



Weald Ukulele Players & Singers!

Graham's
"Three Chord Trick"
Songbook

Introduction

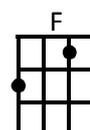
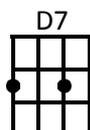
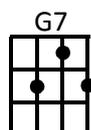
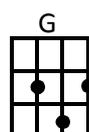
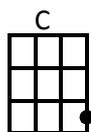
Hi Everybody,

The “Three Chord Trick” was the name given to songs mainly from 50’s and 60’s pop and rock that only contained 3 chords. I thought I’d pull together a collection of songs that used a maximum of 3 chords per song (well all but one!) and were all in either the key of C or G. Why? Well in my chats on club nights I’m aware that a goodly number would welcome them and that a growing number of songs in our Songbooks are demanding so this provides something of a respite! Unlike our usual songbooks I have chosen all the songs included in this collection as it gives me more control over the arrangements. Our usual songbooks are, quite rightly, democratically constructed with suggestions coming from the membership but this can have its shortcomings as a good, well liked song may not necessarily be an easy song to play. What I wanted to offer you was a selection of songs that hopefully hold no fears. Any that are popular from this collection may find themselves in future WUPS Songbooks but their main aim is to allow, particularly those in the early stages of playing, songs that should be within reach.

So here we go. There are only 5 chords in the book. More proficient players may enjoy them too but be warned. In simplifying the songs you may well see differences between these and more complex arrangements. These changes are deliberate but the songs do still work from a musical sense. Also some songs would benefit from a 7th chord in places eg a C7 between the chords of C and F and a G7 between the chords of G and C. I’ve left them out to try and keep each song true to the songbooks title but as you progress you’ll begin to feel and “hear” where they fit.

Have fun!

Graham



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2 points before jumping in:

1. Most songs you'll probably know. If not a version should be on You Tube.

2 I've put the songs in either the Key of C or the Key of G in order to try and keep things simple. If you find the key of a particular song too high or low to sing try using the chart below to change the Key

Changing from Key C to Key G

C becomes G

F becomes C

G or G7 becomes D7

Changing from Key G to Key C

G becomes C

C becomes F

D7 becomes G or G7

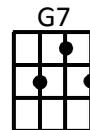
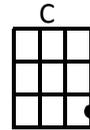
Alberta by Huddie Leadbetter (aka Leadbelly)

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 ...come in on 4th beat

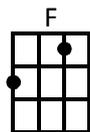
Verse 1

[No chord] Alberta, Al-[C]-berta, [G7]
Where you been so [C] long?
Alberta, Al-[F]-berta,
Where you been so [C] long?
Ain't had no [G7] loving
Since you've been [C] gone. [F] [C STOP]



Verse 2

[No chord] Alberta, Al-[C]-berta, [G7]
Where'd you stay last [C] night?
Alberta, Al-[F]-berta
Where'd you stay last [C] night?
Come home this [G7] morning,
Clothes don't fit you [C] right [F] [C STOP]



Optional Instrumental break tune as verse

Verse 3

[No chord] Alberta, Al-[C]-berta, [G7]
Girl, you're on my [C] mind.
Alberta, Al-[F]-berta,
Girl, you're on my [C] mind.
Ain't had no [G7] loving
Such a great long [C] time. [F] [C STOP]

Verse 4

[No chord] Alberta, Al-[C]-berta, [G7]
Where you been so [C] long?
Alberta, Al-[F]-berta,
Where you been so [C] long?
Ain't had no [G7] loving
Since you've been [C] gone. [F] [C STOP]

Repeat Verse 1 to finish

Baby I Don't Care *by Elvis Presley*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

Verse 1

You [C] don't like [F] crazy [C] music
You [C] don't like [F] rockin' [C] bands
You [C] just wanna [F] go to a [C] movie [F] show
And [C] sit there holdin' hands
You're so [F] square, [G7] baby, I don't [C] care

Verse 2

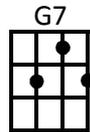
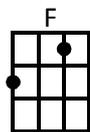
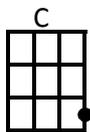
You [C] don't like [F] hotrod [C] racin'
Or [C] drivin' [F] late at [C] night
You [C] just wanna [F] park where it's [C] nice and [F] dark
You [C] just wanna hold me tight
You're so [F] square, [G7] baby, I don't [C] care

Bridge

You [F] don't know any dance steps that I [C] do
I [F] only know I love you like I [G7] do, do, do, do

