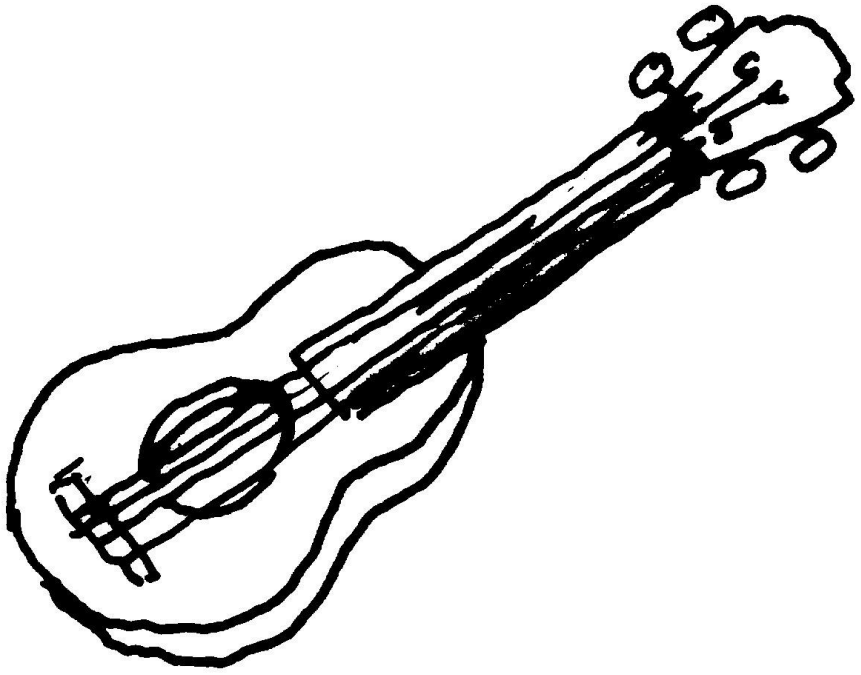
Baritone Integration

How to blend with a group of Tenors, Concerts and Sopranos



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Focus on Variation

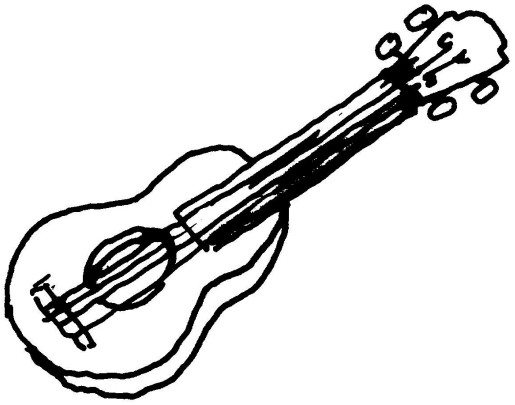
As a baritone player, you bring a different voice to the group. Embrace it!

The ideas in this lesson involve how to add variation and depth to a ukulele ensemble using the following musical elements:

- Range
- Rhythm
- Texture

While, the baritone is the focus of this lesson, these ideas can be applied to standard ukuleles and other instruments.

