

# 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<sup>th</sup> of the scale (C and F in C major), the added note is the 6<sup>th</sup> or the major seventh of the scale. C becomes C6 or C<sup>Δ</sup>

G7 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.

| extensions

G7 = G B D F A C E

In the G7 chord these are the 1 3 5 7 9 11 & 13<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>th</sup> are expendable; the character of dominant chords is due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Extensions are illustrated using two different 7<sup>th</sup> forms. The first illustration is based on the B<sup>b</sup>7 you are familiar with. Two voicings (inversions) are shown for the B<sup>b</sup>9 and B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>#9</sup> chords, one lacking the tonic, the other lacking the 5<sup>th</sup>.

B <sup>b</sup> 7	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>b5</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>#5</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>b9</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 9	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>#9</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>#9</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 9
7 3 5 1	b5	#5	b9	9	#9	1 3 7 #9	9
	↑ also is E7 <sup>b5</sup>					↑ also is E13 <sup>b5</sup>	
B <sup>b</sup> 7sus4 (B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>11</sup> )		B <sup>b</sup> 13	B <sup>b</sup> 13 <sup>b9</sup>	B <sup>b</sup> 13	B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>b13</sup>		
		B <sup>b</sup> 7 <sup>13</sup>	← other names →		B <sup>b</sup> 9 <sup>#5</sup>		

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<sup>th</sup> chords. Fingerings for the four inversions, and the alternate names of the chords are shown below.

	B <sup>b</sup> 9		G9		F9		D9
	D <sup>ø</sup>		B <sup>ø</sup>		A <sup>ø</sup>		F <sup>#ø</sup>
	Fm <sup>6</sup>		Dm <sup>6</sup>		Cm <sup>6</sup>		Am <sup>6</sup>

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