Jazz Chords and Changes for the 'Ukulele

-excerpts_

In swing era music and jazzy arrangements, most of the chords have additional notes besides the 1-3-5 triad. In the case of the major chords, used for the tonic and 4^{th} of the scale (C and F in C major), the added note is the 6^{th} or the major seventh of the scale. C becomes C6 or C^{Δ}

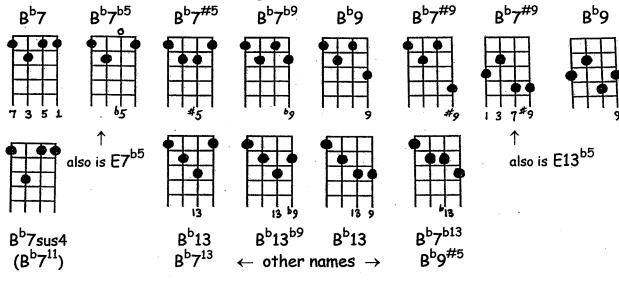
67 is the turnaround chord in the key of C, its 1-3-5-7 and extensions correspond to all of the notes of the C scale, the white keys on piano.

G7 = G B D F A C E

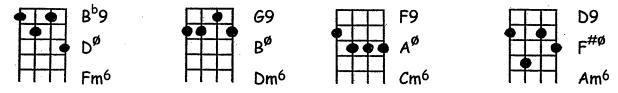
In the 67 chord these are the 1 3 5 7 9 11 & 13th

Well, your uke only has four strings, so you'll need to leave out some notes to play extended dominant chords. The tonic and 5^{th} are expendable; the character of dominant chords is due to the 3^{rd} and 7^{th} .

Extensions are illustrated using two different 7^{th} forms. The first illustration is based on the 8^b7 you are familiar with. Two voicings (inversions) are shown for the 8^b9 and $8b7^{#9}$ chords, one lacking the tonic, the other lacking the 5^{th} .



Spelling the ninth chord as 3 5 7 9 (or inversions of this) produces one of the most versatile jazz chords. These ninths lacking the tonic are also half-diminished and minor- 6^{th} chords. Fingerings for the four inversions, and the alternate names of the chords are shown below.



Adding these to your chord repertoire is your entry into jazzier playing.