Range



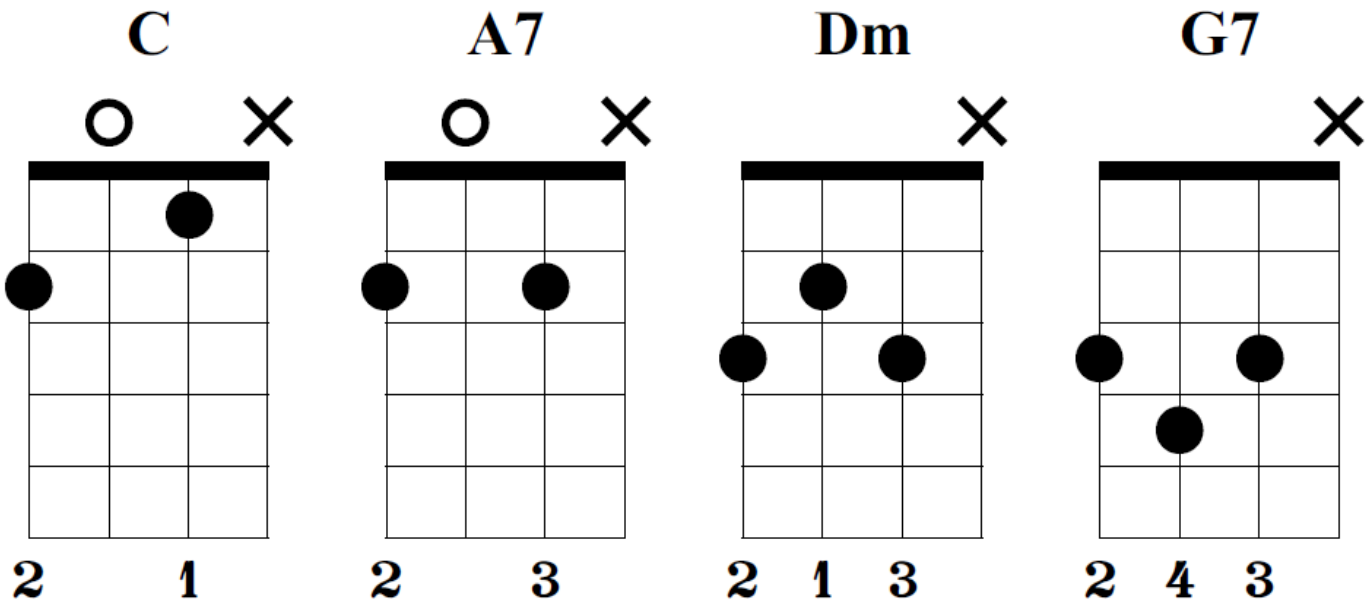
Stay low to maximize sonic range.

The most obvious way to add depth with a baritone ukulele is through use of its lower range. If we stick to the chords in the lower registers, we will never encroach into the range of the other ukes.

We can further enhance this approach by avoiding the 1st string (E).

Range

Here's a common I-VI-ii-V chord progression in the key of C:



Without lifting your middle finger, play through these chords in sets of 1, 2 and 4.

Right-hand technique: Instead of strumming, use the three-finger pinch. All at once, the thumb, index and middle fingers pluck strings 4, 3 and 2 respectively. The thumb will pluck downward while the others pull up.

