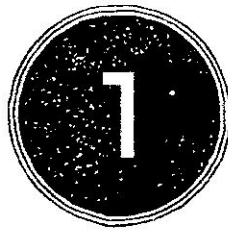




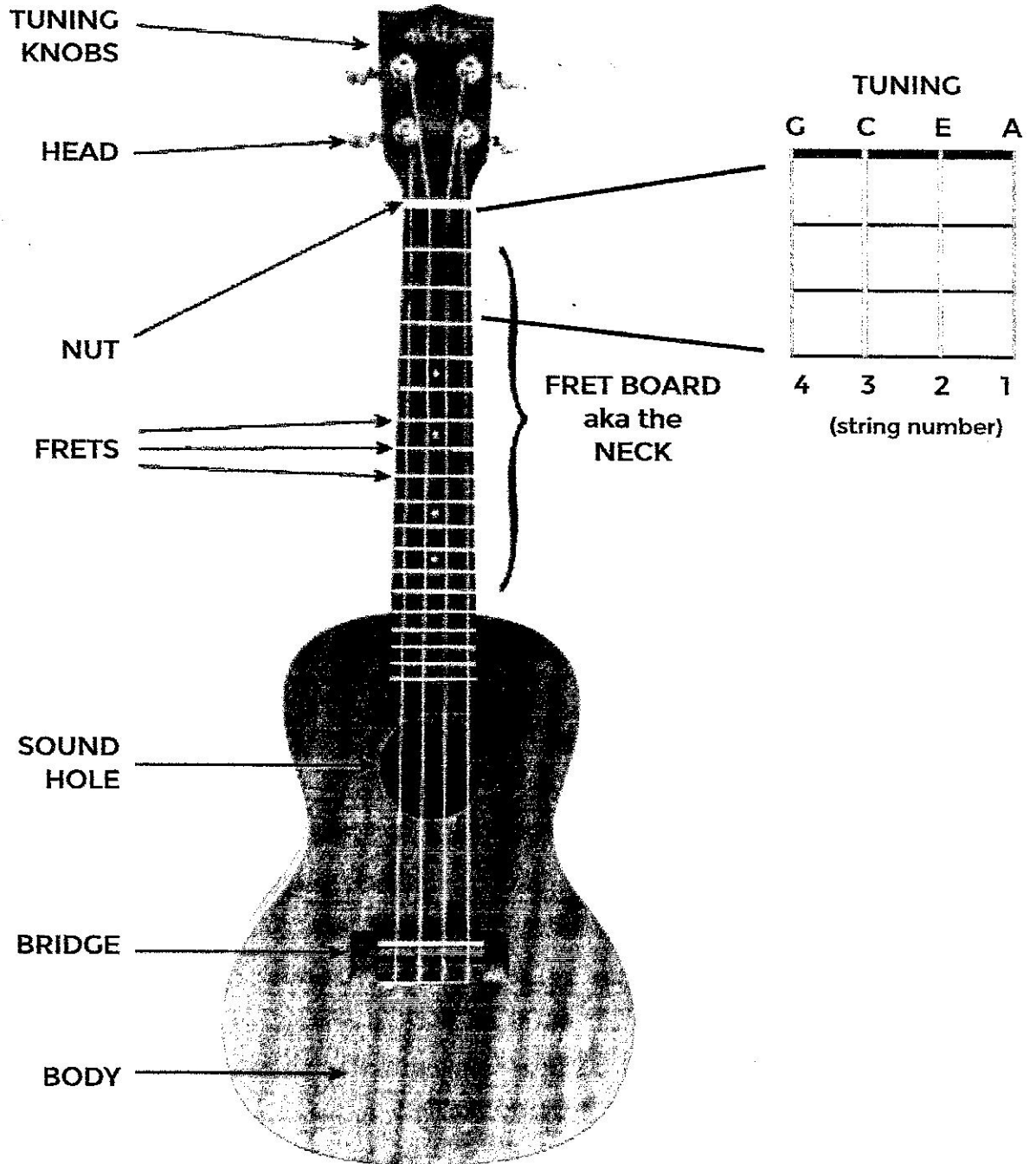
Beginner's Work Book

Modified version of David Broadbent Book

Contents	Page
Ukulele Anatomy	2
Music on the Ukulele	3
Playing Chords	4
Six Common Ukulele Chords	5
Strumming Techniques	6
Ukulele Skills Check List #1	7
Two Chord Songs	8
Three Chord Progression in keys of C & G	9
Ukulele Skills Check List #2	10
The B Flat (Bb) Chord	11
Four Chord Progression Practice Sheet	12
Chord Progression in different keys. Where have all the flowers gone	13
4 Chord Progression	14
Song Summary	15
Strumming Patterns	16
10 Tips for Progression	18