Verse 3

I [C] don't know [F] why my [C] heart flips
I [C] only [F] know it [C] does
I [C] wonder [F] why I [C] love you, [F] baby
I [C] guess it's just because
You're so [F] square, [G7] baby, I don't [C] care
[G7] Baby, I don't [C] care,
[G7] Baby, I don't [C] care [G7] [C]



Blue Suede Shoes *by Elvis Presley*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 41 2 3start singing on 4th beat

Well, it's [C STOP] one for the money,

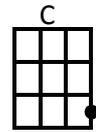
[C STOP] Two for the show,

[C STOP] Three to get ready,

Now [C] go, cat, go.

But [F] don't you step on my blue suede [C] shoes.

You can [G] do anything but lay [F] off of my blue suede [C] shoes.



Well, you can [C STOP] knock me down,

[C STOP] Step in my face,

[C STOP] Slander my name

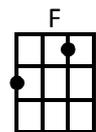
[C STOP] All over the place.

[C STOP] Do anything that you [C STOP] want to do, but [C] uh-uh,

Honey, lay off of my shoes

[F] Don't you step on my blue suede {C} shoes.

You can [G] do anything but lay [F] off of my blue suede [C] shoes.



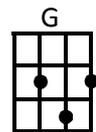
[C] Blue, blue, blue suede shoes uh uh uh

[C] Blue, blue, blue suede shoes uh uh uh

[F] Blue, blue, blue suede shoes uh uh [C] uh

Blue, blue, blue suede shoes

You can [G] do anything but lay [F] off of my blue suede [C] shoes.



[C STOP] You can burn my house,

[C STOP] Steal my car,

[C STOP] Drink my liquor

[C STOP] From an old fruitjar.

[C STOP] Do anything that you [C STOP] want to do, but [C] uh-uh,

Honey, lay off of my shoes

[F] Don't you step on my blue suede [C] shoes.

You can [G] do anything but lay [F] off of my blue suede [C] shoes

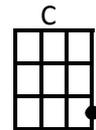
You can [G] do anything but lay [F] off of my blue suede [C] shoes *[C to finish on]*

Catch A Falling Star *by Perry Como*

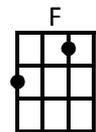
Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

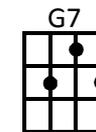
[C] Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Never let it fade away
Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Save it for a rainy day



For [F] love may come and tap you on the shoulder
[C] One starlit night
And [F] just in case you feel you want to hold her
[C] You'll have a [G7] pocket full of starlight



[C] Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Never let it fade away
Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Save it for a rainy day



For [F] when your troubles start a multiplying
[C] And they just might
It's [F] easy to forget them without trying
[C] With just a [G7] pocketful of starlight

[C] Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Never let it fade away
Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Save it for a rainy day

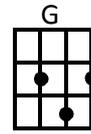
[C] Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Never let it fade away
Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket
Save it for a rai-[G7]-ny [C] day [G7] [C] (*slow up this line*)

Don't Be Cruel *by Elvis Presley*

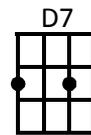
Key of G

Rolling G Count 1 2 3 4

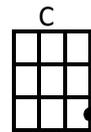
[G] You know I can be found
Sitting home all alone
If [C] you can't come around
At [G] least please telephone
Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true



[G] Baby, if I made you mad
For something I might have said
[C] Please, let's forget the past
The [G] future looks bright ahead
Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true
I don't [C] want no other [D7] love
[C] Baby it's just [D7] you I'm thinking [G] of



[G] Don't stop thinking of me
Don't make me feel this way
[C] Come on over here and love me
You [G] know what I want you to say
Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true
Why [C] should we be a-[D7]-part?
I [C] really love you [D7] baby, cross my [G] heart



[G] Let's walk up to the preacher
And let us say I do
[C] Then you'll know you'll have me
And I'll [G] know that I'll have you,
Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true
I don't [C] want no other [D7] love,
[C] Baby it's just [D7] you I'm thinking [G] of

Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true
Don't be [D7] cruel to a heart that's [G] true
I don't [C] want no other [D7] love
[C] Baby it's just [D7] you I'm thinking [G] of

Heartaches By The Number *by Guy Mitchell*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