Rhythm

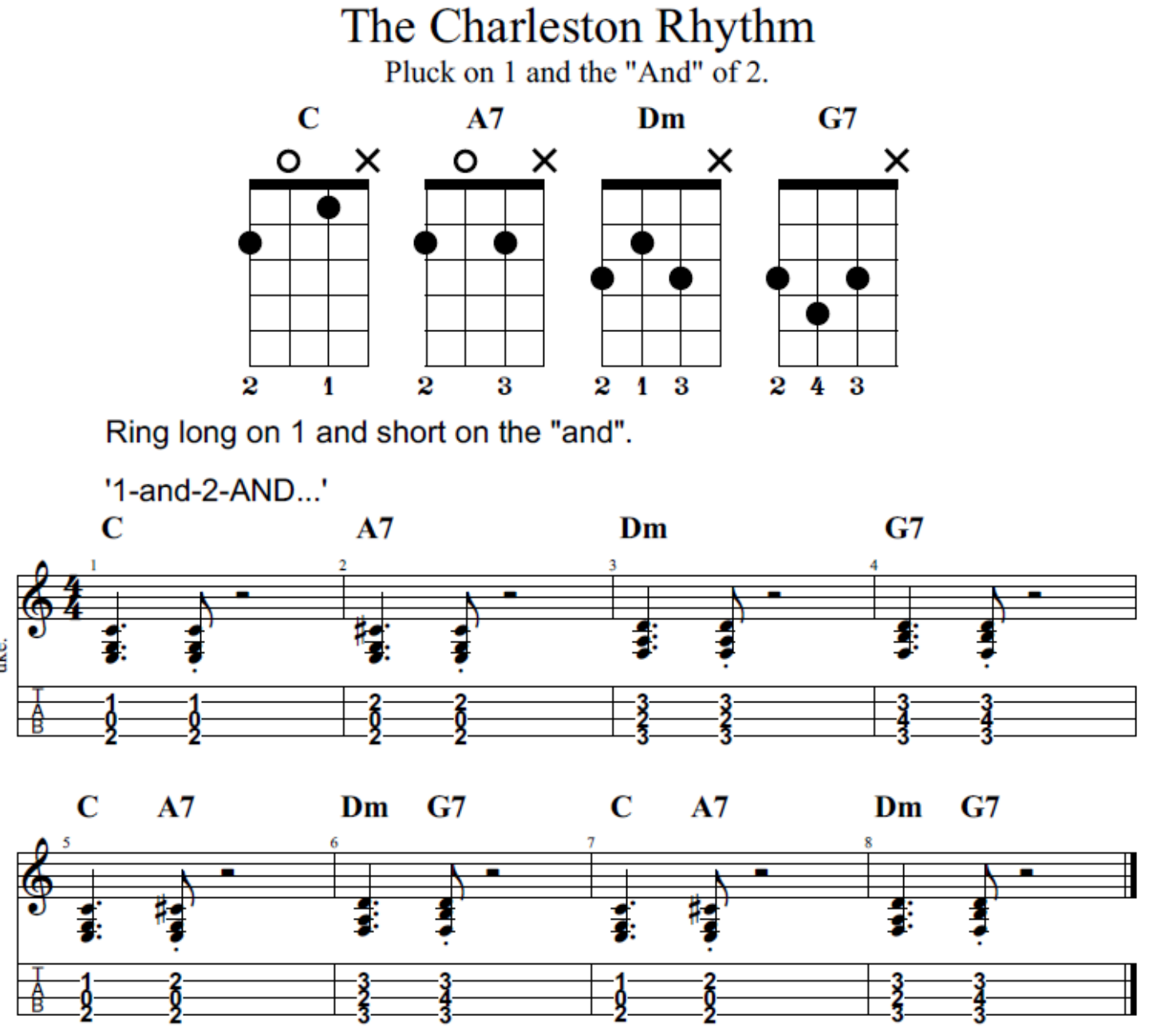
Less is more when providing a second rhythm.

Most ukulele players in your group will be doing some kind of strum, and filling the musical space with constant sound.

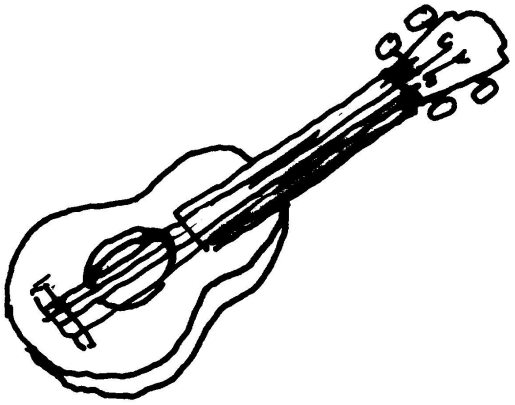
We can compliment this with sparce but deliberate punches like a snare drum or horn section might do.

Rhythm

The *Charleston* rhythm is an example of how to add depth by playing a sparser, more percussive pinch pattern against the same chords:



