

Starting a song and ending it properly may be two of the most important things to consider when playing in a group or performing solo. And, it doesn't hurt to have some nice little flourishes in between to keep the song moving along and grab the audience's attention. Here are some simple things you can use to make a song your own.

*First, count it off so you start at the same time and tempo:
"a-one, a-two, a-one, two, three, four" or "one, two, three; one, two, three"*

INTROS

Vamp *A one- or multi-chord repeating passage, often the main chord progression of the song. Ex: "Sway", "Hit the Road Jack", "Jamaica Farewell", "The Rose"*

Last Line or Two of the Chorus *This can be a very effective intro because the end of the chorus generally leads into the verse and most songs start with the verse. Ex: "Red Red Robin", "Take Me Out to the Ballgame", "A Place in the Sun", "Save the Last Dance for Me"*

Cold Start *You'll need to strum the main chord beforehand to get the singing key and count it off. Ex: "Nowhere Man", "Love Potion #9"*

There are many other interesting ways to kick off a song; here are some great examples, listed by instrument: Rick Beato Top 20 Countdown <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWoNGgu1qnfyZapBWVmTPHzTFncPgkLXn> and other suggestions (especially useful for songwriters): <https://lyricworkroom.com/17-killer-intro-ideas-for-your-songs/>

ENDINGS

Shave and a Haircut *This is the most popular of endings in uke groups and a tidy way of finishing a song. Uses the I and V/V7 chords*

Shave and a hair-cut, two bits Ex: “Hey Good Lookin”, “Red Red Robin”, “This Land is Your Land”

Cha-Cha-Chop *Works best in songs with a Latin feel. “Chop” the last strum by muting the strings immediately with the heel (or any other part) of your strumming hand. Ex: “Jamaica Farewell”, “Sway”, “California Sun”*

Tag it!

Repeat the last line two or three times. Ex: “Hey Good Lookin”, “This Land is Your Land”

Single Strum or a Big Finish

Just end the song with one strum of a chord or a flourish.

Fade Out

When you don’t know what else to do . . . Ex: “Rhythm of the Rain”

IN-BETWEENS

Turnarounds *This works well for repeating a portion of a song or the whole. Use the V chord at the end of the phrase before starting again with the I chord. Ex: “Red Red Robin”, “Hey Good Lookin”*

Suspended chords *Experiment with lifting your fingers and using your pinky to keep things interesting when holding a single chord. Works great with the G & C chords. Ex: “Fields of Gold”, “Brilliant Disguise”*

Transitions

Licks *A run of individual notes sounds nice between chord or phrases in a song. Ex. “Let It Be”, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” (Also used in intros)*

Seventh chords *The I7 chord makes for a nice transition between the I and IV chords. (Don’t overuse it, though) Ex: “Rock Around the Clock”, “This Land is Your Land”*

Dynamics & Strums *Change your volume levels and/or strum patterns to emphasize or add drama to choruses and verses. Ex: “Nowhere Man”, “The Rose”*

Scan for Google Drive folder of all materials



Fields of Gold Sting <https://youtu.be/KLVqoIAzh1A> (key of D)

Intro: [C] [Csus4]

You'll re[Am]ember me when the [G] west wind moves,
Up[F]on the fields of [C] barley
You'll for[Am]get the sun in his [G] jealous sky,
As we [F] walk in [G] fields of [C] gold
-- four measures [C] [Csus4]

So she [Am] took her love for to [G] gaze awhile,
Up[F]on the fields of [C] barley
In his [Am] arms she fell as her [G] hair came down,
A[F]mong the [G] fields of [C] gold

Will you [Am] stay with me, will you [G] be my love,
A[F]mong the fields of [C] barley
We'll for[Am]get the sun in his [G] jealous sky,
As we [F] lie in [G] fields of [C] gold
-- four measures [C] [Csus4]

