

Ukulele Workshop

Left-Hand Techniques

Maxwell's Silver Hammer

Words & music by the Beatles.

Mute all chords with left hand

[C] Joan was quizzical, [A] studied metaphysical
[Dm] science in the home,
[G7] Late nights all alone with her a test tube, oh, [C] oh, oh, [G7] oh.
[C] Maxwell Edison, [A] majoring in medicine
[Dm] Calls her on the phone,
[G7] "Can I take you out to the pictures Jo-[C]-o-o-[G7]-oan?"
But [D] as she's getting ready to go,
A [G] knock comes on the [G7] door.

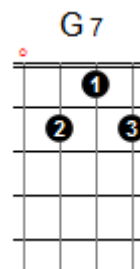
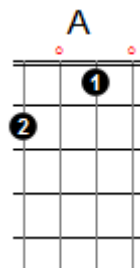
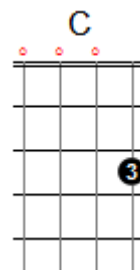
[C] Bang! Bang! Maxwell's silver hammer
Came [D] down upon her [D7] head.
[G] Clang! Clang! Maxwell's [G7] silver hammer
Made [Dm] sure that [G] she was [C] dead. [F↓] [C↓]

[C] Back in school again [A] Maxwell plays the fool again,
[Dm] Teacher gets annoyed,
[G7] Wishing to avoid and unpleasant [C] sce-e-e-[G7]-ene.
[C] She tells Max to stay [A] when the class has gone away,
So [Dm] he waits behind,
[G7] Writing fifty times "I must not [C] be so-o-o-[G7]-o.
But [D] when she turns her back on the boy,
He [G] creeps up from be-[G7]-hind.

[C] Bang! Bang! Maxwell's silver hammer
Came [D] down upon her [D7] head.
[G] Clang! Clang! Maxwell's [G7] silver hammer
Made [Dm] sure that [G] she was [C] dead. [F↓] [C↓]

[C] P.C. Thirty-one [A] said, "We've caught a dirty one,"
[Dm] Maxwell stands alone,
[G7] Painting testimonial pictures, [C] oh, oh, oh, [G7] oh.
[C] Rose and Valerie [A] screaming from the gallery,
[Dm] Say he must go free,
The [G7] judge does not agree, and he tells them [C] so-o-o-[G7]-o.
But, [D] as the words are leaving his lips,
A [G] noise comes from be-[G7]-hind.

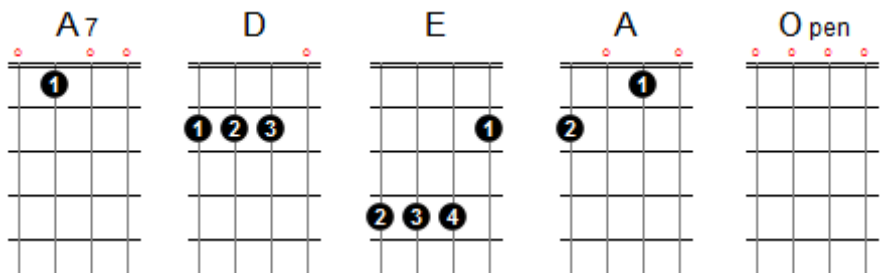
[C] Bang! Bang! Maxwell's silver hammer
Came [D] down upon his [D7] head.
[G] Clang! Clang! Maxwell's [G7] silver hammer
Made [Dm] sure that [G] he was [C] dead. [F↓] [C↓]



Lay Down Sally

Eric Clapton

Version01



Intro: [A7]//// [A7]////

[A7] There is nothing that is wrong
In wanting you to stay here with [D] me
I [A7] know you've got somewhere to go.
But won't you make yourself at home and [D] stay with me?
And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus:

[A] Lay down, Sally, and [D] rest here in my arms.
[E] Don't you think you want someone to [A] talk to?
[A] Lay down, Sally, no [D] need to leave so soon.
[E] I've been trying all night long just to [A] talk to you.

