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# Ukulele Chords



## Synopsis

A handy photo/diagram chord book which shows, in C tuning, the chords in each key. A special section on moveable chords is also included. The chords are grouped by type, including major, minor, seventh, diminished, augmented, and more. A summary of where the chords lie on the fretboard is also included. This book can be used with either the soprano (standard) or tenor ukulele in G-C-E-A tuning

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mel Bay was born on February 25, 1913 in the little Ozark Mountain town of Bunker, Missouri. He bought a Sears Roebuck guitar at the age of 13 and several months later played his first gig. (He recalled playing until his fingers were raw!) Mel took up the tenor banjo shortly thereafter and continued to play both instruments. During his teenage years Mel played with a wild assortment of bands and characters in rural Missouri. Perhaps no gig was as strange as the job he landed with, in Mel's words, a snake oil salesman. This flamboyant peddler would pull his ostentatious Pierce Arrow automobile, complete with steer horns mounted on the grill, into the center of a small, rural town. Mel would sit on the car and play up a storm on the tenor banjo. After a crowd gathered, the peddler took over and began extolling the merits of his wonder elixer. In 1933 Mel Bay moved to St. Louis and began his professional career. He played with numerous local and traveling bands. In addition, he landed staff guitar jobs on several radio stations. Mel fronted his own trio (piano, bass, guitar) and played steadily for 25 years! He was equally adept on most fretted instruments and

played mandolin, uke, Hawaiian guitar, tenor and plectrum banjo professionally. While Mel was actively pursuing his playing career, he continued to teach as many as 100 students a week. He decided to begin writing instructional materials due to the difficulty encountered by guitarists at playing good sounding chord forms in rhythm sections and due to the poor note reading ability prevalent among guitarists. After the war Mel was asked to write instructional materials on guitar for GI's wanting to learn music under the GI Bill. In 1947 Mel formed his own publishing company and wrote his landmark initial book titled The Orchestral Chord System for Guitar. (This book is still in print under the title Rhythm Guitar Chord System and continues to be one the finest rhythm guitar chord texts available!) His Modern Guitar Method was penned shortly thereafter. For years Mel traveled from town to town talking to guitar teachers and players and showing them his publications. At one time Mel claims to have known virtually every guitar teacher in America on a first name basis! The guitar and Mel Bay books caught on in a big way in the 1950's. Things have continued to grow ever since. Mel used to sell D'Angelico guitars. At any given time he would have 5 or 6 lying around the house. Mel played professionally on his New Yorker model but his favorite was the initial Mel Bay Model crafted as a gift for him by John D'Angelico. This famous guitar had all of the main features of the New Yorker but was a cut away model and had a slightly thinner neck. This instrument has been pictured on the Mel Bay Modern Guitar Method for decades. Someone once calculated that sales of guitar books written by Mel Bay have exceeded 25 million copies. When asked, Mel frequently said that he quit counting long ago. Sales of his Modern Guitar Method have alone surpassed the 7 million mark. It is safe to say that Mel Bay is one of the pivotal figures in the world of guitar music and instruction in this century.

I purchased this along with my first ukulele (a Lanikai LU 11) about two years ago. This chord book has been very helpful, especially when I print uke tabs off the internet that do not include chord diagrams. The book includes 55 chords that include a fingering diagram as well as a photo illustrating how to position your fingers. In addition, there are an additional 72 chord diagrams (no photos) for minor sixth chords, seventh augmented fifth chords and the like. Also helpful are illustrations on how to hold the ukulele, and how to tune the ukulele. This is a very user friendly book and as a beginner I found it very useful. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Am helping a friend learn to play the ukulele and this has been an easy introduction to chording and simple songs to keep up her interest.

It is just what I needed to learn chords for my banjolele!

Have played a ukulele for over three score years. Forgotten many songs from long ago. Great resource to remind me. Am enjoying reliving memories brought to mind by this review in Mel Bay's Book. Fun stuff.

This is very helpful and I am a beginner with ukulele. It helps to know where to place my fingers.

The cost of this book is worth the diagrams on pages 31 and 32. If a new uke player learns the notes on the fretboard, and then learn the 10 chord forms on these two pages, they are well on their way to being able to play any song along the fretboard. I wish other frequently used chord forms, (maj7, 6, diminished, augmented,) were also included, but maybe that is an idea for another book.

Great learning tool! I look up the chords to any song, match them in the book and learn anything I want.

It has a lot of chords.

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