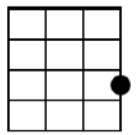
See the [Am] west wind move like a [G] lover so,
Up[F]on the fields of [C] barley
Feel her [Am] body rise when you [G] kiss her mouth,
A[F]mong the [G] fields of [C] gold
-- 1-1/2 measures [C] [Csus4]

[F] I never made [C] promises lightly,
[F] And there have been [C] some I've broken
[F] But I swear in the [C] days still left,
We'll [F] walk in [G] fields of [C] gold, we'll [F] walk in [G] fields of [C] gold
-- 2 measures [C] [Csus4]
-- lead break (verse changes)

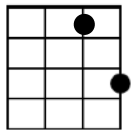
Many [Am] years have passed since those [G] summer days,
A[F]mong the fields of [C] barley
See the [Am] children run as the sun [G] goes down,
A[F]mong the [G] fields of [C] gold

You'll re[Am]ember me when the [G] west wind moves,
Up[F]on the fields of [C] barley
You can [Am] tell the sun in his [G] jealous sky,
When we [F] walked in [G] fields of [C] gold (repeat and fade)

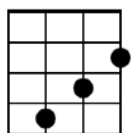
C



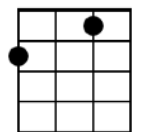
Csus4



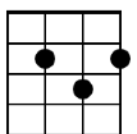
Em



F



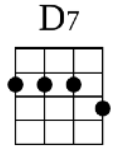
G



Hey Good Lookin' Hank Williams

<https://youtu.be/bjCoKslQOE8> (key of C)

Intro: [D7] [G7] [C] [G7]

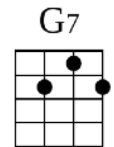


Say, [C] hey, good lookin', whatcha got cookin'?

[D7] How's about cookin' [G7] somethin' up with [C] me? [G7]

Say, [C] hey, sweet baby, don't you think maybe?

[D7] We could find us [G7] a brand-new reci[C]pe? [C7]

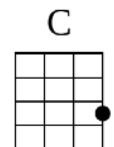


I got a [F] hot-rod Ford and a [C] two-dollar bill

And [F] I know a spot right [C] over the hill.

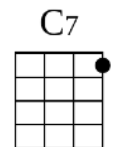
There's [F] soda pop and the [C] dancin's free,

So if you [D7] wanna have fun come a[G7]long with me.

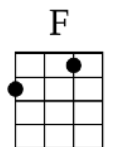


Say, [C] hey, good lookin', whatcha got cookin'?

[D7] How's about cookin' [G7] somethin' up with [C] me?



[D7] [G7] [C] [G7]



I'm [C] I'm ready, so we can go steady

[D7] How's about saving [G7] all your time for [C] me? [G7]

Hey, [C] no more lookin', I know I've been "took-en"

So, [D7] how's about keeping [G7] steady compa[C]ny? [C7]

I'm gonna [F] throw my datebook right [C] over the fence

And [F] find me one for [C] five or ten cents

I'll [F] keep it 'til it's [C] covered with age,

'Cause I'm [D7] writin' your name down on [G7] every page

Say, [C] hey, good lookin', whatcha got cookin'?

[D7] How's about cookin' [G7] somethin' up

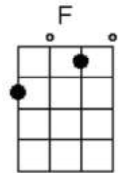
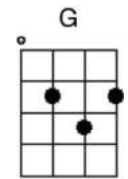
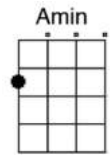
[D7] How's about cookin' [G7] somethin' up

[D7] How's about cookin' [G7] somethin' up with [C] me? [G7] [C]

Hit the Road, Jack Ray Charles

Intro (Am) (G) (F) (E7)

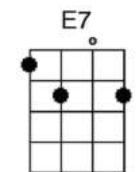
Hit the (Am) road (G) Jack and (F) don't you come (E7) back
No (Am) more no (G) more no (F) more no (E7) more
Hit the (Am) road (G) Jack and (F) don't you come (E7) back
No (Am) more (G) (F) (What you (E7) say?)
Hit the (Am) road (G) Jack and (F) don't you come (E7) back
No (Am) more no (G) more no (F) more no (E7) more
Hit the (Am) road (G) Jack and (F) don't you come (E7) back
No (Am) more (G) (F) (E7)