[A7] The sun ain't nearly on the rise
And we still got the moon and stars [D] above.
[A7] Underneath the velvet skies, love is all that matters
Won't you [D] stay with me?
And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus

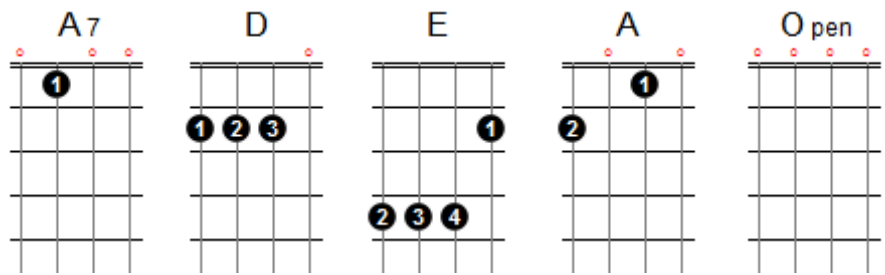
[A7] I long to see the morning light
Colouring your face so [D] dreamily
So [A7] don't you go and say goodbye,
You can lay your worries down and [D] stay with me.
And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus

Lay Down Sally

Eric Clapton

Version02



Intro: [O↑] [A7↓] // // [O↑] [A7↓] // //

[O↑] [A7↓] There is nothing that is wrong

[O↑] In [A7↓] wanting you to stay here with [D] me

[O↑] I [A7↓] know you've got somewhere to go.

[O↑] But [A7↓] won't you make yourself at home and [D] stay with me?

And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus:

[O↑] [A↓] Lay down, Sally, and [D] rest here in my arms.

[E] Don't you think you want someone to [A] talk to?

[O↑] [A↓] Lay down, Sally, no [D] need to leave so soon.

[E] I've been trying all night long just to [A] talk to you.

[O↑] [A7↓] The sun ain't nearly on the rise

[O↑] [A7↓] And we still got the moon and stars [D] above.

[O↑] [A7↓] Underneath the velvet skies, [O↑] [A7↓] love is all that matters

Won't you [D] stay with me?

And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus

[O↑] [A7↓] I long to see the morning light

[O↑] [A7↓] Colouring your face so [D] dreamily

[O↑] So [A7↓] don't you go and say goodbye,

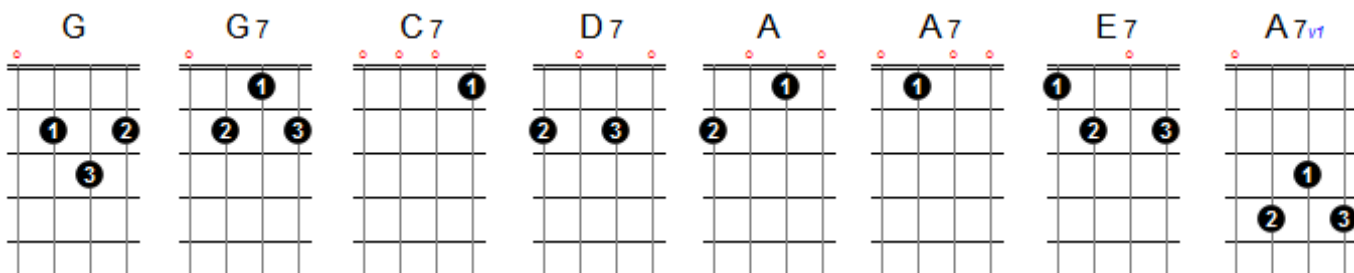
[O↑] [A7↓] You can lay your worries down and [D] stay with me.

And don't you [E] ever leave.

Chorus

Folsom Prison Blues

Johnny Cash, 1955.



Intro: →[G] //// →[G] //// →[G] //// →[G] ////

→ I [G] hear that train a coming, → it's [G] rollin round the bend

→[G] I ain't seen the sunshine [G7] since, I don't know when

Coz I'm [C7] stuck in Folsom Prison, →[C7] time keeps dragging [G] on →[G]

But that [D7] train just keeps on rollin, →[D7] on down to San An[G]tone →[G]

→ When [G] I was just a baby, →[G] mama told me son,

→[G] Always be a good boy, don't [G7] ever play with guns

But I [C7] shot a man in Reno, →[C7] just to watch him [G] die →[G]

When I [D7] hear that whistle blowin', →[D7] I hang my head and [G] cry. →[G]

[A] Well I bet there's rich folk eating in → a [A] fancy dining car

→[A] Probably drinking coffee, [A7] smoking big cigars

But I [D7] know I had it coming, →[D7] I know I can't be [A] free →[A]

