

FIRST STEPS to easy chords

PEBBLES found along the shores of the wiki wacki web.

PULL THE CHORDS OUT AWAY FROM THE SONG.

Pencil then out in front of you on a separate sheet of paper,
draw a graphic representation if you need.

WALK YOUR PATH

Walk through the chords as they appear in the song. Move from one chord to the other.
Find any problem areas you may encounter and work them out

4321

Play each chord in the proper progression 4 times each, then 3 times, then 2 times.
When you can move from one chord to another, playing only 1 time each you're ready.
Start slow, and work up to the proper tempo

WATCH THE YOUtube VIDEO

Even if you know the song, watch the YouTube Video or listen to a recording.
Hear the melody, the tempo, the rhythm.
Through these you will hear the strum, try to feel the song inside you.

NOW, PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER AND SING THAT HAPPY TUNE

Now you're ready to put them all together and play and hopefully sing the song.

Peter Cottontail

Composed in 1950 by Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins for Gene Autry.

Watch Gene on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mKGnIF7GRE>

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

Watch the YouTube!

Time: **4/4** Key of: **C**

Chorus

C Here comes Pe - ter | **C7** Cotton - tail |
F Hoppin' down the | bunny trail |
G7 Hippity hop-pin', | Easter's on its | way / / / / /



C Bringin' eve - ry | **C7** girl and boy |
F Bas - kets full of | Eas - ter joy |
G7 Things to make your | Easter bright and | **C** gay / / / / /

He's got | **F** jel - ly beans for | Tommy |
Colored | **C** eggs for sis - ter | Sue |
There's an | **F** or-chid for your | mommy |
And an | **D** Eas - ter **D7** bon - net | **G7** too / / /



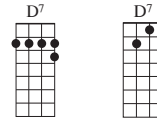
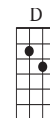
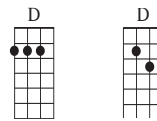
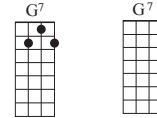
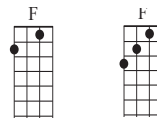
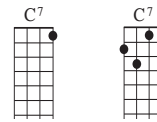
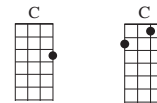
Chorus

You'll | **F** wake up on Easter | mornin'
And you'll | **C** know that he was | there |
When you | **F** find those chocolate | bunnies |
That he's | **D** hid - ing every- | **D7** **G7** where / / /



C Here comes Pe - ter | **C7** Cotton - tail |
F Hoppin' down the | bunny trail |
G7 Hippity hop - pity', | Happy Easter | **C** day / / / / /
G7 Hippity hop-pity, | Happy Easter | **C** day..... |

Soprano Baritone



Optional fingering



Strum:

D D D D
1 2 3 4



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Peter Cottontail ---

Walk Your Path

Walk Your Path.

Before you even think about pluckin' and strummin' you must do what I call - "Walk Your Path".

Race car drivers inspect the track before a race, looking for problems. Golfers walk the 19 holes of a new course before they start a tournament.

Like these pro's get to know the problem areas you may encounter before you start. Find the problem chords or combination of chords with-in a song that you may encounter and work them out before you try to play any song.

Walking your path first-off, will lessen the stress we all feel when trying to learn a new song. This will help you figure out how you're going

to move from one chord shape to the other, smoothly. Keeping an eye out for any difficult chord shapes or movements.

If you have a series of chords that are difficult to move through from one to the other... take those few chords, independently, and just practice moving through them. Then bring them back into the progression and practice the whole section again.

Most of our songs are in the AABA form. Walk each section independently, one at a time. Get to know the song's A section first, that's 3/4 of the song.

When you also master the B section, you're ready to play and sing any song with confidence.

Peter Cottontail

Walking A

Chord progression for Walking A:

- C**: Standard C chord shape (3 on 5th string).
- C7**: Switch to the 1 (1 on 1st string, 3 on 5th string).
- F**: <-Rock way back add the 2 (2 on 2nd string, 1 on 1st string, 3 on 5th string).
- G7**: Twist up and add the 3 (1 on 1st string, 2 on 2nd string, 3 on 3rd string, 3 on 5th string).
- C**: Slide the 3 down (3 on 4th string, or use your pinky finger # 4).

Walking B

Chord progression for Walking B:

- F**: Use your pinky finger # 4 (2 on 2nd string, 1 on 1st string, 4 on 5th string).
- C**: <-Rock way back add the 2 (1 on 1st string, 2 on 2nd string, 4 on 5th string).
- F**: It might be easier to use the option (2 on 2nd string, 1 on 1st string, 3 on 5th string).
- D**: Bar the 1 and add 3 (1 on 1st string, 1 on 2nd string, 2 on 3rd string, 1 on 4th string).
- D7**: lose the 1 keep the 3 (1 on 1st string, 1 on 2nd string, 1 on 3rd string, 1 on 4th string, 3 on 5th string).
- C**: <- Optional fingerings (3 on 5th string).
- D**: <- Optional fingerings (1 on 1st string, 1 on 2nd string, 1 on 3rd string, 4 on 5th string).
- D7**: <- Optional fingerings (1 on 1st string, 2 on 2nd string).

Peter Cottontail ---

Chord Progression 4321.

Section A

C C7 F F G7 G7 C C

Section B

F F C C F F D D7 G7

First Walk Your Path:

Know how you are going to move from one chord shape to the next. Make it simple and remember make one of your fingers your pivot finger.

Now Strum Slowly 4, 3, 2, and 1:

4. Strum each chord slowly for 4 beats each.. repeat the set often... until no mistakes.
3. Strum each chord slowly for 3 beats each... just like above.
2. Now strum each chord slowly for 2 beats each..
1. When you can strum each chord shape for 1 beat each, without mistakes.... you should have this songs chord pattern or progression at expert level. Good for you.

Now try the same 4,3,2,1 method at a comfortable tempo for the song.

Watch out for trouble spots --

Last line in B – from F to D to D7 to G7 to C

Start in with a simple (down down down down) strum

1	2	3	4
D	D	D	D

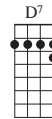
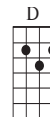
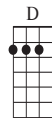
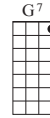
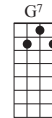
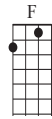
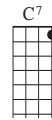
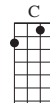
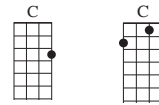
Let's start with F for eight beats (two measures).

Let's try it:

F (8)	D (2) D7 (2)	G7 (4)	C (4)
/////	///// //	//	/ /.....

Soprano

Baritone



Optional fingering



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