

“C” Tuning, High & Low “G”

Comparing the two common “C” Tunings?

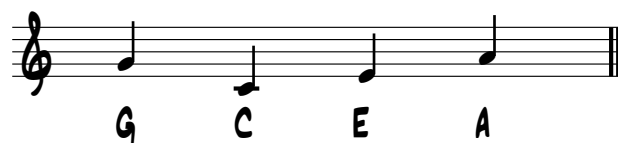
The ukulele is tuned and notated in standard or concert pitch.

Here are the common “C” tunings for the ukulele shown in concert pitch.

C Tuning, High “G”

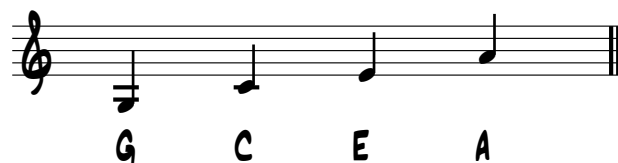
C Tuning - High “G” - For Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukulele. The same as the higher four strings of a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the fifth fret but with string four “G”, one octave higher. This is sometimes called *Standard* tuning.

This is the most common tuning in Hawaii and the mainland USA.



C Tuning, Low “G”

C Tuning - Low ‘G’ - For Soprano, Concert and Tenor ukulele. Same as “C” Tuning but with string four one octave lower. This is the same as placing a capo at the fifth fret of a standard tuned guitar.

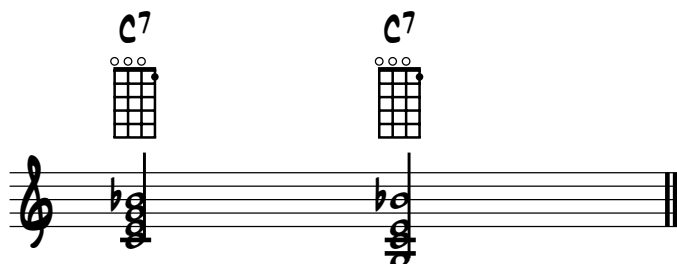


What does this mean for the ukulele?

For Chords

High “G”, Re-entrant C Tuning allows for *close* chord voicings. A close chord voicing is where all the notes of the chord are contained within one octave. The first C7 example below is a *close* chord voicing. The second C7 chord is in low “G” C tuning and called an *open* voicing.

In music theory the first C7 is in root position with the root of the chord (C) being the lowest note. The second could be notated as C7/G, a slash chord.

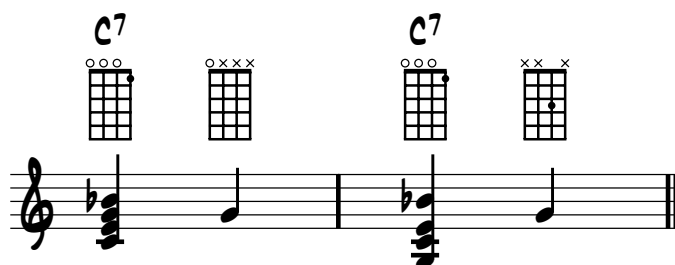




In **Low “G”, C Tuning** the intervals of this tuning are the same intervals as a standard tuned guitar with a capo at the fifth fret (A D **G C** E A). This tuning produces *open* voicings or drop 2 chord voicings. The second C7 chord above is an example of a drop 2 chord voicing where the second note from the top is dropped one octave.

Close voicings are typically harder to finger for each inversion of a 4-part chord on the ukulele in low “G” tuning. You get them for free with the re-entrant tuning. Impossible on a guitar but just hard on a uke.

For Single Notes



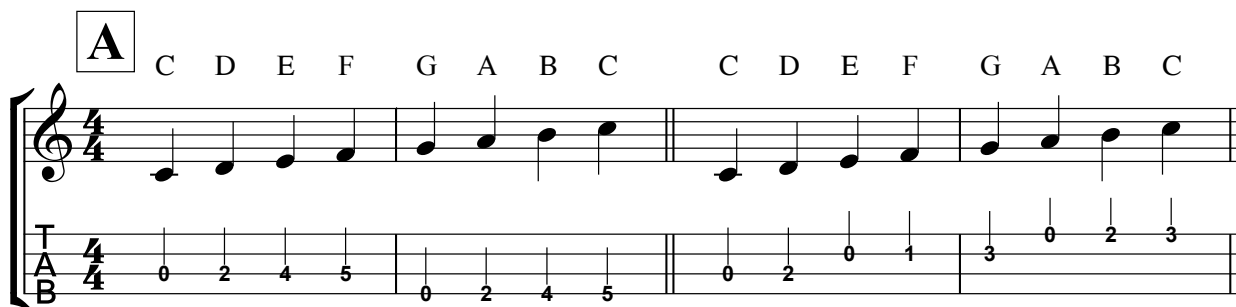
High “G”, Re-entrant Tuning allows you to play the G melody note in measure one of the above example using the open string 4. It could also be played like the example in measure two above. You have two options as it is the same note and pitch.

Low “G”, C Tuning extends the range to G below middle C, a perfect fifth lower. This allows you to cover a wider range of songs when creating melody and chord solo arrangements. In the above example in low “G” tuning, string 4 can not be used to play the G as in measure one.

C Major Scale

Here is a C major scale played two ways that demonstrates the effects of the ukulele’s re-entrant tuning when playing single notes.

C Tuning, High “G”





A little strange to our normal way of thinking that ascending notes will be on higher strings.

Key of G - II V I Chord Example

Here is an example melody that will be used for examples using both tunings.

Am⁷ D⁷ G_{MAJ}⁷

The above melody harmonized with 4-part chords using “C” tuning, high “G” and C tuning, low “G”

High “G”, C Tuning - re-entrant tuning and close voicing chords.

The musical score is for a piece in 4/4 time, consisting of two measures labeled 'A' and 'B'. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: Am⁷, D⁷, and Gmaj⁷. Fingerings are shown with dots on the strings. The staff itself shows a melody with chords. Below the staff, a three-part guitar arrangement is provided for Tenor (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) parts, with fingerings indicated by numbers 1-5.

Measure A:

- Chords: Am⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4), D⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4), Gmaj⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Melody: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half).

Measure B:

- Chords: Am⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4), D⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4), Gmaj⁷ (Fingerings: 1, 2, 3, 4).
- Melody: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (half).

Guitar Arrangement (T, A, B):

Measure A:

- T: 7, 5, 2
- A: 5, 5, 2
- B: 5, 5, 0

Measure B:

- T: 7, 3, 5, 3, 2
- A: 5, 5, 5, 5, 2
- B: 5, 5, 5, 5, 0

Low “G”, C Tuning - Drop-2 voicing chords.

A

Am⁷ 5fr D⁷ 5fr Gmaj⁷

B

Am⁷ 5fr D⁷ 5fr Gmaj⁷

T 7 3 5 3 2
A 5 3 5 2 2
B 7 4 6 2 2

5 2 5 2 0



