

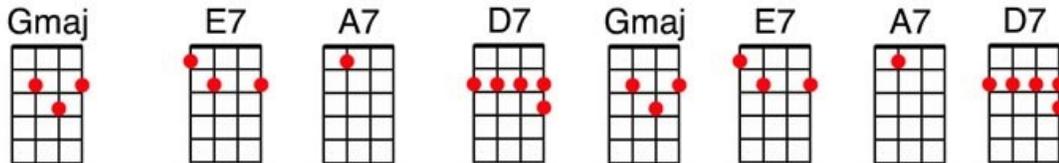
# Flower of Shanghai

words and music by Howlin' Hobbit & T. Spae  
arranged for C tuned ukulele by Howlin' Hobbit

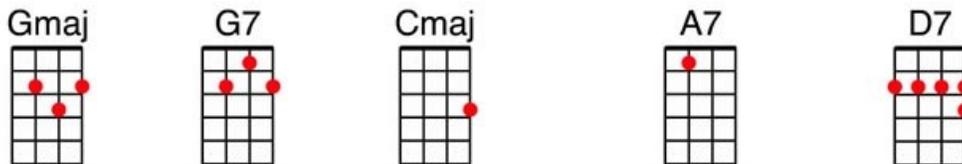
**Intro** (see note #1)

G / G7 / C / / / A7 / D7 / G / / /

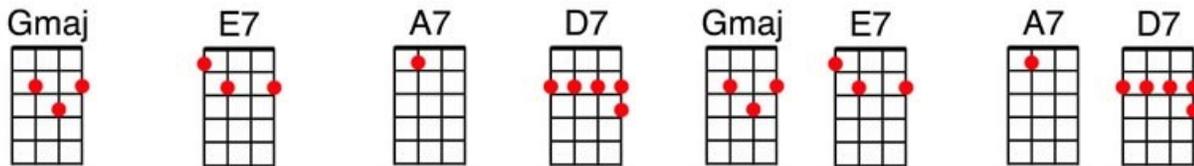
## Verse 1



She's my flower of Shanghai, I'm an ordi - nary guy



She likes steak and fancy drinks, I'm ok with beer and links



She looks chic from toes to tress, All my wardrobe is a mess



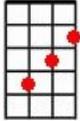
She tools 'round in vintage cars, I hang 'round in bars

## Verse 2

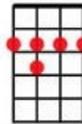
She's my flower of Shanghai  
And no matter how I try  
Every party we attends  
I piss off her high-toned friends  
She buys at the finest shops  
I work hard avoiding cops  
She pays girls to do her nails  
I spend my cash on bail

### Bridge 1

Emin

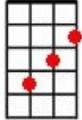


B7

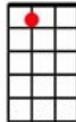


She sits in stately drawing rooms with diplomats and kings

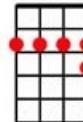
Emin



A7

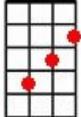


D7

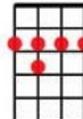


Discussing art and poetry and all the finer things

Emin

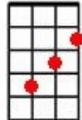


B7

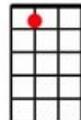


I spend my time in smoky dives while shooting pool and dice

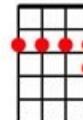
Emin



A7



D7



Consorting with a motley crew, all well endowed with vice

### Verse 3

She's my flower of Shanghai  
And things always go awry  
When she takes a bum like me  
Out with her when she takes tea  
She glides out to opera shows  
I hang out with folks who bowls  
All her books have leather spines  
The comic books are mine

**Instrumental Break** (see note #2)

### Bridge 2

She stands there in an evening gown, a vision to the eyes  
And every time I take her out I fight off other guys  
She doesn't like my low-brow friends, much less my mangy cur  
By now you're prob'ly wondering, what do I see in her?

**Verse 4**

She's my flower of Shanghai  
And I don't mean to imply  
She's any less than number one  
When the day's hard work is done  
Puts on her robe, lets down her hair  
I sit back in my easy chair  
She shows me exactly why  
She's my Flower of Shanghai

## Playing Tips & Notes

### General Notes:

This is the fifth in my series of songsheets for my original tunes. I started to write it way back when as a tune for the jug band but it never got finished. I ended up writing lots more lyrics, including both of the bridges, and re-writing many of the ones that were already there. Combine this with Thadd's help with a new chord progression (I'd forgotten the original one) and able assistance on the bridges and we have pretty much a new tune with the old concept.

This is the easiest of the songs I've posted in this series. No fancy chords whatsoever and, despite what it looks like in this sheet, there's only two progressions, a 16-bar progression that repeats twice for each verse and an 8-bar progression that repeats twice for each bridge.

This tune is built on the classic tin pan alley/jazz format, AABA. This means means a verse part (A) repeated twice, a bridge part (B) done once and then a final A part.

Lastly, the main theme of the verses is the justifiably famous I, VI, II, V progression, aka the "Rhythm Changes," so-named (if I recall correctly) because of the song "I Got Rhythm." Sometimes it's also called the "swing changes." Tons of tunes came out of tin pan alley done like that and lots of mine (or Thadd's and my) tunes do as well. I figure if it was good enough for the likes of the big dogs, it's good enough for me.

Snake Suspenderz released this song on our most recent (to date) album, *Serpentine*. You can hear the tune here:

<http://snakesuspenderz.bandcamp.com/track/flower-of-shanghai>

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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/>

### #1

This is probably "teaching grandma how to suck eggs" but, just in case you're really new to the format, the intro is simply the last 4 bars of the verse. Each of the chord names and slashes simply indicate a beat. Therefore:

G / G7 / C / / /...

... means two beats of G, two beats of G7, four beats of C, etc.

## #2

Play the instrumental break over an entire AABA (see above). If this was a scrawled note at the bottom of your charts, the entire arrangement would look like this: AABA**AABABA**, with the bold parts being the instrumental break. If you're lucky enough to have more than one hot instrumentalist in your band, go ahead and throw in an AABA pass for all of them to show off their chops. Just remember to come back in for the final BA (bridge 2 and verse 4).

Hope you enjoy it. Let me know if you're making a recording or video of it, I'd love to check out your version.

Howlin' Hobbit – [www.howlinhobbit.com](http://www.howlinhobbit.com)  
May 3, 2010