

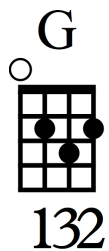
# Lesson #15

Muting is a very popular technique used a lot by people to play different songs on the ukulele. It creates a really cool percussive and rhythmic element to songs.

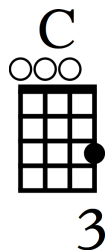
In this lesson, learn:

- how to use **muting** to create cool rhythms and strumming patterns
- the best way to mute the strings
- a song: **Michael Row Your Boat Ashore**

You need to know the following chords:

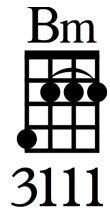


To play a G major chord, place your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the bottom string, your **ring finger** on the 3rd fret of the second string, and your **index finger** on the 2nd fret of the third string. The top string rings completely open.

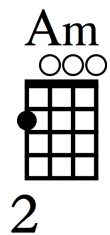


To play a C major chord, place your **ring finger** on the 3rd fret of the bottom string. The remaining strings ring completely open.

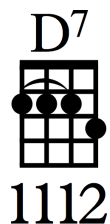
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To play a Bm chord, use your **index finger** to barre the bottom three strings. Place your **ring finger** on the 4th fret of the top string.



An Am chord is really easy to play. Simply place your **middle finger** on the 2nd fret of the fourth or top string and let the bottom three strings ring completely open.



This is a chord you want to barre. To play a D7 chord, lay your **index finger** across all four strings on the 2nd fret. While these strings are barred, place your **middle finger** on the 3rd fret of the first or bottom string.

# Lesson #15

## Strumming Pattern #9

For this strumming pattern, use a technique called **muting**. Muting adds a really cool percussive element to strumming patterns. Mute the strings by laying a finger from your fretting hand (the hand that plays the chords) gently across the strings. When you mute the strings, you should be able to strum the strings and have no pitch from the strings ring out. This produces a nice, scratchy percussive sound.

### FREE TIP

How you mute the strings will be different for every chord. For chords where you are using all your fingers to fret the chord, you can simply lift up off the strings slightly to deaden or mute the strings. For chords where you don't use all your fingers, use the fingers you aren't using to fret the chord to mute the strings.

Use this technique in strumming patterns to create interesting rhythms. This next strumming pattern you learn is nearly identical to strumming pattern #4 that you learned in lesson #8. The only difference is that you are muting the strings on the 2nd and 4th beats of the measure.

The notes with an "X" mark through them represent strings that are muted.

G  
132

1 d    2 d and u    3 d    4 d and u    1 d    2 d and u    3 d    4 d and u

Once you get comfortable with playing this strumming pattern over a G chord, select some other chords to change to. You will need to experiment with how you mute the strings for different types of chords.

# Lesson #15

## Michael Row Your Boat Ashore

**G** **C** **G**  
Michael row your boat ashore, Hallelu - jah,  
**Bm** **Am** **G** **D7** **G**  
Michael row your boat ashore, Hallelu - jah.

**G** **C** **G**  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelu - jah,  
**Bm** **Am** **G** **D7** **G**  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelu - jah.

**G** **C** **G**  
The Jordan River is chilly and cold, Hallelu - jah,  
**Bm** **Am** **G** **D7** **G**  
It chills the body, but not the soul, Hallelu - jah.

**G** **C** **G**  
The river is deep and the river is wide, Hallelu - jah,  
**Bm** **Am** **G** **D7** **G**  
Milk and honey on the other side, Hallelu - jah.

## Practice Objectives

Focus your practice on these things before you move to the next lesson:

- experiment with finding the best way to mute the chords you already know
- choose any chord and practice switching from playing it normally to muting the chord
- learn strumming pattern #9
- select different chords you can switch to and from to practice strumming pattern #9
- learn how to play “Michael Row Your Boat Ashore”

Once you get your muting down, it's time for the next lesson. See you there!