Texture

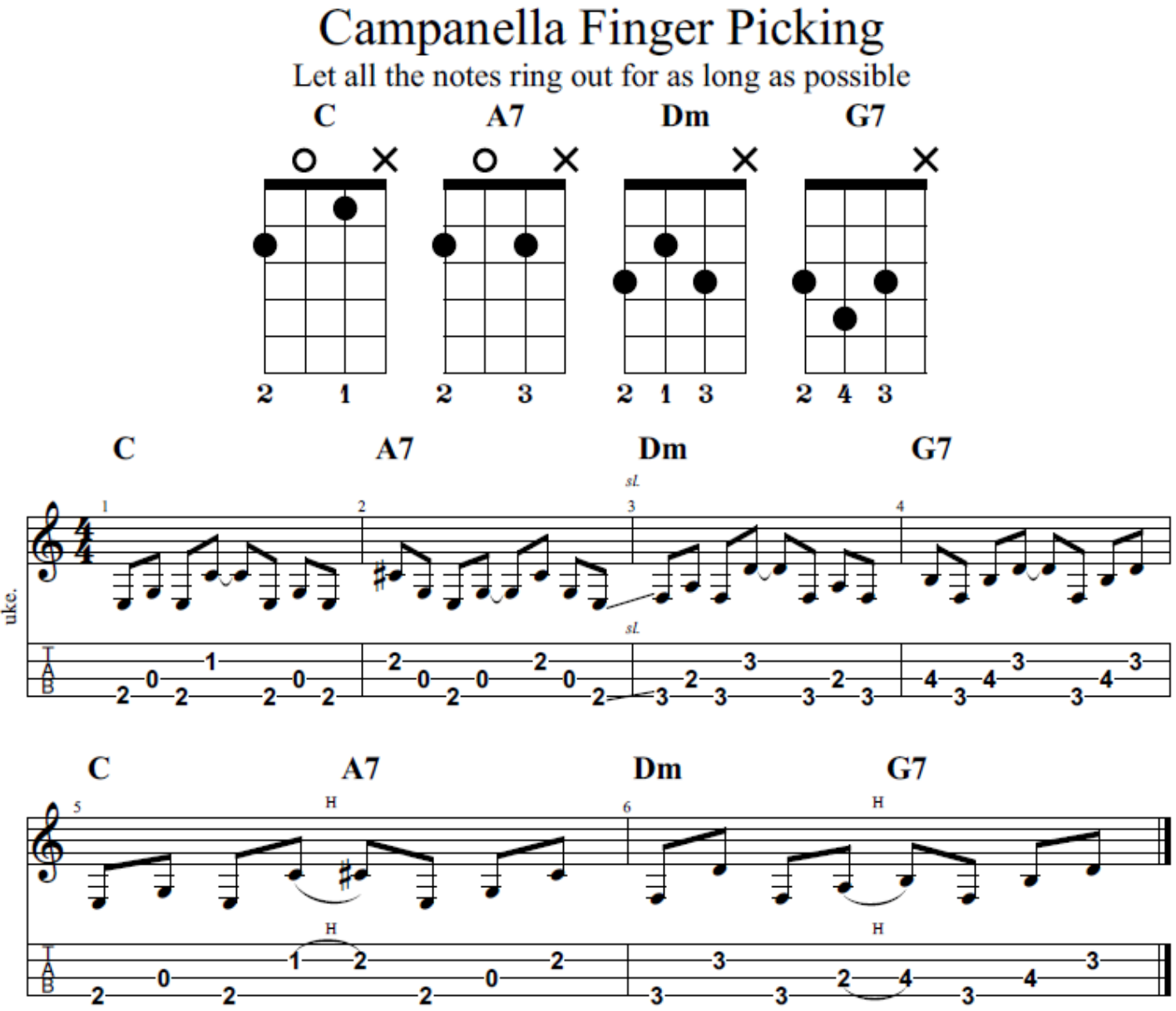


Use campanella to add sparkle.

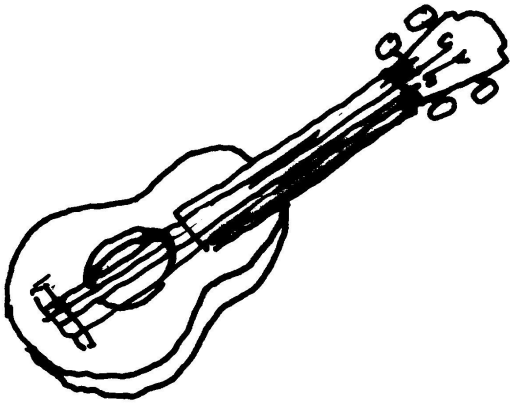
Campanella is a style of finger picking, where each note is allowed to continue ringing for as long as possible. This can add a beautiful, sparkly layer to the group strum.