But those [E7] people keep a movin, →[E7] that's what tortures [A] me →[A]

[A] If → they [A] freed me from this prison, If → that [A] railroad train was mine

→ I [A] bet I'd move it on a little [A7] farther down the line

[D7] Far from Folsom Prison →[D7] is where I want to [A] stay →[A]

And I'd [E7] let that lonesome whistle →[E7] blow my blues a[A]way →[A]

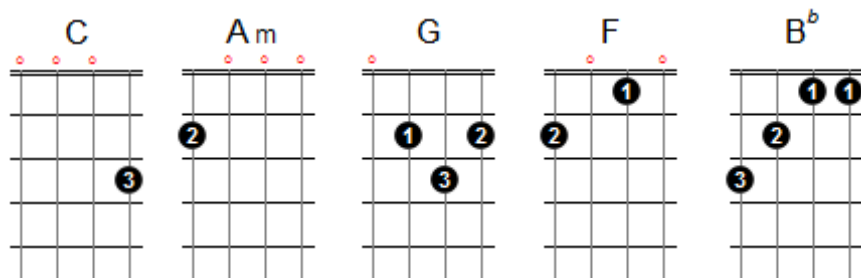
And I'd [E7] let that lonesome whistle →[E7] blow my blues a[A]way →[A]

Outro (Fade): →[A] //// →[A] //// →[A] //// →[A] ////

→[A7v1 ↓ ↓ ↓]

Country Roads (Basic Version)

John Denver, Bill & Taffy Danoff. 1971



Intro: [C] [C] [C] [C] x 2

[C] Almost heaven, [Am] West Virginia
[G] Blue Ridge Mountains, [F] Shenandoah [C] River
[C] Life is old there, [Am] older than the trees,
[G] Younger than the mountains, [F] growing like a [C] breeze

Chorus:

Country [C] roads, take me [G] home
To the [Am] place, I be-[F]-long
West Vir[C]ginia, mountain [G] mamma
Take me [F] home, country [C] roads

[C] All my memories [Am] gather round her,
[G] Miner's lady, [F] stranger to blue [C] water.
[C] Dark and dusty, [Am] painted on the sky,
[G] Misty taste of moonshine, [F] tear drop in my [C] eye.

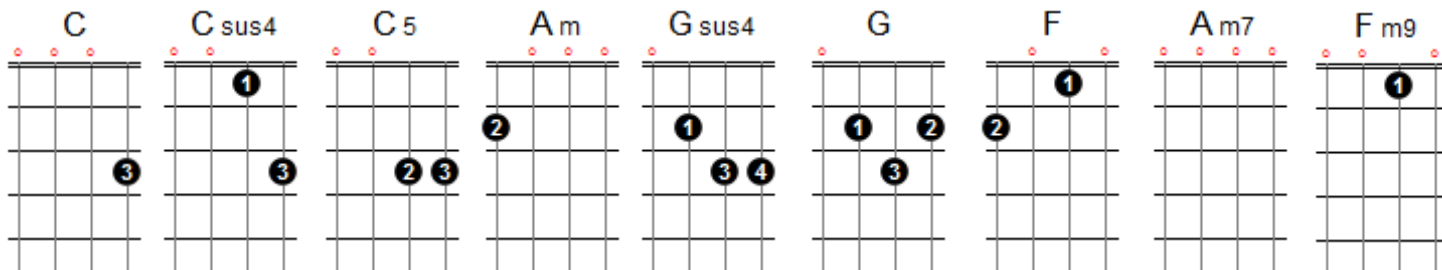
Chorus

[Am] I hear her [G] voice
In the [C] mornin' hour she calls me.
The [F] radio re-[C]-minds me of my [D7] home far a[G]way.
And [Am] drivin' down the [Bb] road I get a [F] feelin'
That I [C] should have been home [G] yesterday, yesterday.