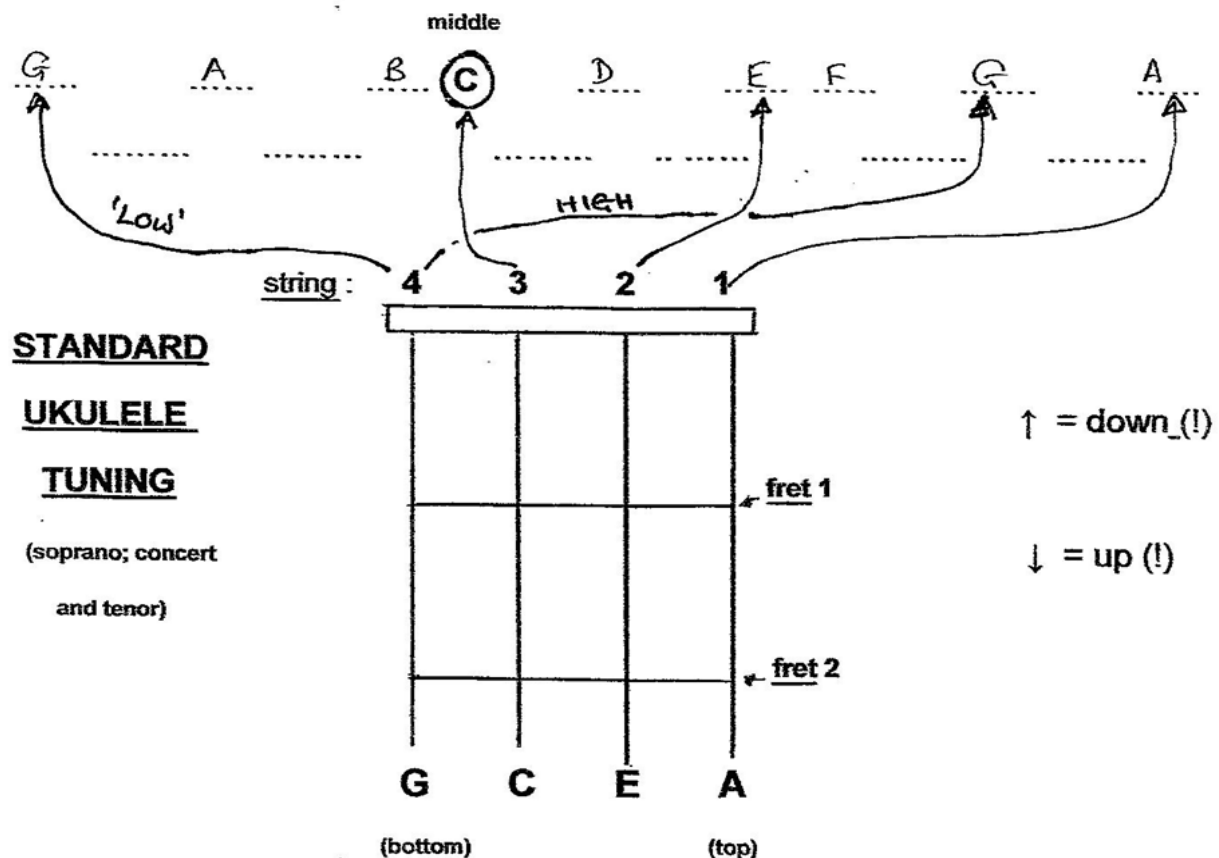
ANATOMY



Music on the Ukulele

Standard Ukulele (soprano, concert, tenor models) normally play music around the scale Middle C (C4) on a keyboard

The scale comprises :-



Remember

G..... C..... E..... A.....

