

# First-Time Fingerstyle-r Trick

## How to Make Even More Solos

You don't have to be a genius or advanced player to be creative in coming up with your own solos.

[In the video](#), I taught you a three-step process for making your own fingerstyle solos:

1. Take a simple repeating fingerpicking pattern
2. Select a simple chord progression
3. Choose a different chord variation up and down the fretboard every time you change chords

For those of you who want a challenge and to go deeper, in this worksheet, I will recap what you learned in the video and how you can take this idea even further to come up with your own fingerstyle solos.

## What I Taught You in the Video

First, you started with this simple arpeggio picking pattern played on the bottom three strings of the ukulele.

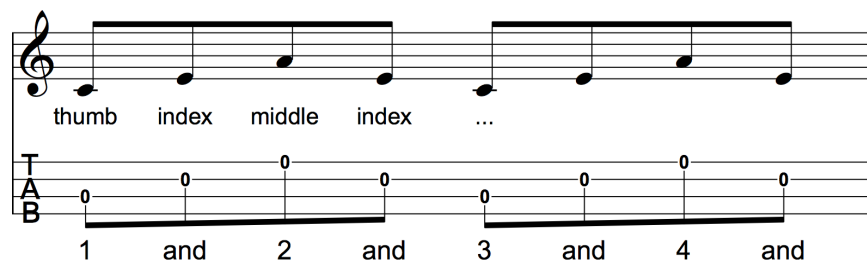


Figure 1: Arpeggio Picking Pattern

Then, we selected a simple C to G7 chord progression as the basis of our fingerstyle solo:

The image shows two musical systems. The first system is for a C chord. It features a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of quarter notes: C4, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5, E4, G4, C5. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings T, A, B and fret numbers 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0. Fingerings are indicated as 1, and 2, and 3, and 4, and. Above the staff is a C chord diagram with a 3-fingered shape and the text 'thumb index middle index'. The second system is for a G7 chord. It features a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of quarter notes: B4, D5, F#5, G5, B4, D5, F#5, G5, B4, D5, F#5, G5. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with strings T, A, B and fret numbers 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1. Fingerings are indicated as 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1. Above the staff is a G7 chord diagram with a 3-fingered shape and the text '3'.

Figure 2: C to G7 Chord Progression

From there, I taught you three variations for each chord, with the three C chord variations being:

The image shows three C chord diagrams. Each diagram is a 6x6 grid representing the guitar fretboard. The first diagram shows a C chord with a 3-fingered shape (thumb on 3rd fret, index on 2nd, middle on 3rd) and is labeled 'C' and '3'. The second diagram shows a C chord with a 3-fingered shape (thumb on 3rd fret, index on 7th, middle on 8th) and is labeled 'C', '7fr', and '3'. The third diagram shows a C chord with a 3-fingered shape (thumb on 3rd fret, index on 10th, middle on 11th) and is labeled 'C', '10fr', and '3'.

Figure 3: Three C Chord Variations

And three G7 chord variations being:

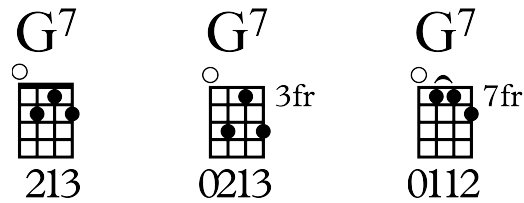


Figure 4: Three G7 Chord Variations

Finally, you played the C to G7 chord progression, but every time you changed chords you selected a different chord variation.

By playing chord variations higher up the fretboard, you added a more intricate, creative and expressive sound to form a fingerstyle solo!

## How to Come Up With More Fingerstyle Solos

You can apply this same three-step process and create even more of your own solos on ukulele using common chord progressions.

If you've been playing ukulele for awhile now and are just starting to explore the fingerpicking style more, then you're really going to enjoy this!

Now, if you haven't been playing for a very long time, you might not have a good idea on what chord progressions you can select, so I've come up with a list of ten chord progressions you can fingerpick on your ukulele, using common ukulele chords.

First, take that same repeating picking pattern I taught you.

Then, pick a chord progression to solo:

1. Am -> C
2. F -> C7
3. Am -> E7
4. C -> Em
5. G -> D7
6. Dm -> G7 -> C -> C
7. Am -> Dm -> E7 -> Am
8. C -> Am -> F -> G7
9. G -> Em -> C -> D
10. F -> Bb -> Gm -> C7

For this example, let's pick the **second** chord progression to solo **F -> C7**.