[Tacet] Country [C] roads , take me [G] home,
To the [Am] place, I be-[F]-long
West Vir[C]ginia , mountain [G] mamma
Take me [F] home, country [C] roads
Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C] roads
Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C] roads. [C↓]

Country Roads

John Denver, Bill & Taffy Danoff. 1971



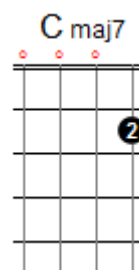
Intro: [C] [C] [Csus4] [Csus4] x 2

[C] Almost heaven, [Am] West Virginia
 [G] Blue Ridge [Gsus4] Moun[G]tains, [F] Shenandoah [C] River
 [C] Life is old there, [Am] older than the trees
 [G] Younger than the [Gsus4] moun[G]tains, [F] growing like a [C] breeze

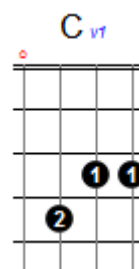


Chorus:

Country [C] roads [Csus4↓][C] take me [G] home [Gsus4↓][G]
 To the [Am] place [Am7↓][Am] I be-[F]-long [Fm9↓][F]
 West Vir[C]ginia [Csus4↓][C] mountain [G] momma [Gsus4↓][G]
 Take me [F] home [Fm9↓][F] country [C] roads



[C] All my memories [Am] gather round her,
 [G] Miner's [Gsus2] la[G]dy, [F] stranger to blue [C] water.
 [C] Dark and dusty, [Am] painted on the sky,
 [G] Misty taste of [Gsus4] moon[G]shine, [F] tear drop in my [C] eye.

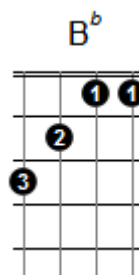


Chorus

[C ↓][Cmaj7 ↓][Am] I hear her [G] voice
 In the [C] mornin' hour she calls me.
 The [F] radio re-[C]-minds me of my [D7] home far a[G]way.
 And [Am] drivin' down the [Bb] road I get a [F] feelin'
 That I [C] should have been home [G] yesterday, yes[Cv1]ter[G7v1]day.

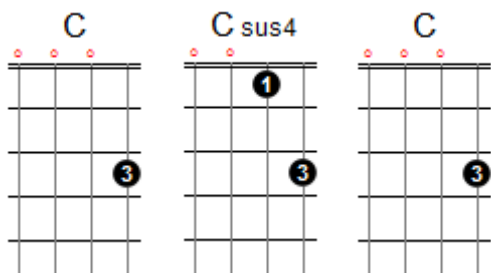


[Tacet] Country [C] roads [Csus4↓][C], take me [G] home [Gsus4↓][G]
 To the [Am] place [Am7↓][Am] I be-[F]-long [Fm9↓][F]
 West Vir[C]ginia [Csus4↓][C] mountain [G] momma [Gsus4↓][G]
 Take me [F] home [Fm9↓][F] country [C] roads
 Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C] roads
 Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C↓] roads. [C5 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑] [Csus4 ↓] [C ↓]

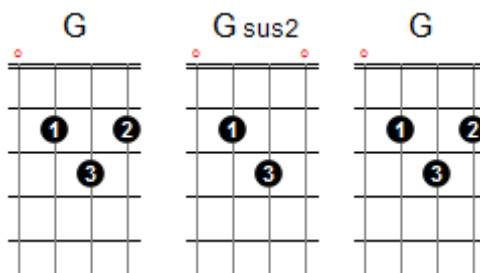


Country Roads Chord Chart Breakdown

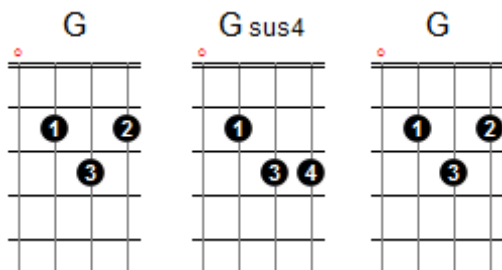
[C] [Csus4] [C]



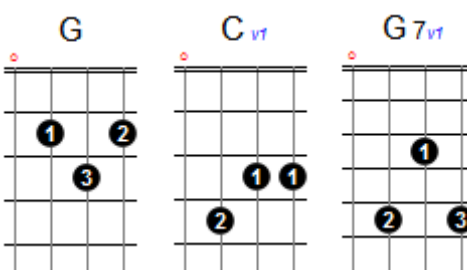
[G] [Gsus2] [G]



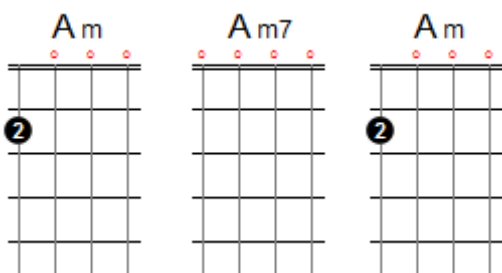
[G] [Gsus4] [G]



