

Woodstock Club Ukulele™

Tuning and Playing Instructions

Woodstock Club Ukulele

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a genuine ukulele. The ukulele has been a popular instrument with both professional and amateur musicians for over 100 years.

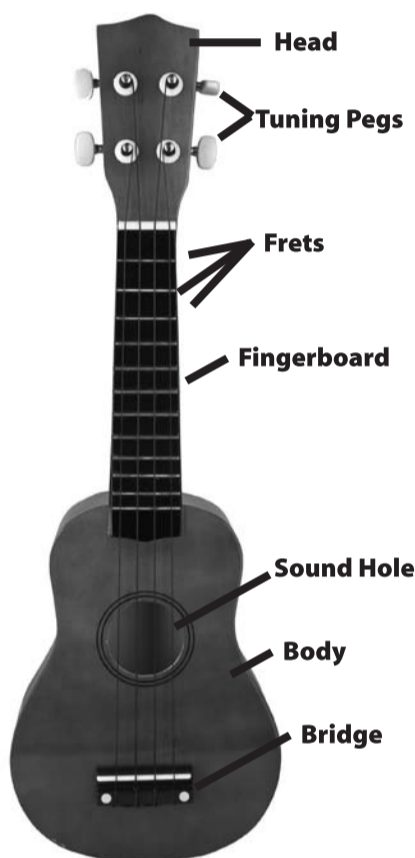
History

The name ukulele literally means “jumping flea.” The predecessor to the ukulele was a Portuguese guitar-like instrument, called the *braguinha*, which was introduced to Hawaii in 1879 by immigrants from the island of Madeira. The ukulele, as we know it, soon became very popular with the Hawaiian people. In 1915, the sweet sounds of the ukulele were heard by a larger American audience at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. A Hawaiian music craze – one that lasted into the 1930s – swept the country.

During the 1950s and 60s, the ukulele experienced a revival, thanks in part to a popular television show, Arthur Godfrey and his Ukulele, and to Hollywood surfer movies such as Blue Hawaii, starring Elvis Presley. More recently, ukulele clubs have become popular with groups of musicians gathering to learn new techniques and add to their repertoire. The ukulele is a perpetual favorite because it is lightweight and portable, easy to play, and it has a very appealing sound that lends itself to many different styles of music.

Parts of the Ukulele

This diagram will help you get to know the parts of your ukulele.



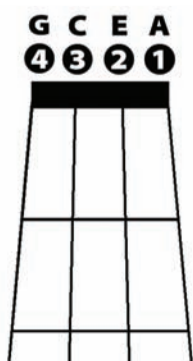
How to Hold Your Ukulele

You should hold the ukulele as if it were a small guitar. You can hold it against your body with your right forearm or let it rest in your lap if you're sitting down. The head of the ukulele should extend to the left in a horizontal position. Your right hand should fall naturally near the sound hole. This hand plucks or strums the strings, while your left hand presses the strings to the fingerboard to make different notes. To get the best sound, you will need to press the strings down firmly just behind the fret, but not touching it. If you're left-handed, you can tune the strings in the reverse order and hold the ukulele with the head extending to your right.

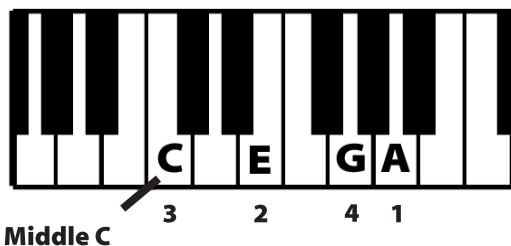
How to Tune Your Ukulele

The strings on your instrument are made of nylon. It will take several tunings before the strings stop stretching and stay in tune, and you'll need to tune your ukulele each time you play it. Turn the tuning pegs to raise or lower the pitch of each string until it is in tune. Do not over tighten the strings. Doing so will cause them to break. If you do break a string, take your ukulele to a local music store to purchase a replacement string.

The strings of your ukulele should be tuned to these notes:



On a piano keyboard, the same notes look like this:



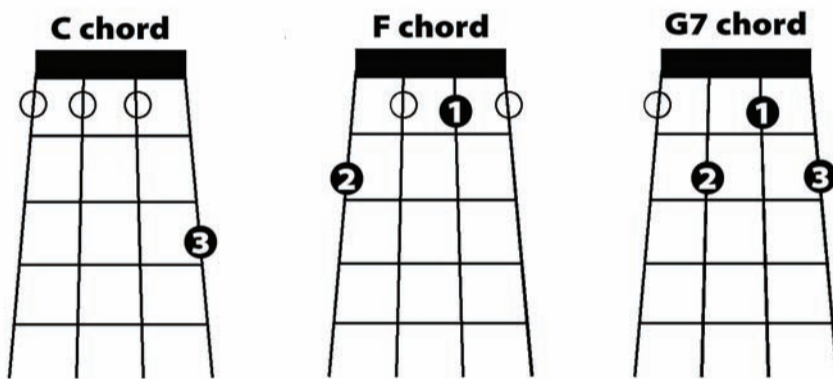
Note that the 4th string is tuned to a note that is actually higher than the 2nd and 3rd strings. If you don't have a piano, go online to your favorite search engine and search for “ukulele tuner”. You should find several online tuners that will help you tune your ukulele. The ukulele can also be tuned by purchasing a pitch pipe at your local music store or tune your ukulele as follows:

