



KUBAS

Kent Ukulele & Banjulele Appreciation Society

! BAR CHORDS !



Once you have learnt the basic chords then you can expand your chord set by the “**Bar**” chord principle.

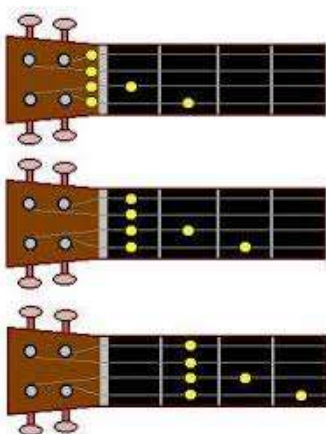
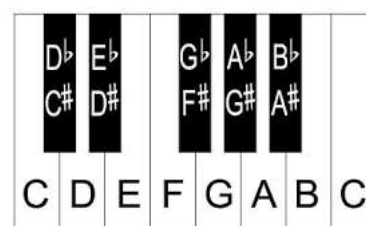
Firstly you must be aware that an “**Octave**” consists of 8 notes and there can be “Sharps (#)” or “Flats (b)” within an octave.

If you imagine a piano keyboard then you will understand where the “#” and “b” are e.g. where the black notes are. Refer to the diagram to the right:

As you can see a “C#” is the same as a “Db” and so on. There are no black notes between “B” & “C” or “E” & “F”.

Theoretically a scale is split into 12 harmonic pitches. This is known as the “**Chromatic**” scale (A-A#-B-C-C#-D-D#-E-F-F#-G-G#-A).

Only 8 pitches are generally used thus making 4 redundant – hence the “**Octave**”. The scale of “C” has no “#” or “b” as you can see when you play the scale on a piano.



Now back to Bar chords!

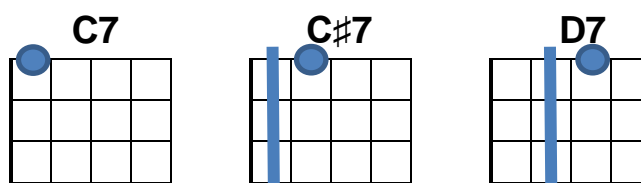
Place your “Bar” finger behind the “nut” as shown by the 4 yellow vertical dots in the 1st diagram. The other fingers form the “A” chord.

Now slide your “Bar” finger into the first fret space as shown in the 2nd diagram. This now forms an “A#” or “Bb” chord.

Now slide your “Bar” finger into the second fret space as shown in the 3rd diagram. This now forms a “B” chord.

Now, you may realise that you already play at least 2 Bar chords. These are “D7” and “B7”.

How the “D7” chord is formed from the transition from “C7” is shown below:



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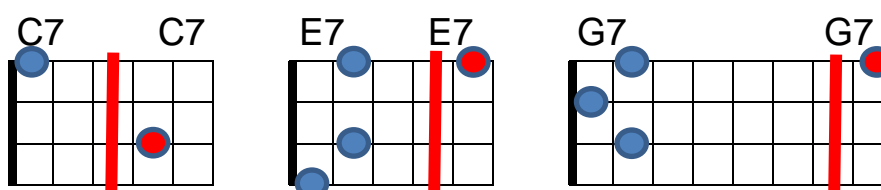
Shown below are 2 different ways of playing “C7”, “E7” and “G7” chords on the same fret board.

Standard chords are shown in **Blue** and Bar chords are shown in **Red**.

The bar “C7” starts off life as “A7”.

The bar “E7” starts off life as “D7”.

The bar “G7” starts off life as “D7” then moves through “E7”, through “F7” to finally reach “G7”.



When do you use bar chords?

It depends upon the song you are playing. Sometimes the song sounds better with the Bar chord in certain places to add that “extra” higher tone to the song.

I hope that this explains the principle on how Bar chords are formed.

Go on – investigate other Bar chords yourself and use them in your songs.
Stay lucky and keep strumming!