Technical Bit : Standard tuning is also known as **re-entrant** tuning

It is unusual on a stringed instrument because normally the strings get higher in pitch as you move from the bottom (!) string to the top (!) string. This is called **linear** tuning and the G string is **lower** in pitch than the C string

Playing Chords

A chord consists of two or more notes **PLAYED TOGETHER**

To make a song, you need to put different chords together and strum in time
(*see below)

There are thousands of chords but for a simple song you will only need to know **three** or **four**.

Chords are represented in **TWO** main ways:-
e.g. the chord of **F**

Pictorially

The dots

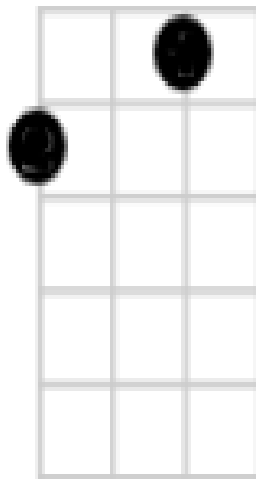
Indicate where

To place your

Fingers

(Always just
Behind the Fret)

G C E A



Numerically (4 digits)

(G) (C) (E) (A)

or **2 0 1 0**

Knowing the chords is actually the easy bit !

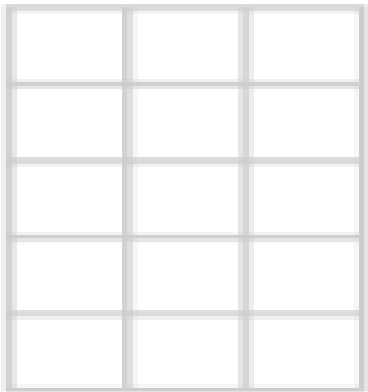
The hard part is **changing** from one to another. To do this, **even slowly**,
takes Practice

REMEMBER: Perseverance is the key!!

*** To start with, just play the chords with a simple down strum**

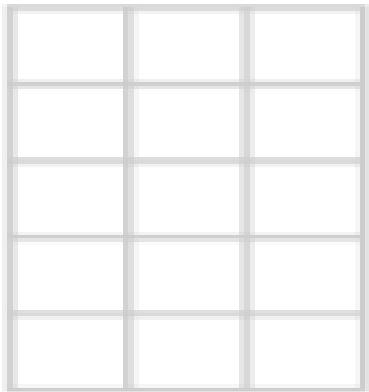
Six Commonly used Chords

F



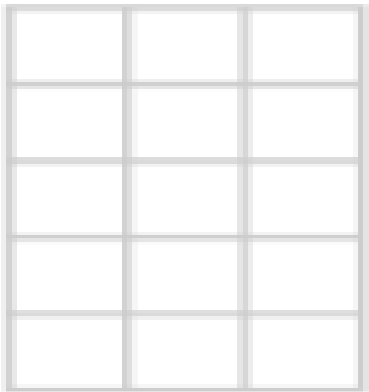
or 2010

C7



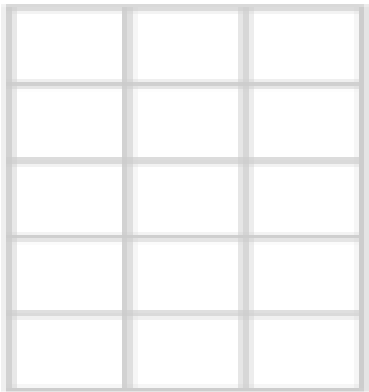
or 0001

C



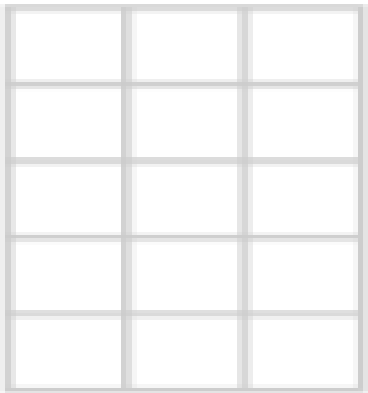
or 0003

G7



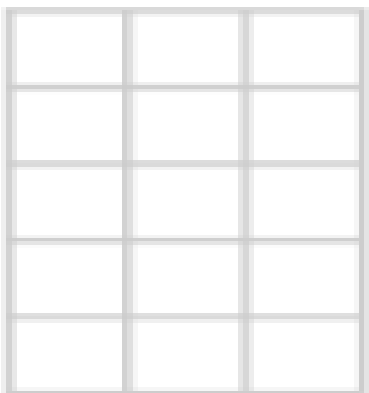
or 0212

G



or 0232

D7



or 2020

Strumming Techniques

Learning to form and change chords with your left hand, is one thing.