Whoa! (Am) woman oh (G) woman don't (F) treat me so (E7) mean
You're the (Am) meanest (G) woman that I've (F) ever (E7) seen
I (Am) guess if (G) you said (F) so (E7)
I'll (Am) have to pack my (G) things and (F) go (That's (E7) right!)

chorus

Now (Am) baby listen (G) baby don't (F) treat me this (E7) way
For (Am) I'll be (G) back on my (F) feet some (E7) day
Don't (Am) care if you (G) do cause it's (F) under(E7)stood,
You ain't (Am) got no (G) money you (F) just ain't no (E7) good
Well I (Am) guess if (G) you say (F) so (E7)
I'll (Am) have to pack my (G) things and (F) go (That's (E7) right!)



Chorus

No (Am) more (G) (F) (E7)
No (Am) more (G) (F) (E7)
No (Am) more (G) (F) (E7) (Am)

Jamaica Farewell Lord Burgess

Standard Tuning G-C-E-A

Intro: [C] [Dm] [G7] [C] [Dm] [G7]

[C] Down the way where the [F] nights are gay
And the [G7] sun shines daily on the [C] mountain top
[C] I took a trip on a [F] sailing ship
And when I [G7] reached Jamaica I [C] made a stop

[C] But I'm sad to say, [Dm] I'm on my way
[G7] Won't be back for [C] many a day
Me [C] heart is down, me head is [Dm] turning around
I had to [G7] leave a little girl in [C] Kingston town

[C] [Dm] [G7] [C] [Dm] [G7]

[C] Down at the market [F] you can hear
Ladies [G7] cry out while on their [C] heads they bear
[C] Akee, rice, salt [F] fish are nice
And the [G7] rum is fine any [C] time of year

[C] But I'm sad to say, [Dm] I'm on my way
[G7] Won't be back for [C] many a day
Me [C] heart is down, me head is [Dm] turning around
I had to [G7] leave a little girl in [C] Kingston town

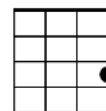
[C] [Dm] [G7] [C] [Dm] [G7]

[C] Sounds of laughter [F] everywhere
And the [G7] dancing girls sway [C] to and fro
[C] I must declare my [F] heart is there
Though I've [G7] been from Maine to [C] Mexico

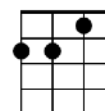
[C] But I'm sad to say, [Dm] I'm on my way
[G7] Won't be back for [C] many a day
Me [C] heart is down, me head is [Dm] turning around
I had to [G7] leave a little girl in [C] Kingston town

[C] [Dm] [G7] [C] [Dm] [G7]

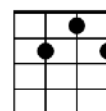
C



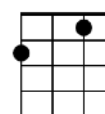
Dm



G7

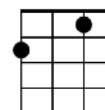


F

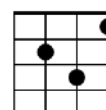


Baritone Tuning D-G-B-E

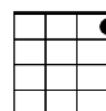
C



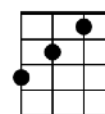
Dm



G7



F



Nowhere Man Lennon/McCartney
<https://youtu.be/8scSwaKbE64> (key of E)

[C] He's a real [G] nowhere man, [F] sitting in his [C] nowhere land,
[Dm] Making all his [Fm] nowhere plans for [C] nobody. [G]

[C] Doesn't have a [G] point of view,
[F] Knows not where he's [C] going to.
[Dm] Isn't he a [Fm] bit like you and [C] me?