These common chords are played like so:

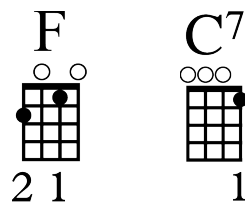


Figure 6: F and C7 Chord Diagrams

Practice picking the pattern and switching between these chords.

Figure 7: F to C7 Chord Progression

But let's say we want to make this a fingerstyle solo and make it more interesting to our listener. To do this, we need to come up with chord variations!

The easiest way to discover new chord variations is to use the [Ukulele Tricks Chord Library](#) tool. On that page, select an **F major** chord and then use the arrow to the right of the chord diagram to tap through the different chord variations.

For this solo, for the F chord, I'm going to pick **Variations 1, 4, and 7**. And remember, since we're just picking the bottom three strings for now, you just need to focus on the bottom three strings.

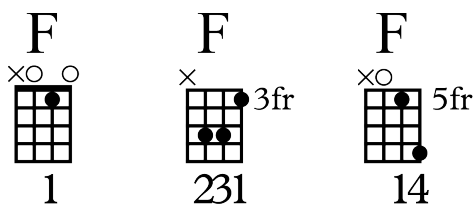


Figure 8: Three F Chord Variations

Now, look up the C7 chord using the tool and pick some variations. I'm picking **Variations 1, 2, and 4**. Remember all we're focused on is the bottom three strings for now.

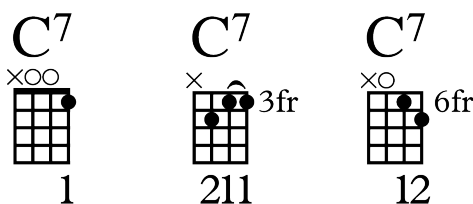


Figure 9: Three C7 Chord Variations

Once you have your variations picked out, you'll want to take adequate time to practice and learn those variations. Some of them are probably new to you and will require your fretting hand fingers to get used to! Be sure to practice picking the pattern and changing between the different variations.

Once you've done so, you're ready to move on and craft your own solo.

Who knew you'd be playing up and down the fretboard?

It's fun, I know!

## Crafting Your Solo

Once you have the picking pattern, chord progression, and chord variations, it's now just a matter of picking which variation of the chord you want to switch to and from to craft your solo!

Yes, that's all there is to it.


But check out how cool it sounds as you change chords up and down the fretboard.

The following tab on the next page is an example of cycling through each variation every time you switch. Remember though, you can mix and match what variations you switch to and from. This is where your creativity will dictate the essence and feeling of the solo.


Now it's your turn!

# FINGERSTYLE SOLO IN F MAJOR


**F** variation 1



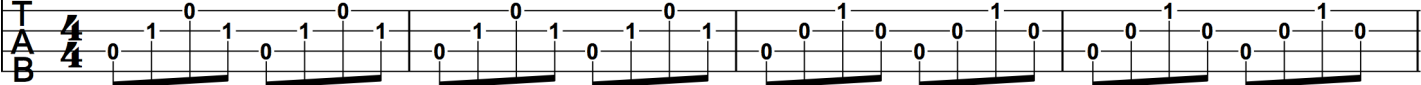
**C7** variation 1




1




TAB 4/4




**F** variation 2



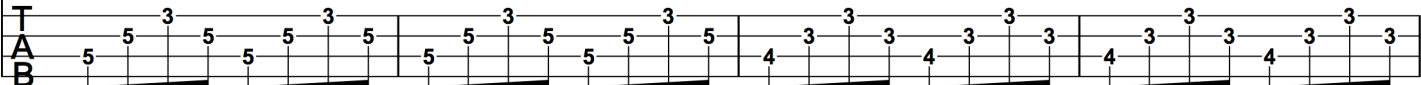
**C7** variation 2




5




TAB




**F** variation 3



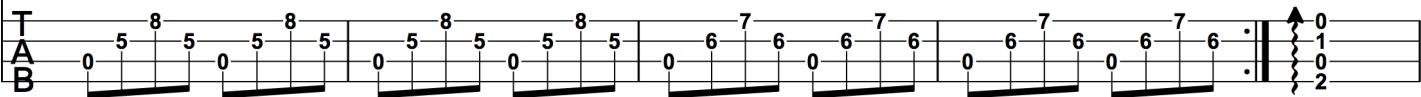
**C7** variation 3



9



TAB





## Your Practice Objectives

1. Continue to practice the picking pattern
2. Select a chord progression for your solo from the suggested list
3. Choose the chord variations for your solo and learn them
4. Solo through the chord progression and pick a different variation every time you switch a chord
5. Enjoy the feeling of soloing on your ukulele!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to [send me an email](#).

Your teacher,

Brett McQueen

<https://ukuleletricks.com>