UPBEAT RHYTHM CHOP 2

Ukulele Tuesdays – Evergreen Library

April 8, 2019

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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
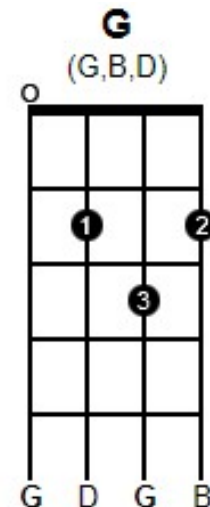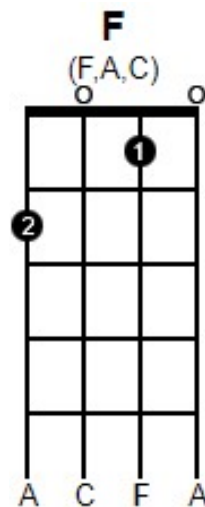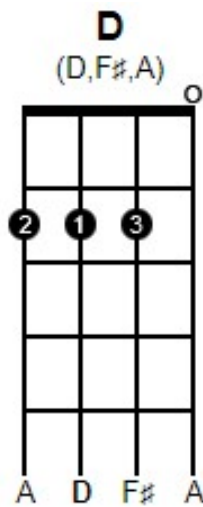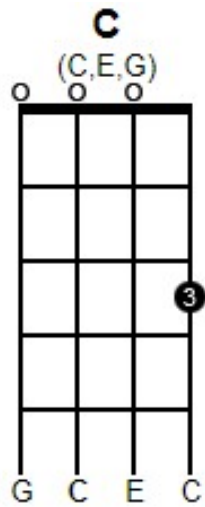 - Our feet are moving *up* on these beats

4/4 time   **ONE**…. two…. **THREE** …. four

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

                ↑   ↑   ↑   ↑

Upbeats

Open Shapes

Closed 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

C v2
(C,E,G)

D v2
(D,F♯,A)

F v2
(F,A,C)

G v2
(G,B,D)

5fr >

5fr >

C E G C

D F♯ A D

C F A C

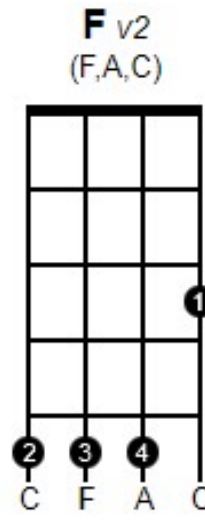D G B D
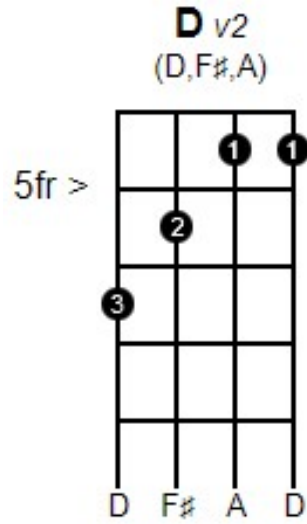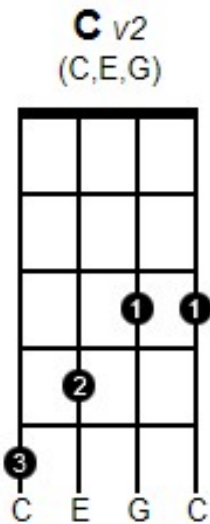
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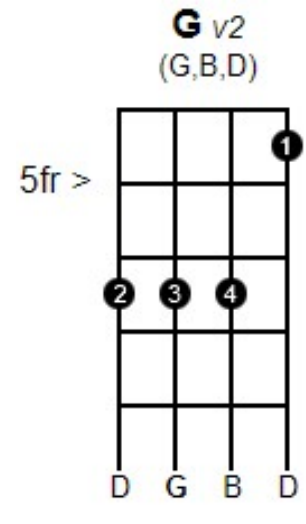
CHOPPING (OR CHUCKING OR VAMPING)

- 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
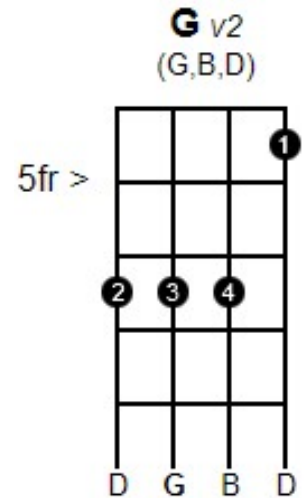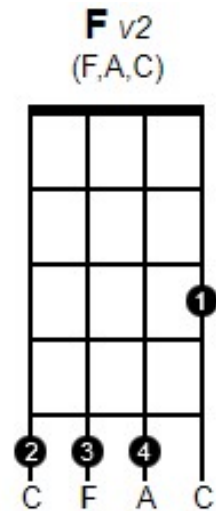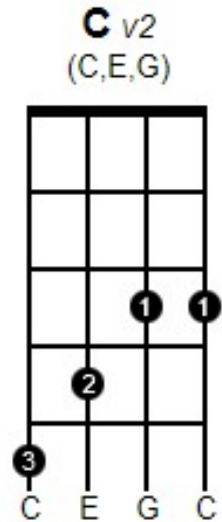
EXAMPLES

- Bad Moon Rising by Creedence Clearwater Revival
  - Video – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUQiUFZ5RDw
  - Chords – https://www.internetchorddatabase.com/Songs/Bad_Moon_Rising_by_Creedence_Clearwater_Revival_v1

- Runaround Sue by Dion
  - Video – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NQLmUOgT5M
  - Chords - https://www.internetchorddatabase.com/Songs/Runaround_Sue_by_Dion_v1

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?