

BEGINNING UKULELE

HOLDING YOUR UKULELE:

Hold the ukulele with the fretboard (the long skinny part) sitting in the palm of your left hand. The body of the ukulele should be either in your lap or held close to your chest, with your right hand on top of the strings.

TUNING:

When you strum without pressing any fingers on the fretboard, each string should play a certain note. You will need to find some way to play the note you are trying to match, either on another instrument or using one of the tools below. Once you are listening to the note, turn the tuning peg for each string until that string plays the exact same note when you strum it.

These are the notes for each string: (the top string is the one closest to your face when you are holding the fretboard in your left hand):

G (top string)
C
E
A (bottom string)

You can hear the notes on this web site: http://www.get-tuned.com/online_ukulele_tuner.php

If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can buy an app called Guitar Toolkit that comes with a ukulele tuner. You can also buy a ukulele tuner on Amazon.com or at most music stores.

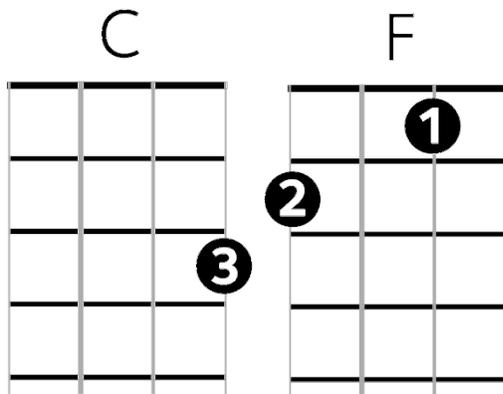
STRUMMING:

There are lots of different ways to strum. You can use a pick, your thumb, your index (pointer) finger, or even the backs of all four fingers. You can strum from the top string to the bottom, or from the bottom string to the top, or you can switch back and forth. The important thing is to practice strumming with a steady beat.

BASIC CHORDS:

Two easy chords to start with are C and F. The diagrams below show where to put your fingers. To read them, imagine that you are holding the ukulele straight up and down, with the tuning pegs at the top. The numbers show you

which finger to use: 1 is your index finger, 2 is your middle finger, 3 is your ring finger:



BEGINNING SONGS:

You can play these songs using just the C chord:

Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Are You Sleeping? (Frere Jacques)
Down By the Station
Three Blind Mice
The Itsy Bitsy Spider
The Farmer in the Dell

Songs with C and F:

Skip to My Lou
London Bridge is Falling Down
Merrily We Roll Along
Everything is Awesome

RECOMMENDED SONGS:

Alfred's Kids Ukulele Course 1 by Ron Manus and L.C. Harnsberger
The Daily Ukulele by Liz and Jim Beloff

RECOMMENDED WEB SITES:

Pineapple Pete's Uke School: <http://www.ukeschool.com>
UkuGuides: <http://ukuguides.com>
DoctorUke.com: <http://www.doctoruke.com>