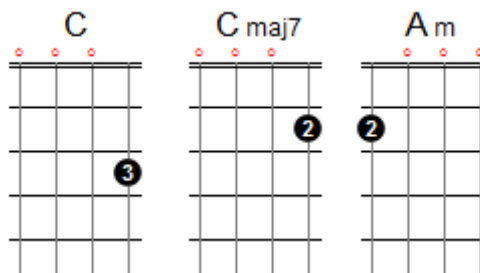
[G] [Cv1] [G7v1]



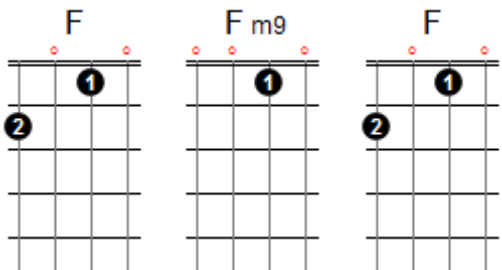
[Am] [Am7] [Am]



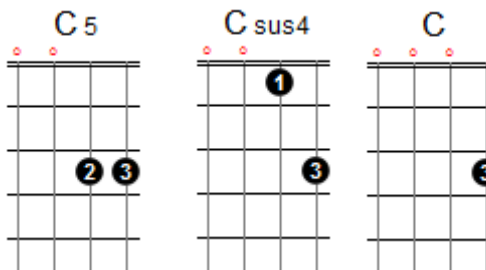
[C ↓] [Cmaj7 ↓] [Am]



[F] [Fm9] [F]

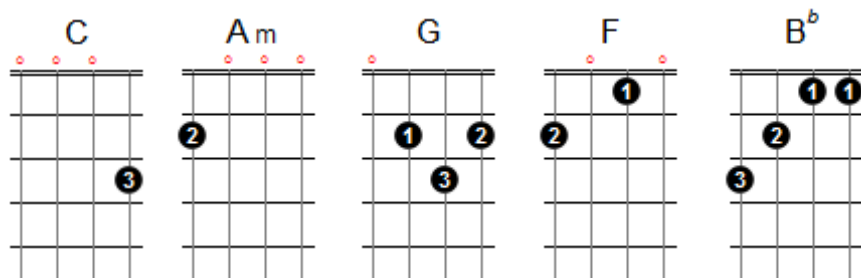


[C5 ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑] [Csus4 ↓] [C ↓]



Country Roads (Prompt)

John Denver, Bill & Taffy Danoff. 1971



Intro: [C] [C] [X] [X] x 2

[C] Almost heaven, [Am] West Virginia

[G] Blue Ridge [X] Mountains, [F] Shenandoah [C] River

[C] Life is old there, [Am] older than the trees,

[G] Younger than the [X] mountains, [F] growing like a [C] breeze

Chorus:

Country [C] roads [X] take me [G] home [X]

To the [Am] place [X] I be-[F]-long [X]

West Vir[C]ginia [X] mountain [G] momma [X]

Take me [F] home [X] country [C] roads

[C] All my memories [Am] gather round her,

[G] Miner's [X] lady, [F] stranger to blue [C] water.

[C] Dark and dusty, [Am] painted on the sky,

[G] Misty taste of [X] moonshine, [F] tear drop in my [C] eye.

Chorus

[X] [Am] I hear her [G] voice

In the [C] mornin' hour she calls me.

The [F] radio re-[C]-minds me of my [D7] home far a[G]way.

And [Am] drivin' down the [Bb] road I get a [F] feelin'

That I [C] should have been home [G] yesterday, yesterday.