Getting the rhythm of the song depends on your right hand strumming those chords.

There are two main options here:-

- ☐ Using your fingers (mainly the 1st) or
- ☐ Using a plectrum (like rock guitarists).

EITHER WAY, TO SOUND GOOD YOU NEED TO STRUM IN TIME !!

(**N.B.** For some this may prove to be the hardest part to playing ukulele.)

Strumming examples

There are different kinds of strumming pattern but they all basically comprise combinations of **DOWNSTROKE** and **UPSTROKE** techniques.

- **Downstroke** (**D** or ↓)
Use the nail of your first finger (or plectrum) to strum down all four strings)
- **Upstroke** (**U** or ↑)
Use the fleshy part of the first finger (or plectrum) to strum up all four strings.

Most songs can be played with a simple down-up-down-up (**DUDU**) combination. This is called the “Common Strum”.

Another “all-purpose” technique is the down-down-up-up-down-up (↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑) which can make songs sound even better.

N.B. If the song is not in standard) 4/4 time then a different strum pattern is needed.

e.g. for $\frac{3}{4}$ (waltz) time we use **D U D** (↓ ↑ ↓) or variations of it.

UKULELE SKILLS CHECKLIST (U3A)

Record Sheet 1

- ☐ **Tuning a ukulele using a chromatic device.** _____
- ☐ **Strumming in (a) 4/4 time (DUDU)** _____
- ☐ **Strumming in (b) 3/4 time (DUD)** _____
- ☐ **Forming the Chords ("clean" sound!)**
 - F** _____ **C7** _____
 - C** _____ **G7** _____
 - G** _____ **D7** _____
- ☐ **Changing quickly from**
 - (a) F to C7 to F** _____
 - (b) C to G7 to C** _____
 - (c) G to D7 to G** _____
- ☐ **Performing**
(verse and chorus) to **(a) "Jambalaya" (F/C7)** _____
(b) "Clementine" (C/G7) _____
(c) "Heart of Texas" (G/D7) _____
- ☐ **Changing quickly from**
 - (a) C to F to G7 to C** _____
 - (b) G to C to D7 to G** _____
- ☐ **Performing**
(verse and chorus) to **"Leaving on a Jet Plane"** _____
"Blowin in the Wind" _____
"The Wild Rover" _____

Find all Songs in Beginners Songs in wakeylele.com under the menu item 'Current Songs(Repertoire)' and choose 'Beginners Songs' or Click here

Two Chords Songs

All these songs have only two chords in them.

If played in the key of **C** you will need to know **C** and **G7**

If played in the key of **G** you will need to know **G** and **D7**

If played in the key of **F** you will need to know **F** and **C7**

Once mastered in one key (suggest you start with C) then try and play them in G and F. (You could copy the C version and write in the new chords)