Beginning with the 3rd string, tune it to middle C. Or tune it so the string is just tight enough so that it doesn't buzz when you pluck it. Now, with your left index finger, press that string down firmly to the fingerboard just behind the 4th fret. That's an E note. Pluck that string and pluck the open 2nd string. The two notes should sound the same. If they don't, decide whether the 2nd string is higher or lower. Then, by turning the tuning peg, tighten or loosen the 2nd string until the sound matches that of the 3rd string, 4th fret. Tune the other two strings this way:

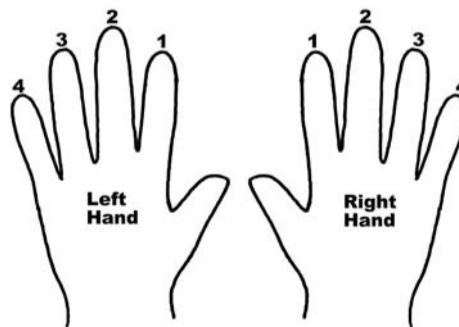
2nd string pressed down at the 5th fret = A (open 1st string)
2nd string pressed down at the 3rd fret = G (open 4th string)

Learning Your First Chords

These diagrams show you how to play chords on your ukulele.

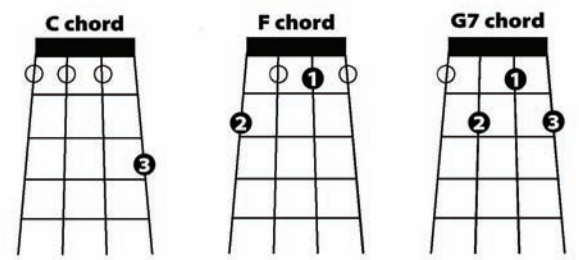


If you learn these three chords, you'll be able to play lots and lots of fun songs. The position of the “dot” tells you which string to press down and behind which fret to press. The number inside the dot tells you which finger to press with. Your fingers are numbered 1 through 4, with your index finger being number 1 and your pinkie finger being number 4. Don't count your thumb. A string that is



marked with a circle instead of a dot indicates that it is an “open” or untouched string. You still have to play it to make the chord. Practice playing each chord separately, starting with the C chord. Using your thumb or pick, play each string separately to be sure each note is clear. Next, practice strumming the chord in

rhythm, counting ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR... ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR. Now, try playing the F chord and then the G7. When you can play each chord cleanly, practice changing chords. Strum the C chord for four beats and then change to the F chord, strumming for four more beats before changing back to C. Then, try adding the G7 chord. It may seem awkward at first, but it takes a little practice to be able to change chords smoothly.



Eency Weency Spider
Traditional

The Eency, weency spi - der went up the wa-ter spout, Down came the rain and washed the spi-der out. Out came the
 G C C C D E E E D C D E C E E F G G F E F G E C C D
 sun and dried up all the rain. Now the een - cy, ween - cy spi - der went up the spout a - gain.
 E E D C D E C G G C C C D E E E D C D E C

Pop Goes the Weasel
Traditional

All a - round the cob - b - ler's bench, The mon - key chased the wea - sel. The
 C G7 C C C G7 C C
 C C D D E G E C C C D D E C C
 mon - key thought 'twas all in fun. Pop, goes the wea - sel!
 C C D D E G E C A D F E C

When the Saints Go Marching In
Music by James Black Words by Katherine Purvis

Oh, when the Saints go march - ing in, Oh, when the Saints go march - ing in. Oh, Lord I
 C C C C C C C G7 C
 C E F G C E F G C E F G C E D E E D
 want to be in that num - ber. When the Saints go march - ing in.
 C C F F C C G7 C
 C E G G G F E F G E C D C

London Bridge
Traditional

Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, fall - ing down, fall - ing down,
 C C G7 C
 G A G F E F G D E F E F G
 Lon - don bridge is fall - ing down, my fair la - dy.
 C C G7 C
 G A G F E F G D G E C

Michael, Row the Boat Ashore
Dave Fisher

Mich - ael, row the boat a - shore, al - le - lu -
 C C C F
 C E G E G A E G A
 ia. Mich - ael row the boat a - shore, al - le - lu - ia.
 C G7 G7 C
 G E G G E F E C D E D E D C

Oh Susannah!
Stephen Foster

I come from A - la - ba - ma with my ban - jo on my knee, I'm going to Louis - i - a - na, My Su - san - nah for to see.
 C D E G G A G E C D E E D C D C D E G G A G E C D E E D D C
 Oh, Su - san - nah! Oh, don't you cry for me, For I come from A - la - ba - ma with my ban - jo on my knee.
 F F A A A G G E C D C D E G G A G E C D G G D D C



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