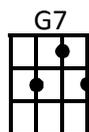
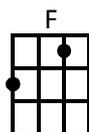
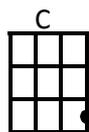
[C] Heartaches by the number, [F] troubles by the score
[G7] Everyday you love me less, each day I love you [C] more
Yes, I've got heartaches by the number, a [F] love that I can't win
But the [G7] day that I stop counting, that's the day my world will [C] end

[C] Heartache number one was when you [F] left me
I [G7] never knew that I could hurt this [C] way
And heartache number two was when you [F] came back again
[G7] You came back but never meant to [C] stay

Yes, [G7] I've got
[C] Heartaches by the number, [F] troubles by the score
[G7] Everyday you love me less, each day I love you [C] more
Yes, I've got heartaches by the number, a [F] love that I can't win
But the [G7] day that I stop counting, that's the day my world will [C] end

[C] Heartache number three was when you [F] called me
And [G7] said that you were coming back to [C] stay
With hopeful heart I waited for your [F] knock on the door
I [G7] waited but you must have lost your [C] way

Yes, [G7] I've got
[C] Heartaches by the number, [F] troubles by the score
[G7] Everyday you love me less, each day I love you [C] more
Yes, I've got heartaches by the number, a [F] love that I can't win
But the [G7] day that I stop counting, that's the day my world will [C] end
(Slow up "That's the day my world will end")



Heartbeat *by Buddy Holly*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

Intro [C ///] [G7 ///] [C ///] G7 ///]

[C] Heartbeat

Why do you [F] miss when my [G7] baby kisses [C] me? [G7]

[C] Heartbeat,

Why does a [F] love's kiss stay [G7] in my memo-[C]-ry?

[F] Riddle-dee-pat I know that true loves [C] thrills me

I [F] know that true love [C] will be-e-e-[G7]-e-e

[C] Heartbeat,

Why do you [F] miss when my [G7] baby kisses [C] me?

[C] Heartbeat,

Why do you [F] skip when my [G7] baby's lips meet [C] mine?

[C] Heartbeat

Why do you [F] flip, then give [G7] me a skip beat [C] sign?

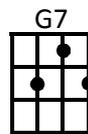
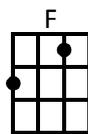
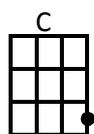
[F] Riddle-dee-pat, and sing to me loves [C] story

And [F] bring to me love's [C] glory-y-y-[G7]-y-y

[C] Heart beat,

Why do you [F] miss when my [G7] baby kisses [C] me

Repeat from beginning.



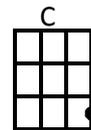
I Hear You Knocking *by Dave Edmunds*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

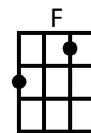
Verse 1

[C] You went away and left me long time ago
And now you're knockin' on my door
I hear you [F] knocking
But you can't come [C] in
I hear you [F] knockin'
Go back where you [G7] been



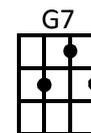
Verse 2

I [C] begged you not to go but said goodbye
And now you're telling me all your lies
I hear you [F] knockin'
But you can't come [C] in
I hear you [F] knockin'
Go back where you [G7] been



Verse 3

You'd [C] better get back to your "used to be"
'Cause your kind of loving ain't for me
I hear you [F] knockin'
But you can't come [C] in
I hear you [F] knockin'
Go back where you [G7] been



Verse 4

I [C] told you way back in 52
That I would never go with you
I hear you [F] knocking
But you can't come [C] in
I hear you [F] knockin'
Go back where you [G7] been

Repeat Verse 4 and finish on a C chord after the final G7

Lily The Pink by *The Scaffold*

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

Chorus

[C] We'll drink a drink a drink
To Lily the [G] pink the pink the pink
The saviour of the human [C] race
For she invented, medicinal [G] compound
Most effi-[G7]-cacious in every [C] case

[C] Mr Freers, had sticky out [G] ears
And it made him awfully [C] shy
So they gave him medicinal [G] compound
Now he's [G7] learning how to [C] fly

[C] Brother Tony, was known to be [G] bony
He would never eat his [C] meals
So they gave him medicinal [G] compound
Now they [G7] move him round on [C] wheels

Chorus

[C] Old Ebenezer thought he was Julius [G] Caesar
So they put him in a [C] home
Where they gave him medicinal [G] compound
And now he's [G7] emperor of [C] Rome

[C] Johnny Hammer, had a terrible [G] st st st st stammer
He could hardly s-s-say a [C] word
So they gave him medicinal [G] compound
Now's he's [G7] seen, but never [C] heard