Nowhere [Em] man, please [F] listen.
You don't [Em] know what you're [F] missing.
Nowhere [Em] man, the [Dm] world is at your command. [G]

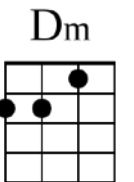
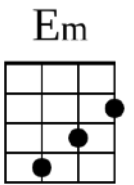
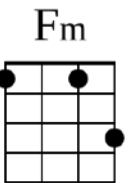
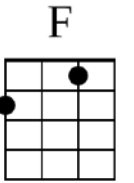
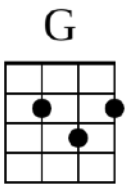
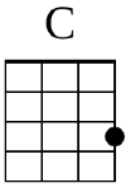
[C] He's as blind as [G] he can be,
[F] Just sees what he [C] wants to see.
[Dm] Nowhere man, [Fm] can you see me, at [C] all?

Nowhere [Em] man, don't [F] worry.
Take your [Em] time, don't [F] hurry.
Leave it [Em] all, till [Dm] somebody else lends you a hand. [G]

[C] Doesn't have a [G] point of view,
[F] Knows not where he's [C] going to.
[Dm] Isn't he a [Fm] bit like you and [C] me?

Nowhere [Em] man, please [F] listen.
You don't [Em] know what you're [F] missing.
Nowhere [Em] man, the [Dm] world is at your command. [G]

[C] He's a real [G] nowhere man, [F] sitting in his [C] nowhere land,
[Dm] Making all his [Fm] nowhere plans for [C] nobody.
[Dm] Making all his [Fm] nowhere plans for [C] nobody.
[Dm] Making all his [Fm] nowhere plans for [C] nobody.



When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob Bobbin' Along

Intro: **C G7 C**

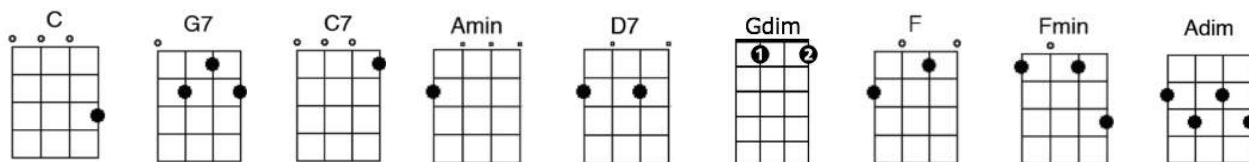
C **G7** **C**
When the red red robin comes bob bob bobbin' along, along
C **G7** **C** **C7**
There'll be no more sobbin' when he starts throbbin' his old, sweet song
F
Wake up, wake up you sleepy head
C **Am**
Get up, get up get out of bed
D7 **G7** **Gdim** **G7**
Cheer up, cheer up the sun is red live. love, laugh and be happy

C **G7** **C**
What if I've been blue now I'm walking through fields of flowers
C **G7** **C** **C7**
Rain may glisten but still I'll listen for hours and hours

F **Fm**
I'm just a kid again doing what I did again
C **Adim**
Singing a song
C **G7** **C**
When the red red robin comes bob bob bobbin' along (**G7** and repeat)

Last chorus

C **G7**
When the red red robin comes bob bob bobbin'
C **G7**
The red red robin comes bob bob bobbin'
C **G7** **C** **G7** **C**
The red red robin comes bob bob bobbin' along



Rhythm of the Rain The Cascades

<https://youtu.be/bQstQST1GiM> (Key of E)

Intro: [C] | [F] | [C] | [G]

[C] Listen to the rhythm of the [F] falling rain
[C] Telling me just what a fool I've [G] been
I [C] wish that it would go and let me [F] cry in vain
And [C] let me be a[G]lone a[C]gain [G]

The [C] only girl I care about has [F] gone away
[C] Looking for a brand new [G] start
But [C] little does she know that when she [F] left that day
A[C]long with her she [G] took my [C] heart [C7]

[F] Rain please tell me now does [Em7] that seem fair
For [Dm] her to steal my heart away when [C] she don't care?
I [Am] can't love another when my [D7] heart's some[G]where far a[C]way
[G]

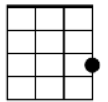
The [C] only girl I care about has [F] gone away
[C] Looking for a brand new [G] start
But [C] little does she know that when she [F] left that day
A[C]long with her she [G] took my [C] heart [C7]