Texture

Practice these patterns Campanella-style.

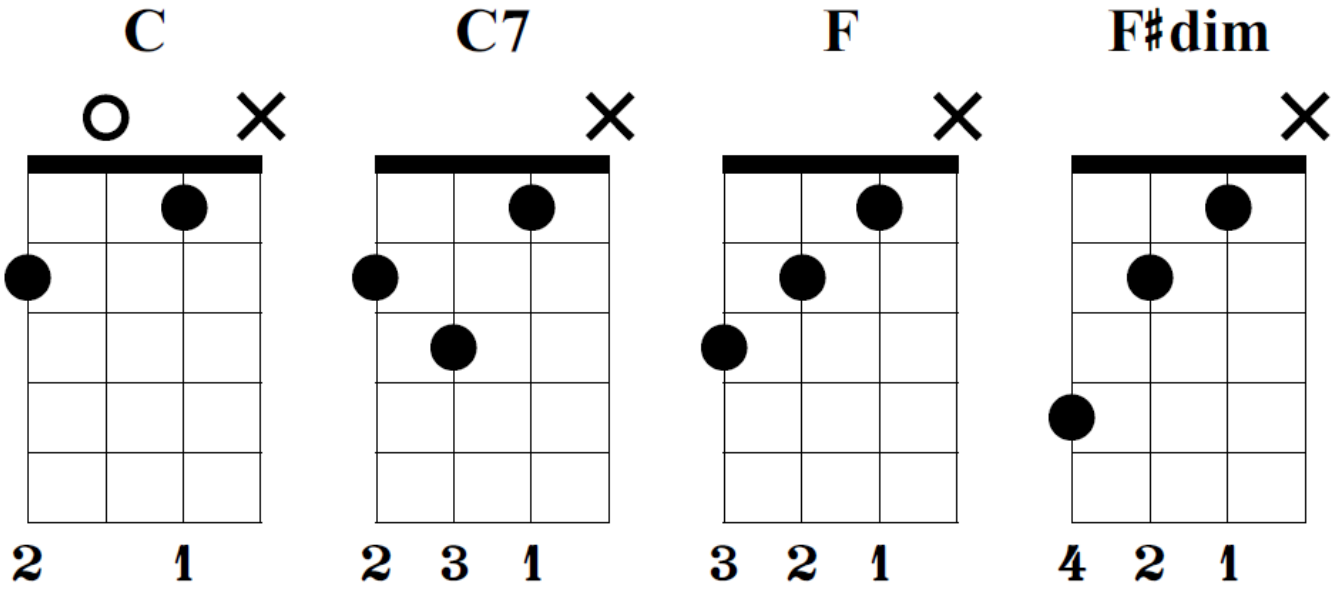


More Chords



Apply your new skills.

Let's try to apply range, rhythm and texture to the following chord progression.



Pinch through these chords in sets of 1, 2 and 4.

