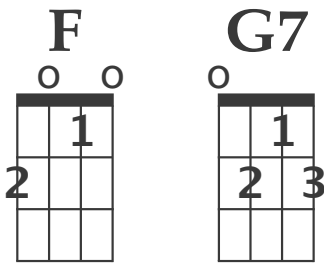


In the **C Chord Family**, also known as the **Key of C**, the **C** chord plays a commanding role among the 3 chords. The **C** chord exudes what is known as a **Key Feeling**. It is the Home Chord. It is Restful. When you are playing in the **Key of C**, the **C** chord is often the first, last and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



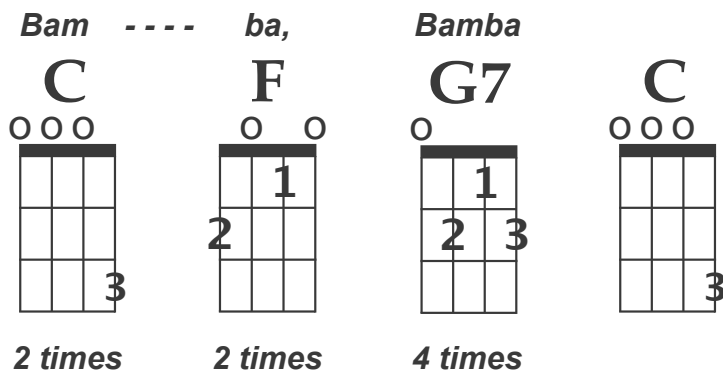
The **F** chord has *two* fretted strings and two open strings. It's probably obvious what to do: Place your 1st finger on the 2nd string at the 1st fret, then add the 2nd finger to the 4th string at the 2nd fret, and *be sure to arch both fingers to avoid muting the 3rd and 1st strings*.

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:



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**, the Beatles' version, has the exact same **1 - 4 - 5** chord sequence, same repeated "two-two-and-four" timing structure, but it's played in the **Key of D**.)