

“Chord Family Chart” for beginners

Google is a wonderful tool but can also be very confusing when looking for information. Every musician has their own interpretation of “Easy” or “Beginners”. It can be a matter of sifting through information to find what resonates with you. Often sites have too much information for beginners and information many ukulele players will never use.

I have tried to simplify the chord family chart by listening to the needs of true beginners especially older ones who just want to play at jam sessions and don't want to become world class players. The chord chart is suitable for all instruments but aimed at Ukulele Players. A chord family is a chord family regardless of which instrument you play. There are also charts for more advanced players available on the internet.

Information to chart: This information is very basic and as you study, more in depth information is available on line. These are basic and simple explanations for beginners.

Key: The key denotes the family the song is written in and is usually the starting and finishing note. (This rule is broken occasionally in a few songs where they may start in a minor or a 7th)
The “key” a song is in can be changed to suit the singer's voice by transposing the whole family.

Key plus 2nd chord plus 3rd chord is the root of the family. Learn this first.

b: beside a note indicates it's a flat or a ½ note (semitone) below the whole note: eg: Bb = B flat. A half note below a B

m: beside a note means it is a minor: eg: Bm = B minor. This chord is used to make a song more melancholy

#: beside a note means it is a sharp: Eg F# = F Sharp or a ½ note (semitone) above the whole note:

4th Chord: A whole note above the Key note

R.U: Rarely used

7TH: 7ths are used to make songs interesting or to help with timing. They can be substituted with the Key note when you are learning but you very rarely start a song with a 7th. When you play a key note 7th (like a **C7** in the key of C, it tells everyone you are going to play a second chord or F in the key of C. The second 7th is often used to finish a song or go to a chorus.

<i>Key</i>	<i>2nd chord</i>	<i>3rd Chord</i>	<i>4th Chord</i>	Minor	Second Minor	Transition 7 th from Key to 2 nd chord	Second 7th
C	F	G	D	Am	Em	C7	G7
G	C	D	A	Em	Bm	G7	D7
D	G	A	E	Bm	F#m	D7	A7
A	D	E	B	F#m	C#m	A7	E7
F	Bb	C	G	Dm	Am	F7	C7
<i>Rarely Used Keys</i>							
E(R.U)	A	B	F#	C#m	Abm	E7	B7
B (R.U)	E	F#	A	Abm	Ebm	B7	F#7