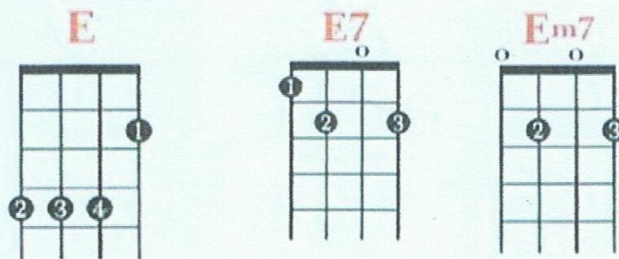


UKULELE, and the Difficult E Chord

Songwriters and guitarists thrive on the E chord, but it is the most difficult common chord to play on ukulele. A group like Musical Jam has managed to virtually avoid it, but it unavoidably crops up and is vital to song 369 'I Walk the Line.'

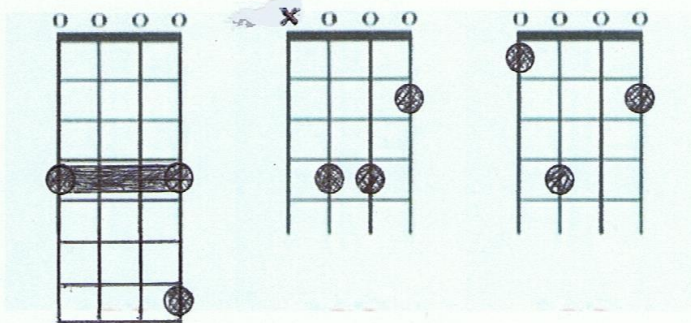
For the uke players, you have to put a lot of time into mastering the chord, or look for some alternatives. The first and easiest alternative is to play the song and substitute either E7 or Em7. In many songs either will do, and while neither is strictly correct the song is playable – especially in a big group!



The 'real' E chord and its likely substitutes

There are other ideas that you can find on-line or in some uke song books.

One that is correct but maybe doesn't sound quite right is to play the E as a bar chord. It is the simple C chord moved up through D to E, with the bar on the fourth fret. It is the first illustration below:



In the other two illustrations, I have firstly shown the E chord approximated by just playing the C, E, and A strings, and then a version I came across in a song book. This last one sounds ok, but is it any easier than the real E chord? – Maybe for you it is.