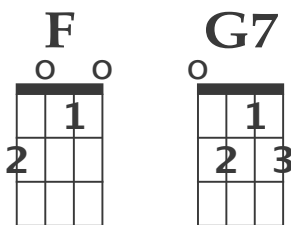


This is where *The Singing* can begin, although you may be the only one doing it at first! Singing while switching chords and strumming, and all of that in rhythm, is an overload for most people. In fact, forget about keeping time. They'll strum **C** for **2X** (singing "Bam"), pause for refingering to **F**, strum **F** for **2X** ("ba"), pause for refingering to **G**, and so on.

Anyone who is still lagging can perform just the first strum of each chord, then move ahead and wait for the next change. BTW, the **F** fingering can be a problem: the pad of the 2nd finger can rest on and mute the 3rd string. Get the 2nd finger to stand tall on its tip and roll a bit toward the top to get just enough clearance so that the string doesn't buzz.

In the **C Chord Family**, also known as the **Key of C**, the **C** chord plays a commanding role among the 3 chords. The **C** chord exudes what is known as a **Key Feeling**. It is the Home Chord. It is Restful. When you are playing in the **Key of C**, the **C** chord is often the first, last and most common chord.

NOW, I'm going to pull a fast one on you, but it's really for your own good. I'll show you the **F** chord, yes, but instead of the **G** chord, I want to start you with the **G7** chord, because it's easier to play. Besides, **G7** is a variant of the **G** chord, and *the 5 chord in any Chord Family (and only the 5 chord) CAN have either a Major or Seventh Chord Quality*. Honest.



The **F** chord has *two* fretted strings and two open strings. It's probably obvious what to do: Place your 1st finger on the 2nd string at the 1st fret, then add the 2nd finger to the 4th string at the 2nd fret, and *be sure to arch both fingers to avoid muting the 3rd and 1st strings*.

G7 is a triangle, has *three* fretted strings, and one of the notes, the 1st finger on the 2nd string, *also* appears in the **F** chord.

Let's take these chords out for a spin with the Mexican folk song **La Bamba**, or at least with the Chorus, although the whole song consists of our 3 chords, **C**, **F** and **G7**, repeated over and over in the same sequence.

La Bamba was recorded by Richie Valens in 1958 and re-recorded by Los Lobos in 1987. Go to YouTube to hear and *play along* with the one by Los Lobos (closer to A440 Tuning).

The Starting Note for singing **La Bamba** is the **C** note on the *open 3rd string*. Match it with your voice, play the **C** chord, strum with your thumb and sing it:

Bam	----	ba,	Bamba	
C		F	G7	C
2 times		2 times	4 times	

C to F: Switch out all the fingers. Also try the **C** with the 4th finger.

F to G7: Keep the 1st finger down. This is a **Pivot** or **Anchor Finger**.

G7 goes back to C: The 3rd finger slides up. This is a **Guide Finger**.

(This **1 - 4 - 5** stuff will mean a lot more to you when we change keys. For example, **Twist and Shout**, played by the Beatles, has the exact same **1 - 4 - 5**, but in the **Key of D**.)