Rhythm

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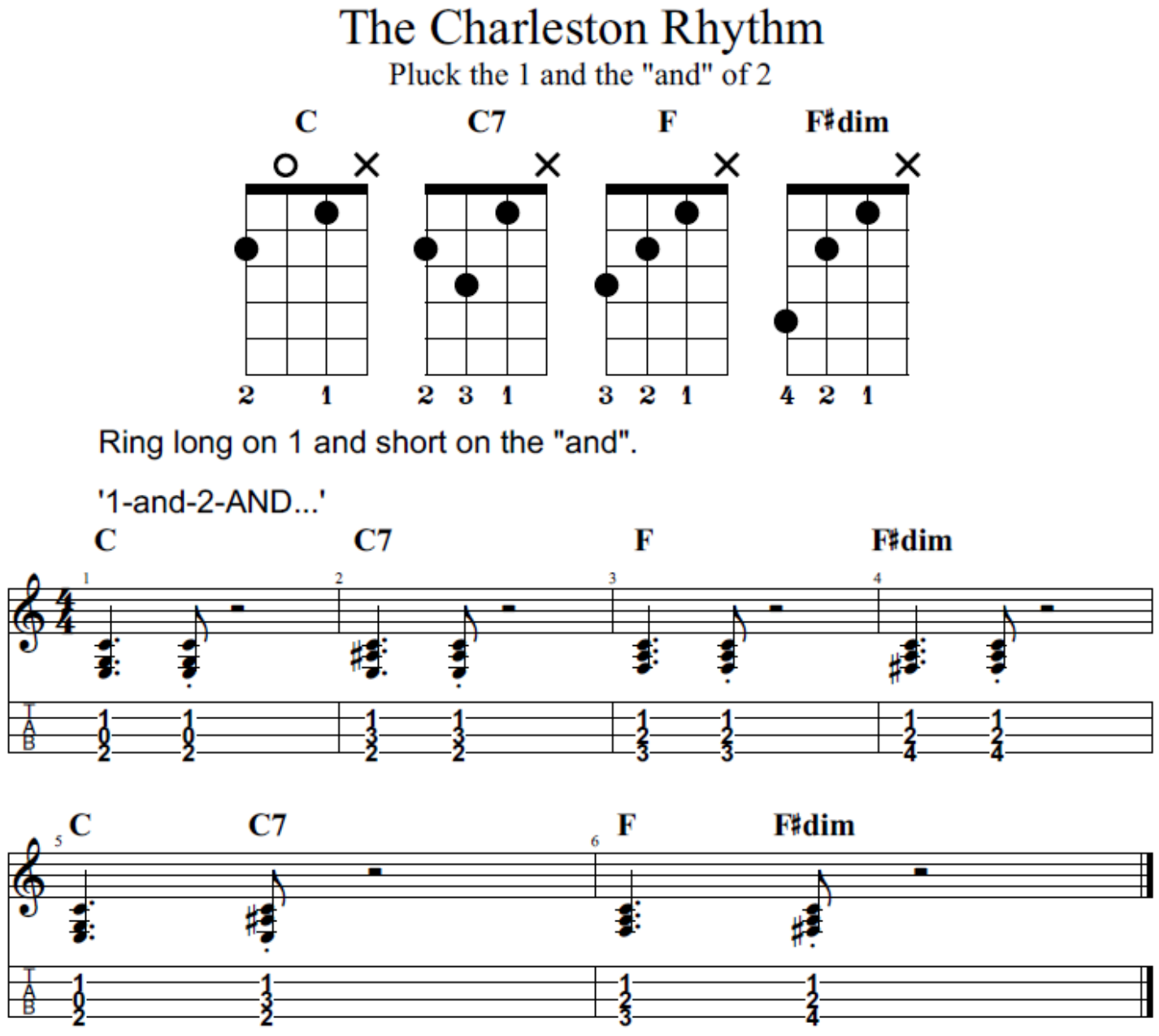