Chorus

[C] Aunty Milly, ran [G] willy nilly
When her legs they did re-[C]-cede
So they looked on medicinal [G] compound
Now they [G7] call her Milly [C] Pede

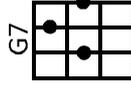
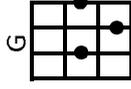
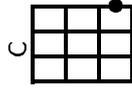
[C] Jennifer Eccles, had terrible [G] freckles
And the boys all called her [C] names
So they gave her medicinal [G] compound
Now he [G7] joins in all the [C] games

Chorus

(Sing slowly) [C] Lily the pink she turned to [G] drink
She filled up with paraffin in-[C]-side
And despite her medicinal [G] compound
Sadly [G7] pickled Lily [C] died

[C] Up to heaven her soul as-[G]-cended
All the church bells they did [C] ring
She took with her medicinal [G] compound
Hark the [G7] herald angels [C] sing *(Slow towards end)*

Chorus - *(with a long "We'll" at the beginning)*



Listen To Me *by Buddy Holly*

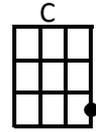
Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 4

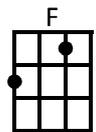
Intro [C / / /] [F / G7 /] [C / / /] F / G7 /]

(NB this chord pattern is played throughout each verse except at *)

[C] Listen to me [F] and hold me [G7] tight
[C] And you will see [F] our love so [G7] right
[C] Hold me darling
[F] Listen [G7] closely to [C] me [F] [G7]

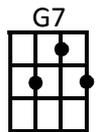


[C] Your eyes will see [F] what love can [G7] do
[C] Reveal to me [F] your love so [G7] true
[C] Listen to me
[F] Listen [G7] closely to *[C me. F /] [C / / /]



Bridge

[G7] I've told the stars you're my only love
[C] I want to [F] love you tender-[C]-ly
Those [G7] same bright stars in heaven above
[F] Know not how sweet [G7] sweethearts can be-e-e-[C]-e.



[C] Listen to me [F] hear what I [G7] say
[C] Our hearts can be [F] nearer each [G7] day
[C] Hold me darling
[F] Listen [G7] closely to [C] me [F] [G7]

(Spoken) [C] Listen, listen, [F] listen to [G7] me
[C] Listen , listen, [F] listen to [G7] me

Repeat from beginning.

Liverpool Lou *by The Scaffold* (words by Dominic Behan)

(Waltz time)

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 1 2 (start singing on 3rd beat)

Chorus

[C] Oh Liverpool Lou, lovely [F] Liverpool [C] Lou
Why don't you behave just like the other girls [G] do?
Why must my [C] poor heart keep [F] following [C] you
Stay home and love me, my [G] Liverpool [C] Lou

Verse 1

When I go a-[G]-walking, I hear people [C] talking
School children [F] playing, [G] I know what they're [C] saying
They're saying you'll [G] grieve me, that you will de-[C]-ceive me
Some morning you'll [F] leave me, all [G] packed up and [C] gone

Chorus

[C] Oh Liverpool Lou, lovely [F] Liverpool [C] Lou
Why don't you behave just like the other girls [G] do?
Why must my [C] poor heart keep [F] following [C] you
Stay home and love me, my [G] Liverpool [C] Lou

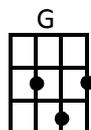
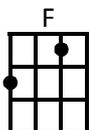
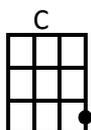
Verse 2

The sound from the [G] river keeps telling me [C] ever
That I should for-[F]-get you [G] like I'd never [C] met you
Oh tell me the [G] song, love, was never more [C] wrong love
Please say I be-[F]-long love [G] to my Liverpool [C] Lou

Chorus

[C] Oh Liverpool Lou, lovely [F] Liverpool [C] Lou
Why don't you behave just like the other girls [G] do?
Why must my [C] poor heart keep [F] following [C] you
Stay home and love me, my [G] Liverpool [C] Lou

Repeat chorus to finish with.



Messing About On The River *by Josh MaCrae*

(Waltz time)

Key of C

Rolling C Count 1 2 3 1 2 *come in on 3rd beat*

When the [C] weather is fine then you [G] know it's a sign

For [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

If you take my advice there's [G] nothing so nice

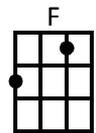
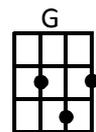
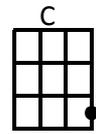
As [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

There are [F] long boats and [C] short boats and [G] all kinds of [C] craft,

And [F] cruisers and [C] keel boats and [D7] some with no [G] draught.

