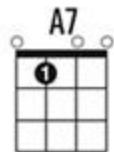
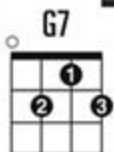
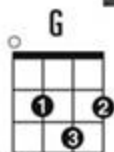
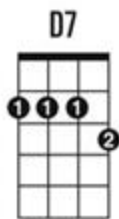
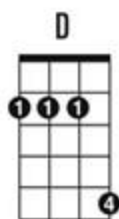


# THE D CHORD FAMILY

D, D7, G, G7, and A7 Chords



First, practice finding the chords above. Then say the name of each chord aloud as you practice these exercises, strumming slowly.



# DIMINISHED SEVENTH CHORDS

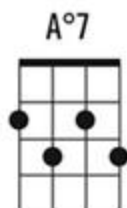
A diminished seventh chord is like a minor chord except it has a lowered fifth and an added diminished (double-flatted) seventh. The chord is spelled numerically as 1- $\flat$ 3- $\flat$ 5- $\flat\flat$ 7. For example, an Adim7 chord has the notes A-C-E $\flat$ -G $\flat$ . (The natural or major 7th of A is G $\sharp$ . Lowering it once gives us a G. Lowering it again gives us G $\flat$ .)

Diminished seventh chords (and three-note diminished triads, spelled 1- $\flat$ 3- $\flat$ 5) are often described as ominous or eerie-sounding. When instructing students in the use of diminished chords, Hawaii's foremost ukulele teacher Roy Sakuma says, "Be careful with this one. It is unstable!" He is right. When well-placed, the chord adds a special flair to blues, jazz, and ragtime styles—to name a few—but diminished chords are not to be overdone.

Watch for the letters "dim" or the small "°" which is also used to indicate a diminished chord, especially when playing Tin Pan Alley tunes from the twenties and thirties. Sometimes the number 7 is left off the name, but that's usually the chord type that is implied.

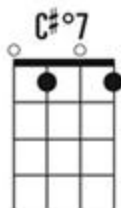
## Movable Diminished 7th Shape

You can move this one up the neck!



## Open C $^{\circ}$ 7

This one you can't move!



## DIMINISHED EXERCISES

Now let's try a bluesy chord progression with a C $^{\circ}$ 7 chord added.



TRACK 11

32

G C $^{\circ}$ 7 G C7

G D7 G

# STRUM-ALONG TUNES IN A

Use the common (down, up, down, up) stroke on these tunes, putting the emphasis on the **backbeats** (2 and 4 of each measure). Listen to the recording, then try and play along.



TRACK 14

## HAND ME DOWN MY WALKING CANE

By James A. Bland

41



Hand me down my walking cane, hand me down my walking cane, hand me down my



walking cane, I'm leaving on the morning train. All my sins, they have overtaken me.

TRACK 14  
0:32

## ROLLING IN MY SWEET BABY'S ARMS

Traditional

42



Rolling in my sweet baby's arms, I'll be rolling in my sweet baby's arms. Lay around that shack



'til the mail train comes back. I'll be rolling in my sweet baby's arms.

TRACK 14  
0:56

## THE OLD GRAY MARE

Traditional Folk

43



The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be, ain't what she used to be,



ain't what she used to be. The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be



many long years ago. Many long years ago, many long years ago.



The old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be, many long years ago.