[Tacet] Country [C] roads [X] take me [G] home [X]

To the [Am] place [X] I be-[F]-long [X]

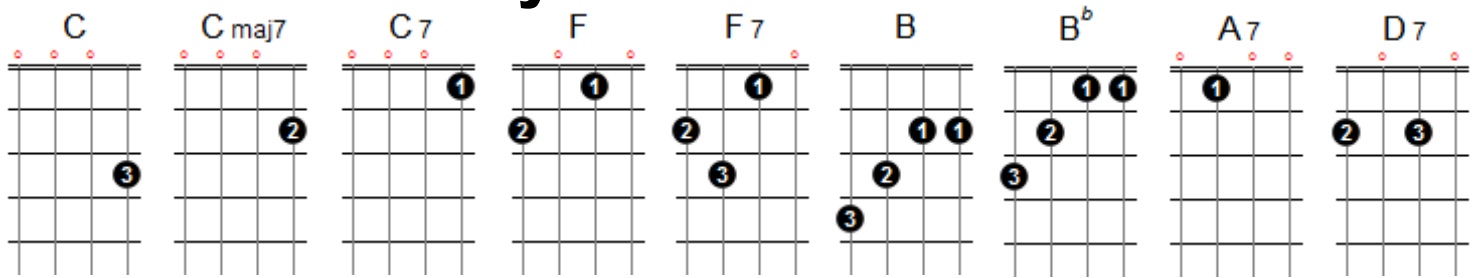
West Vir[C]ginia [X] mountain [G] momma [X]

Take me [F] home [X] country [C] roads

Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C] roads

Oh take me [G] home, [F] country [C] roads. [C↓]

San Francisco Bay Blues



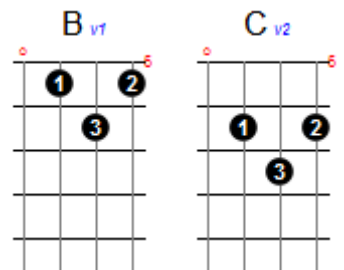
I Got the [C] blues from my baby
 Down [F] by the San Francisco [C↓↓↓] Bay [Cma7↓][C7↑↓][C↑][C7↑]
 Where the [F] ocean liners aren't so far [C] away [Cma7][C7][C][C7]
 [F] Didn't mean to treat her so [F7] bad,
 She was the [C] best girl I [B] ever [B^b] damn [A7] had
 [O][D7] Said goodbye, [O][D7] had to take a cry, [O][G7] wanna lay down →and[G7] die.

[C] I ain't got a nickel and I [F] ain't got a lousy [C] dime [Cma7][C7][C][C7]
 If she [F] don't come back, I think I'm gonna lose my [E7] mind →[E7]
 [F] If she ever gets back to [F7] stay,
 It's gonna [C] be another [B] brand [B^b] new [A7] day
 →[D7] Walkin' with my baby down →[G7] by the San Francisco [C] Bay. [G7][Gsus2][G7]

[C] Sittin' down [F] lookin' from my [C] back door,
 [C] Wondrin' which [F] way to [C] go. [C7]

Bridge

[F] The woman I'm so crazy about, [E7] she don't love me →no[E7] more
 [F] Think I'll catch me a freight [F7] train,
 [C] 'Cause [B] I'm [B^b] feelin' [A7] blue.
 [O][D7] Ride all the way to the [O][D7] end of the line, [O][G7] thinkin' only →of [G7]you.
 [C] Meanwhile in [F] another [C] city,
 [C] Just about to [F] go in-[C]-sane [C7]
 [F] Thought I heard my baby's voice,
 The [E7] way she used to call my →[E7] name.
 [F] If I ever get back to [F7] stay,
 It's gonna [C] be another [B] brand [B^b] new [A7] day.
 →[D7] Walkin' with my baby down →[G7] by the San Francisco [C] Bay [Cmaj7][C7][A7]



Outro:

→[D7] Walkin' with my baby down →[G7] by the San Francisco [C] Bay [Cmaj7][C7][A7]
 (Slower)
 →[D7] Walkin' with my baby down →[G7] by the San Francisco [C] Bay. [B_{v1}] [C_{v2}]

Some Common Chord Sequences

Often used for Embellishments

To enhance your playing, you can embellish chords or chord sequences in a number of different ways. Here we look at chord sequences, which can often be added at the end of a line, or a verse of a chorus (although they can be added anywhere) to enhance the sound of the accompaniment. The sequences below often only involve moving only one or two fingers while still playing the basic chord.

If you learn some of these sequences, and experiment with a few others, allows you to improvise. So when playing tunes where you might only have simple chords on the music sheet, you can make them sound so much richer by adding in the occasional embellishment.

Note: Not all diagrams here are "proper" chords. i.e. you won't find some of them in books, so even though they all have names, they may just be parts of other chords, and I have called them something appropriate to their usage here.

