAG Minor Chords – use the G D & A chords as examples

To make a minor chord, take the **3** note of the major chord down 1 step (fret) to a **flattened 3rd**

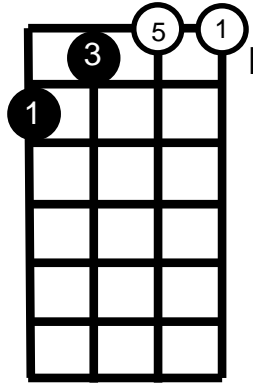
F shape G



D shape D



A shape A



The F, D and A major chord shapes

The major chord triad is 1, 3, & 5. The **minor chord** is made by flattening the 3 note. 1, b3, 5

Start with the A shape A

For the key of A

A major scale **A B C# D E F# G# A**

Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

minor chord = 1, b3, 5

A major chord = A C# E

A minor chord = A C E

Lower the C# on the 3rd string by 1 fret, forming the **A minor shape** – We can move it up the fretboard - found by locating the root on the 1st string

For the key of D:

D major scale **D E F# G A B C# D**

Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

major chord = 1 3 5

D major chord = D F# A

D minor chord = D F A

minor chord = 1 b3 5

Note that the Dm can also be played with an open 4th string – D at the nut

For the key of G:

G major scale **G A B C D E F# G**

Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

major chord = 1 3 5

G major chord = G B D

G minor chord = G Bb D

minor chord = 1 b3 5

Note that the Gm can also be played with an open 4th string – G

To make a **minor 7th chord**, add the flatted 7th and flat the 3 note for the major triad 1, 3, 5 to 1, b3, 5, b7

D major scale **D E F# G A B C# D**

Numbered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

major chord = 1 3 5

D major chord = D F# A

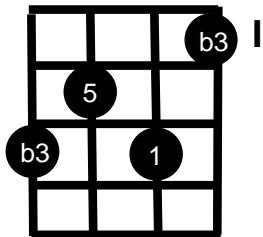
D minor chord = D F A

minor chord = 1 b3 5

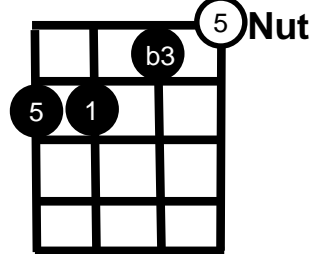
minor 7th chord = 1 b3 5 b7

Dm7th chord = D F A C

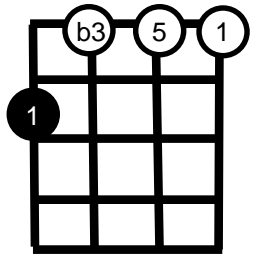
Gm shape Gm



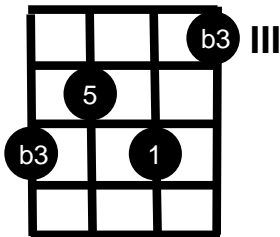
Dm shape Dm



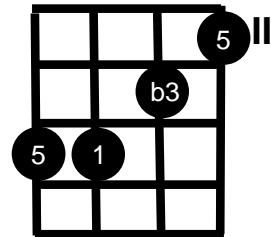
Am shape Am



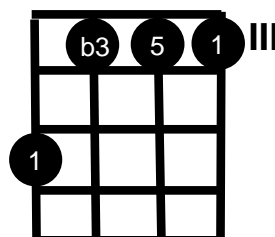
Gm shape Am



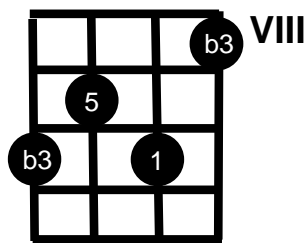
Dm shape Em



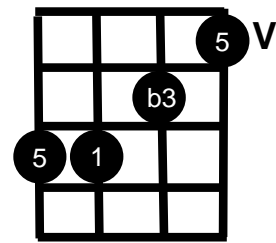
Am shape Cm



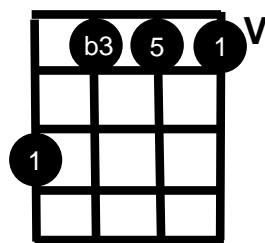
Gm shape Dm



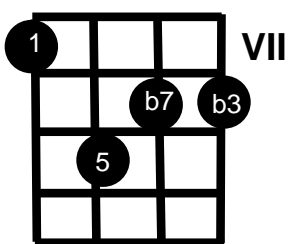
Dm shape Gm



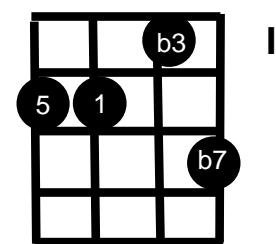
Am shape Dm



Gm shape Dm7



Dm shape Dm7



Am shape Dm7