Aloutte

Blow the man down

Buffalo Gals

Clementine

Deep in the heart of Texas

Don't let the stars get in your eyes

Down by the riverside

Down in the valley

Fiddler on the roof

Gentle on my mind

Get along little doggie

Gonna get along without you

Hail, hail the gangs all here

He's got the whole world in his hands

How much is that doggie in the window

It ain't gonna rain no more

Jambalaya

La cucharacha

Love makes the world go round

Marianne

Music, music, music

Oakie from Muskogee

Pistol packin mama

Play a simple melody

Polly wolly doodle

Put your arms around me, honey

Row, row, row your boat

Skip to my Lou

Singin in the rain

There'll be a hot time in the old town

Three blind mice

Tom Dooley

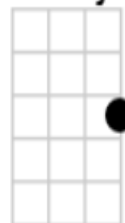
Twinkle, twinkle little star

When it's springtime in the Rockies

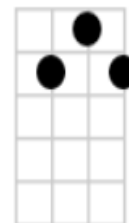
When my blue moon turns to gold again

Key of C

Cmaj

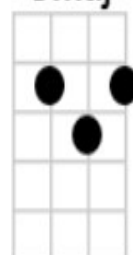


G7

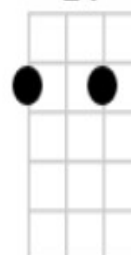


Key of G

Gmaj

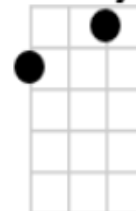


D7



Key of F

Fmaj



C7



Three Chord Progression

Many songs contain only three chords.

Those in the **key of C** mainly use chords **C, F and G7**.

For these sequences:

(1)	C	F	G7	C
(2)	C	G7	F	C

Strum **(DUDU ↓↑↓↑)**

a) 4 times per chord
b) 2 times per chord (!)
c) 1 time per chord (!!)

Now try repeating all this in **3/4 time (DUD ↓↑↓)**

in the **key of G** mainly use chords **G, C and D7**

For these sequences:

(1)	G	C	D7	G
(2)	G	D7	C	G

Strum (DUDU ↓↑↓↑)

a) 4 times per chord
b) 2 times per chord (!)
c) 1 time per chord (!!)

Now try repeating all this in **3/4 time (DUD ↓↑↓)**

(U3A)

Record Sheet 2

- **3 Chord Progression**

a) C – F – G7 - C _____

Strumming (2 bars of each chord)

In **(1)** 4/4 time **(2)** 3/4 time

b) C - G7 -F -C _____

c) G - C - D7 - G _____

d) G – D7 – C – G _____

e) F – Bb – C7 – F _____

f) F – C7 – Bb – F _____

□ Performing

(verse and chorus)

a) Blowin in the Wind _____

b) Wild Rover

c) Jamaica Farewell

□ Forming the Chords ("clean" sound!)

Am _____ **Em** _____

Dm _____ **Bb** _____

- **4 Chord Progression**

(a) C – Am – F – G7 - C _____

Strum (2 bars each chord)

In 4/4 time

(b) G - Em - C - D7 - G _____

(c) F – Dm – Bb – C7 - F _____

- **Performing (a) Mairi's Wedding**

(b) Stand by Me _____

(c) Where have all the flowers gone _____

Find all Songs in Beginners Songs in wakeylele.com under the menu item 'Current Songs(Repertoire)' and choose 'Beginers Songs' or Click Here

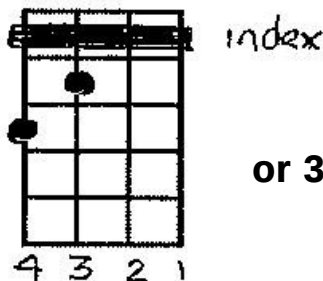
The B Flat (Bb) Chord

Two chord songs in the key of **F** use chords **F** and **C7**. For a three chord song the third chord needed is **Bb**. This often proves to be a tricky chord for beginners and, for some, remains so throughout their playing careers!

There are (at least) 3 ways to form the **Bb** chord.

Way 1: Using a full barre

Here the index finger is used to fret all four strings at the first fret
The middle finger frets string 3 at fret 2. The ring finger frets string 4 at fret 3 :-

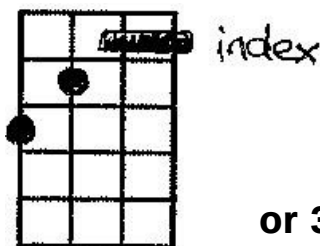


or **3211**

Using a full barre requires a strong index finger and needs lots practice

Way 2: Using a half barre

As above, the middle finger frets string 3 at fret 2 and the ring finger frets string 4 at fret 3 :-

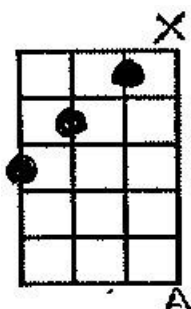


or **3211**

Using the index finger to barre strings 1 and 2
Some find this easier than the full barre but again it needs lots practice

Way 3: "Cheat" version

This is a 3-string chord and will sound right if the top (A) is not played.
This is easier to do by using downstrokes only when strumming



or **321X** (X = not played)

THREE CHORD PROGRESSION : in the key of F (practice sheet)

Three-chord songs in the key of **F** use the chords **F**; **C7** and **Bb**.