[F] Rain won't you tell her that I [Em7] love her so
[Dm] Please ask the sun to set her [C] heart aglow
[Am] Rain in her heart and let the [D7] love we [G] knew start to [C] grow
[G]

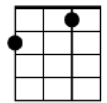
[C] Listen to the rhythm of the [F] falling rain
[C] Telling me just what a fool I've [G] been
I [C] wish that it would go and let me [F] cry in vain
And [C] let me be a[G]lone a[C]gain [G]

[C] Oh, listen to the [Am] falling rain
Pitter [C] patter, pitter [Am] patter
Oh, oh, oh, [C] listen to the [Am] falling rain
Pitter [C] patter, pitter [Am] patter

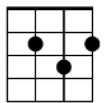
C



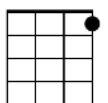
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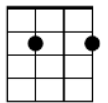
G



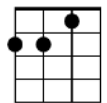
C7



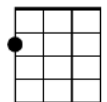
Em7



Dm



Am



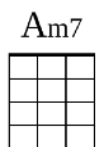
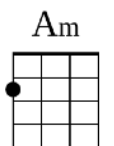
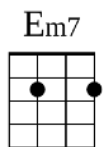
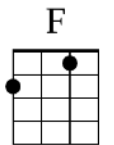
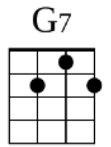
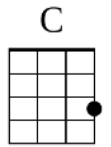
The Rose artist: Bette Midler writer: Amanda McBroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxSTzSEiZ2c>

Some say [C] love it is a [G7] river
That [F] drowns the [G7] tender [C] reed
Some say [C] love it is a [G7] razor
That [F] leads your [G7] soul to [C] bleed
Some say [Em7] love it is a [Am] hunger [Am7]
An [F] endless aching [G7] need
I say [C] love it is a [G7] flower
And [F] you [G7] its only [C] seed

It's the [C] heart afraid of [G7] breaking
That [F] never [G7] learns to [C] dance
It's the [C] dream afraid of [G7] waking
That [F] never [G7] takes a [C] chance
It's the [Em7] one who won't be [Am] taken [Am7]
Who [F] cannot seem to [G7] give
And the [C] soul afraid of [G7] dying
That [F] never [G7] learns to [C] live

When the [C] night has been too [G7] lonely
And the [F] road has [G7] been too [C] long
And you [C] find that love is [G7] only
For the [F] lucky [G7] and the [C] strong
Just re-[Em7]member in the [Am] winter [Am7]
For be-[F]neath the bitter [G7] snow
Lies the [C] seed that with the [G7] sun's love
In the [F] spring be[G7]comes the [C] rose



Sway Dean Martin

<https://youtu.be/YsgL35RCGcc> (play along in this key)

Intro vamp: **[E7]** **[Am]** x 4 then **[stop]**

Standard tuning G-C-E-A

When marimba rhythms **[E7]** start to play
Dance with **[Am]** make me sway
Like a lazy ocean **[E7]** hugs the shore
Hold me close **[Am]** sway me more **[stop]**

Like a flower bending **[E7]** in the breeze
Bend with me **[Am]** sway with ease
When we dance you have a **[E7]** way with me
Stay with me **[Am]** sway with me **[stop]**

Other dancers may be **[G7]** on the floor
Dear, but my eyes will see **[C]** only you
Only you have that **[E7]** magic technique
When we sway I go **[Am]** weak **[stop]**

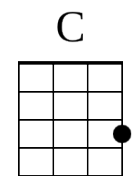
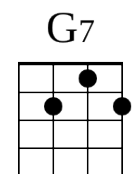
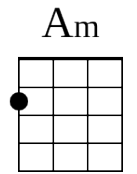
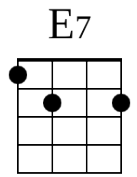
I can hear the sounds of **[E7]** violins
Long before **[Am]** it begins
Make me thrill as only **[E7]** you know how
Sway me smooth **[Am]** sway me now **[stop]**

