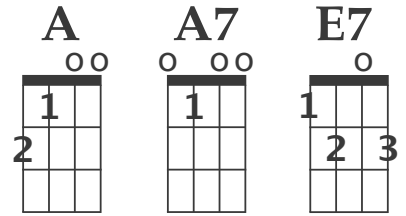


All you need now is some **chords** to play, and these will do:

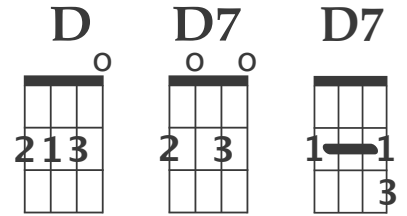
[In switching from **A** to **D**, keep your 2nd finger where it is, scoot your 1st finger up in behind and add your 3rd finger.]



**Major** chords, like **A** and **D**, are happy, pure, salt-of-the-earth kinds of chords. But the blues just wouldn't be the blues without **Seventh chords**. Seventh chords contain that slight dissonance, a tangy, spicy flavor, that leaves you just a little off kilter.

Kind of edgy and unsure. Anyway, in the blues, you can use Major and Seventh chords interchangeably.

(Don't worry about **E**, just stick with **E7**.)



But what's the significance of the specific letter names of the chords, **A**, **D** and **E**? For a more detailed explanation, see *Ukulele From Scratch*, but here it is in a nutshell:

### ***A, D and E are the 1, 4 and 5 chords in the Key of A.***

See, *there are 12 keys in music*, each one named after a different note. The **A** note is the **overriding** note in the **Key of A**, making the **A chord** the boss, the head man, top dog, big cheese, head honcho, number one. But other chords can be sprinkled in, secondarily, to any song that's in the **Key of A**. To find these other chords that "belong" to **Key of A**, you:

Lay out the Musical Alphabet, which contains 7 letters **ABCDEFG**, starting with **A** (for other keys, you start with *those* letters). These notes are the **Do-Re-Mi...** from "The Sound Of Music." Then pick off the **1st**, the **4th** and the **5th** chords, and those are known as the **1 - 4 - 5 chords** in the **Key of A**:

(A)	B	C#	(D)	(E)	F#	G#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

*So the A chord is the 1 chord, the D chord is the 4 chord and the E chord is the 5 chord.* The **1 chord** sounds *in charge*, the **4 chord** has a *friendly* feel, and the **5 chord** is *pushier*.

These chords can have a Major or Seventh **chord quality**. Do NOT worry about the **2, 3, 6 and 7 chords** (they're Minor and Diminished chords), and do not worry what that "#" means (it means sharp). Again, check *Uke From Scratch* for further analysis. All we care about right now are the **1 - 4 - 5 chords** in the **Key of A**, and we got 'em.

But before we get cracking, let's look at a symbolic approach to the Twelve Bar Blues that is based on the **numbers** rather than the letters. If you know the numerical formula, you can simply apply it to whatever key you need, starting with the key note. So.....