So [C] take off your coat and [G] hop in a boat

Go [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.



There are [C] boats made from kits that [G] reach you in bits

For [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

Or you might want to skull in a [G] glass-fibred hull.

Just [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

There are [F] tillers and [C] rudders and [G] anchors and [C] cleats,

And [F] ropes that are [C] sometimes re-[D7]-ferred to as [G] sheets.

With the [C] wind in your face there's [G] no finer place,

Than [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river

There are [C] skippers and mates and [G] rowing club eights

Just [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

There are pontoons and trots and [G] all sorts of knots

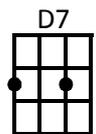
For [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

With [F] inboards and [C] outboards and [G] dinghies you [C] sail.

The [F] first thing you [C] learn is the [D7] right way to [G] bail.

In a [C] one-seat canoe you're the [G] skipper and crew,

Just [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.



There are [C] bridges and locks and [G] moorings and docks

When [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

There's a whirlpool and weir that you [G] mustn't go near

When [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

There are [F] backwater [C] places all [G] hidden from [C] view,

And [F] quaint little [C] islands just [D7] waiting for [G] you.

So [C] leave here right now to [G] cast off your bow,

Go [F] messing a-[G]-bout on the [C] river.

Yes I know! I sneaked a crafty D7 in ssshhh don't tell anybody!!

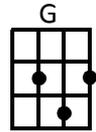
Sugar, Sugar *by The Archies*

Key of G

Rolling G Count 1 2 3 4

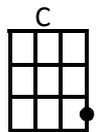
Chorus

[G] Sugar, [C] ah honey [G] honey [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you. [C] [D7]
[G] Honey, [C] ah sugar [G] sugar [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you.



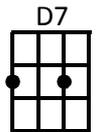
Verse 1

[G] I just can't believe the [C] loveliness of [G] loving you
[G] (I just can't be-[C]-lieve it's [G] true)
[G] I just can't believe the [C] one to love this [G] feeling to.
[G] (I just can't be-[C]-ieve it's [D7] true)



Chorus

Ah [G] sugar, [C] honey [G] honey [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you. [C] [D7]
[G] Honey, [C] ah sugar [G] sugar [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you.



Verse 2

[G] When I kissed you, girl, I [C] knew how sweet a [G] kiss could be
[G] (I know how sweet a [C] kiss can [G] be)
[G] Like the summer sunshine [C] pour your sweetness [G] over me
[G] (Pour your sweetness [C] over [D7] me)

Chorus

Ah [G] sugar, [C] honey [G] honey [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you. [C] [D7]
[G] Honey, [C] ah sugar [G] sugar [C]
You are my [G] candy [C] girl [D7]
And you've got me [G] wanting you.

Repeat last chorus....and yes I missed out the "Pour a little honey on me" section that goes wild...

Teddy Bear *by Elvis Presley*

Key of G

Rolling G Count 1 2 3 4

[G] Oh baby let me be, your [C] lovin' teddy [G] bear
[C] Put a chain around my neck, and lead me any-[G]-where
Oh let me [D7] be (oh let him be) your teddy [G] bear
[C] I don't want to be your [D7] tiger
Cause [C] tigers play too [D7] rough
[C] I don't want to be your [D7] lion
Cause [C] lions ain't the [D7] kind you love e-[G]-nough [G STOP]
[No chord] Just want to [G] be, [C] your teddy [G] bear
[C] Put a chain around my neck and lead me any-[G]-where
Oh let me [D7] be (oh let him be) your teddy [G] bear

[G] Baby let me be, a-[C]-round you every [G] night
[C] Run your fingers through my hair and cuddle me real [G] tight
Oh let me [D7] be (oh let him be) your teddy [G] bear
[C] I don't want to be your [D7] tiger
Cause [C] tigers play too [D7] rough
[C] I don't want to be your [D7] lion
Cause [C] lions ain't the [D7] kind you love enou-[G]-ou-ou-ough [G STOP]

[No chord] Just want to [G] be, [C] your teddy [G] bear
[C] Put a chain around my neck and lead me any-[G]-where
Oh let me [D7] be (oh let him be) your teddy [G] bear
Oh let me [D7] be (oh let him be) your teddy [G] bear
I just want to be your [D7] teddy [G] bear (ooh)