Other dancers may be **[G7]** on the floor
Dear, but my eyes will see **[C]** only you
Only you have that **[E7]** magic technique
When we sway I go **[Am]** weak **[stop]**

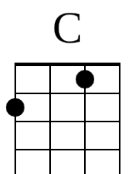
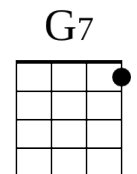
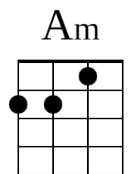
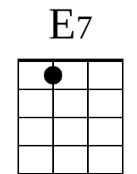
I can hear the sounds of **[E7]** violins
Long before **[Am]** it begins
Make me thrill as only **[E7]** you know how
Sway me smooth **[Am]** sway me now **[stop]**

Make me thrill as only **[E7]** you know how
Sway me smooth **[Am]** sway me now **[stop]**

Make me thrill as only **[E7]** you know how
Sway me smooth **[Am]** sway me now **[cha-cha-chop]**



Baritone tuning D-G-B-E





Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Intro: F Adim C A7 D7 G7 C G

C G G7
Take me out to the ball-game

C G
Take me out with the crowd

A7 Dm
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack

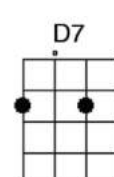
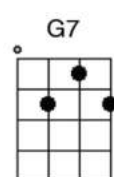
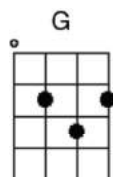
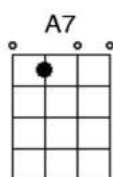
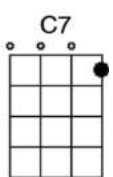
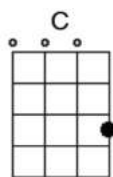
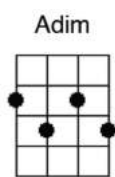
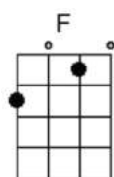
D7 G7
I don't care if I never get back

C G G7
Let me root, root, root for the Ti-gers

C7 F
If they don't win, it's a shame

F Adim C A7
For it's one two three strikes, you're out

D7 G7 C
At the old ball-game!



This Land Is Your Land Woody Guthrie

Intro: [C] [G7] [C]

*This land is [F] your land, this land is [C] my land
From Cali[G7]fornia, to the New York [C] Island [C7]
From the redwood [F] forest, to the gulfstream [C] waters
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me*

As I was [F] walking that ribbon of [C] highway
I saw a[G7]bove me, an endless sky[C]way
I saw be[F]low me, a golden val[C]ley
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me . . . *Chorus*

I've roamed and [F] rambled and followed my [C] footsteps
To the sparkling [G7] sands of her diamond [C] deserts
And all a[F]round me, a voice was [C] sounding
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me . . . *Chorus*

When the sun came [F] shining, and I was [C] strolling,
And the wheat fields [G7] waving and the dust clouds [C] rolling,
As the fog was [F] lifting a voice was [C] chanting
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me . . . *Chorus*

As I went [F] walking I saw a [C] sign there,
And on the [G7] sign it said "No Tres[C]passing."
But on the [F] other side it didn't say [C] nothing.
[G7] That side was made for you and [C] me . . . *Chorus*

In the shadow of the [F] steeple I saw my [C] people,
By the relief [G7] office I seen my [C] people;
As they stood there [F] hungry, I stood there [C] asking
Is [G7] this land made for you and [C] me? . . . *Chorus*

Nobody [F] living can ever [C] stop me,
As I go [G7] walking that freedom [C] highway;
Nobody [F] living can ever make me [C] turn back
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me

*This land is [F] your land, this land is [C] my land
To the sparkling [G7] sands of her diamond des[C]erts [C7]
From the redwood [F] forest, to the gulfstream [C] waters
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me
[G7] This land was made for you and [C] me [G7] [C]*

