

UKULELE FRILLS and FLOURISHES – Ellen Bloom 2025

SLIDE-BACK. You can slide-back on ANY ukulele chord. If you're playing in 4/4 time, the slide-back usually happens on the third beat of the measure. If you're playing a chord near the 1st fret, like an A chord, just lift off your index finger when you slide back.

HAMMER-ON. When playing in 4/4 time the hammer-on happens on the third beat of the measure. This is particularly effective when using the Carter Scratch/Strum. Form a standard **G-chord**. Beat 1: Pluck your low G string with your thumb, Beat 2: strum the chord with your index finger on your right hand, Beat 3: Pluck the C string with your thumb and hammer on with your index finger on your left hand while holding the G chord shape on the C string, Beat 4: play the chord with your right index finger.

Practice this with various chords to figure out which strings to pluck for emphasis. Also, try your pinkie on the 3rd fret, A string for a country-sounding hammer-on for the G chord.

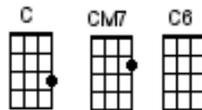
C chord hammer-on: Second fret, Low G string on the 3rd beat. Beat 1: Pluck low open G string, Beat 2: strum C chord, Beat 3: Hammer-on low-G string, 2nd fret, Beat 4: strum C chord.

F chord hammer-on: C string, 2nd fret. You are making a Dm chord for the hammer-on.

Try playing in all of the ukulele-friendly keys (C, G, F, D, A) and experiment with each string for a hammer-on. Different strings will sound better for different songs.

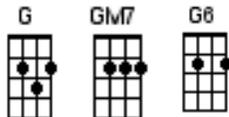
CHORD PROGRESSION SUBSTITUTIONS. If there are two or more measures of one chord in a song, there is a possibility that you can play variations of that chord to change up the monotony. For example, a common chord progression for the **C** chord is **C, Cmaj7, C6**

THEN, depending on the length of the segment, you can circle back, playing the Cmaj7 and C chord again, usually, 2 beats on each chord.



G chord progression:

Just like the C Chord progression, 2 beats on each chord, then



circle back, as needed. **G, Gmaj7, G6**

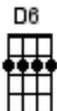
A7 chord substitution: Another good progression for an accent to your song. Play the A7 chord, then slide up the the 2nd fret, then the 3rd fret and finally, the fourth fret. If there are 8 beats, strum twice on each fret. If there are only 4 beats, strum once in each fret.

D7 chord substitution: Just like the A7 example, except you start in the second front with a Hawaiian D7.

D7 Continue into the 3rd, 4th and 5th frets for your embellishment.



D chord embellishment. Using the same formula as the hammer-on or slide-back, turn your D chord into a D6 on that 3rd beat.



SONG PRACTICE: HEY! GOOD LOOKIN', ACT NATURALLY, HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER