UPBEAT RHYTHM CHOP

Ukulele Tuesdays – Evergreen Library

March 26, 2019

1

(2) **PLAYING MUSIC IS MORE THAN JUST MEMORIZING A BUNCH OF CHORDS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT.**

That's difficult. And takes a long time.

THE UPBEAT (OR OFF-BEAT)

- In 4/4 time, the 1st and 3rd beats are generally given stronger emphasis
  - We usually tap our feet *down* "on the beat"
  - We usually strum *down* "on the beat"

- The upbeat is the 2nd and 4th beats
  - Our feet are moving *up* on these beats
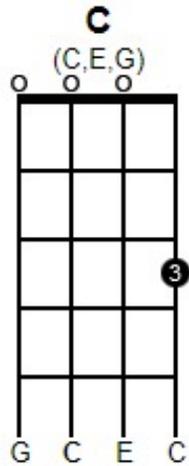
4/4 time   **ONE**…. two…. **THREE** …. four

4/8 time   **ONE**…. two…. **THREE**…. four …. **FIVE**…. six …. **SEVEN**…. eight
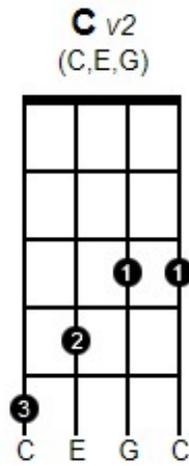   ↑   ↑   ↑   ↑

Upbeats
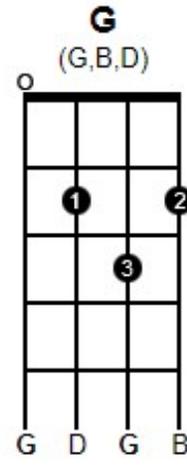
3

OPEN VS. CLOSED CHORD FINGERINGS

- An Open Fingering has 1 or more strings that aren't fretted.
  - Those strings are considered "open"

- A Closed Fingering has all 4 strings fretted by your fingers
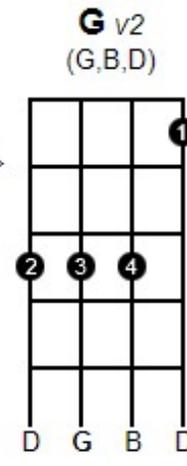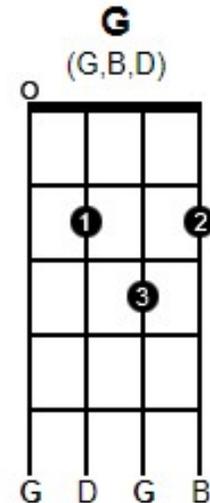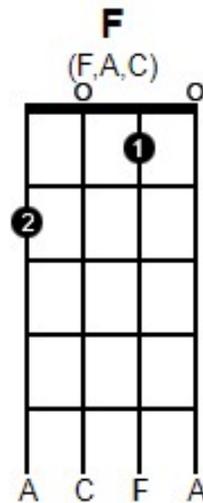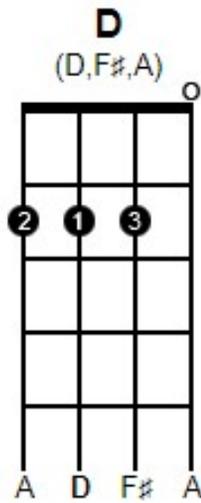

Open C   Closed C   Open G   Closed G

4

Open Shapes

C (C,E,G)	D (D,F♯,A)	F (F,A,C)	G (G,B,D)
G C E C	A D F♯ A	A C F A	G D G B

Closed Shapes

C v2 (C,E,G)	D v2 (D,F♯,A) 5fr >	F v2 (F,A,C)	G v2 (G,B,D) 5fr >
C E G C	D F♯ A D	C F A C	D G B D

5
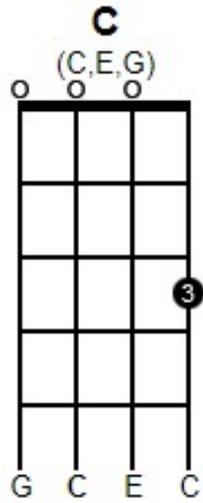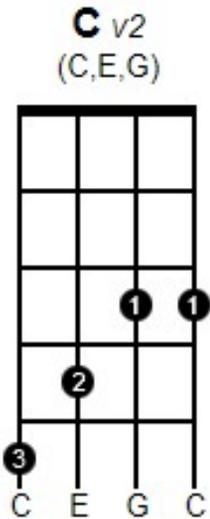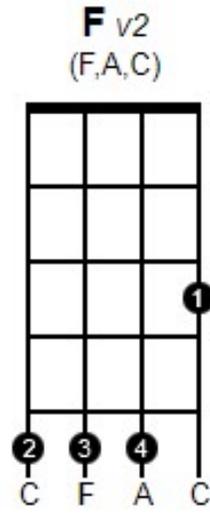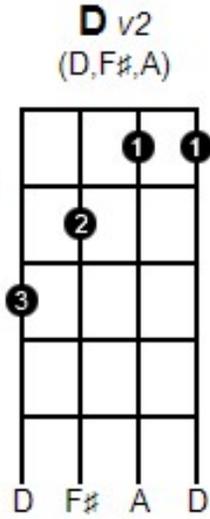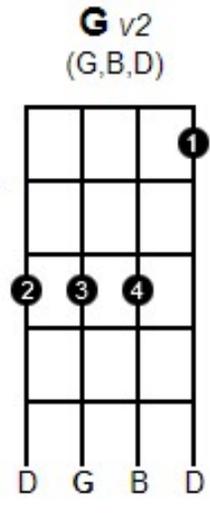
CHOPPING (OR CHUCKING OR VAMPING)

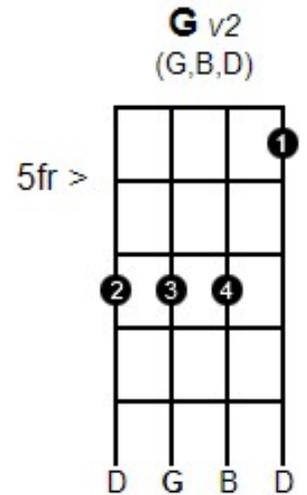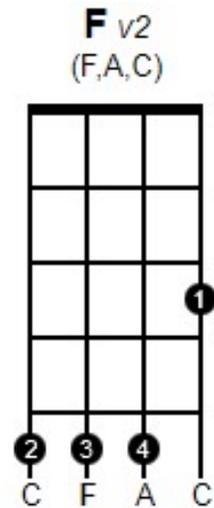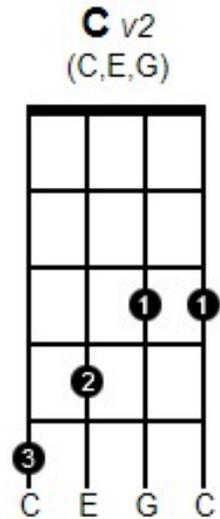- Creates a "Boom-chic-Boom-chic" sound which mimics a snare drum

- In Bluegrass music, the mandolin does this 99% of the time

- The chop requires you to strum down and quickly lift your fingers from the fret board, while still keeping them on the strings
  - This requires some practice to get the timing right

- If you are playing chords with open strings, you'll need to quickly mute the strings with your left ring or pinky finger
  - Much more difficult to do

- It's easier to pluck the bass string (C String) on the downbeat, then chop the upbeat
  - Eventually you'll be able remove the pluck as you get more comfortable with playing the off beat

PRACTICING

C v2
(C,E,G)

F v2
(F,A,C)

G v2
(G,B,D)

5fr >

C E G C

C F A C

D G B D

– [C] – [C] – [C] – [C]

– [C] – [C] – [C] – [C] – [F] – [F] – [F] – [F]

– [C] – [C] – [C] – [C] – [F] – [F] – [F] – [F] – [G] – [G] – [G] – [G]

8 QUESTIONS?