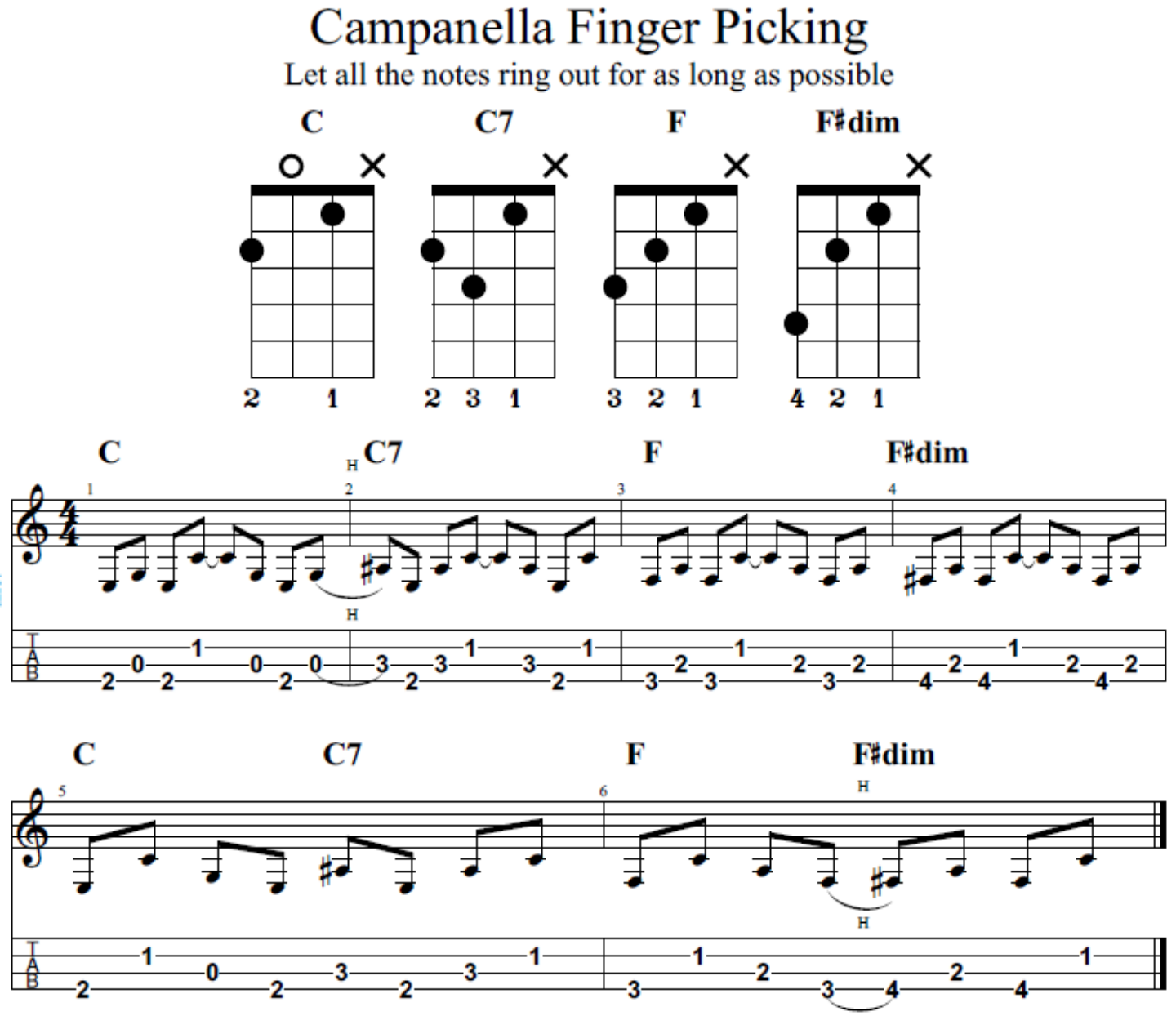
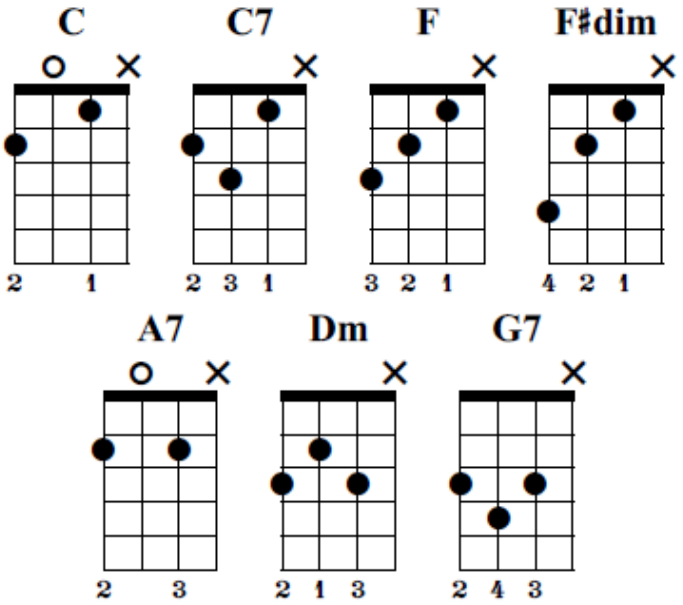
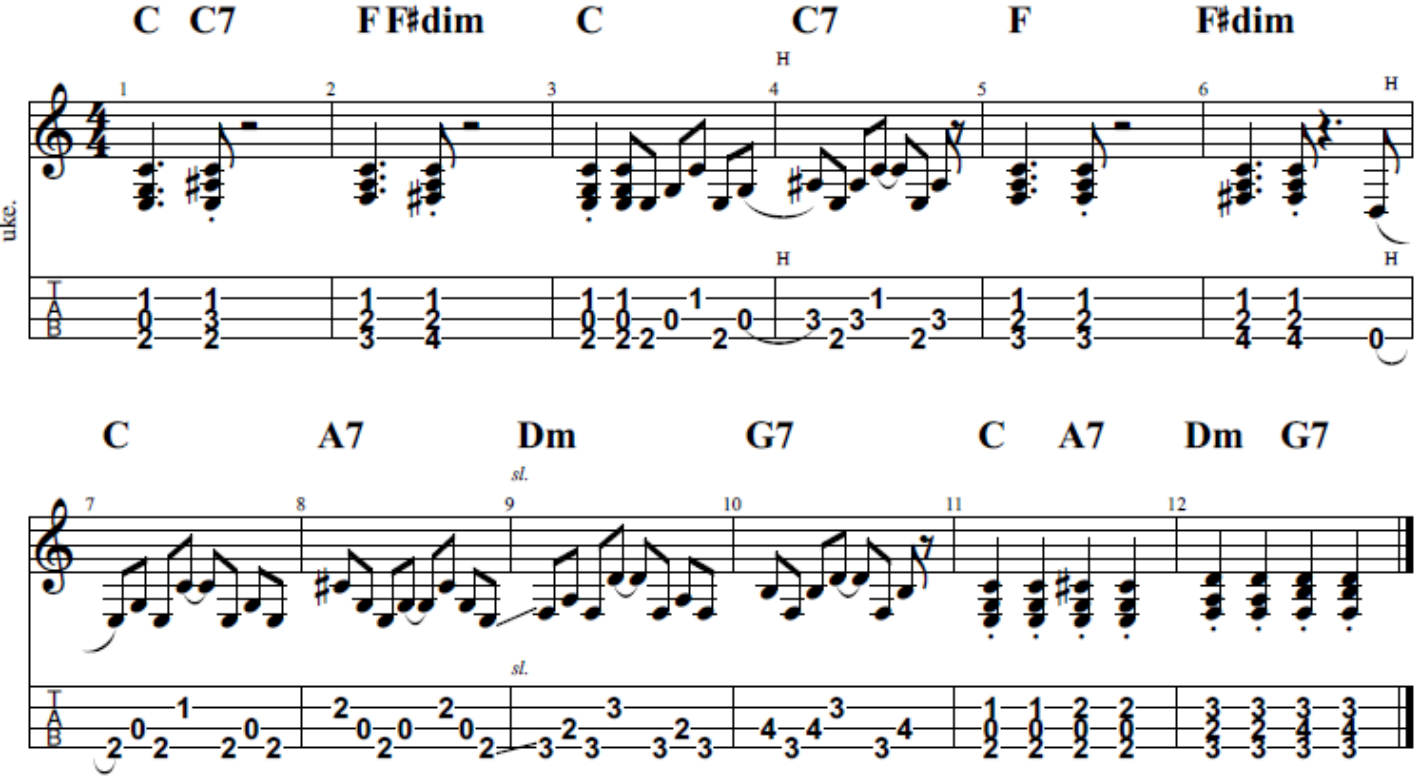


Texture

Practice these patterns Campanella-style.



Mixed Variations

The BA Blues