(At this stage, though you should be practising the full or half-barre versions, it will suffice to use the easier **three-string** (“cheat”) version of Bb).

For these chord sequences : **(1) F Bb C7 F**

(2) F C7 Bb F

Strum ↓↑↓↑ **(DUDU)** : (a) **4 times** per chord (16 strums)

(b) **2 times** per chord (8 strums)

(c) **1 time** per chord (4 strums)

Repeat all above but in 3/4 time (DUD) (12; 6 and 3 strums)

Try this now:-

(Which time signature is it in?)

Happy **[F]** birthday to **[C7]** you

Happy birthday to **[F]** you.

Happy birthday dear **[Bb]**

Happy **[F]** birthday **[C7]** to **[F]** you!

(This, the most popularly-rendered song in the world is in **3/4 time** and, amazingly, usually always sung in the key of F!!)

Four Chord Progression

Practice Sheet

There are thousands of songs containing just three chords.
Adding a 4th chord adds even more interest to a song.

A very common technique is to use the **relative minor** chord in a scale to boost the usual 3 chord progression.

- In the **key of C** the relative minor is the chord **Am**(inor).
So the (new) 4 chord progression us:

C Am F G7

- In the **key of G** the relative minor is the chord **Em**(inor).
and the progression us:

G Em C D7

- In the **key of F** the relative minor is the chord **Dm**(inor).
• and the progression us:

F Dm Bb C7

Sequences such as these were very common in the late 50s and 60s era. It was known as the Doo-Wop progression

For each of these sequences: **1) C – Am – F – G7 – C**

2) G – Em – C - D7 - G

3) F – Dm – Bb - C7 - F

Strum **(DUDU ↓↑↓↑)**
4 / 4 time

- a) 4 times per chord**
- b) 2 times per chord (!)**
- c) 1 time per chord (!!)**

Now try repeating all this in **3 / 4 time (DUD ↓↑↓)**

4 Chord Progression in different keys

Where Have All the Flowers Gone

Pete Seeger

[1] Where have all the [2] flowers gone, [3] long time [4] passing?
[1] Where have all the [2] flowers gone, [3] long time [4] ago?
[1] Where have all the flowers [2] gone?
[3] Young girls picked them [4] everyone.
[3] When will they ever [1] learn? [3] When will they [4] ever [1] learn?

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
[C]	[Am]	[F]	[G7]
		or	
[G]	[Em]	[C]	[D7]
		or	
[F]	[Dm]	[Bb]	[C7]

Song Summary

Progression		2 Chord	3 Chord	4 Chord
Key	Chords	C G7	C F G7	C Am F G7
	Example	Whole World in his hands	Blowin in the Wind	Mairi's Wedding
G	Chords	G D7	G C D7	G Em C D7
	Example	Down in the Valley	Wild Rover (3/4)	Stand by Me
F	Chords	F C7	F Bb C7	F Dm Bb C7
	Example	Jambalaya	Jamaica Farewell	Teenager in Love

Find all Songs in Beginners Songs in wakeylele.com under the menu item 'Current Songs(Repertoire)' and choose 'Beginers Songs' or [click here](#)

UKES FOR ALL

UKE STRUMMING PATTERNS

The grids below show 'bars' of music divided into 4 beats (crochets) for each bar, where each beat is divided into 2 notes (quavers), making 8 notes to the bar. This is the most common timing for pop, rock and country songs. Count '1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and' etc. where the number is a down stroke and the 'and' is an up stroke. Start off slowly and gradually speed up as you learn each pattern.

Basic Shuffle 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
d u	d u	d u	d u

The very basic uke strum - down, up etc. Each 'note' or strum is of the same length, this is known as 'even time'.

Swing Shuffle 1 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓	↓ ↑	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
D	d u	d u	d u

Miss out the first 'and' and accent the first beat (in other words the note is longer) - this gives a syncopated skipping feel. Song: 'Why Don't You Love Me'

Swing Shuffle 2 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓	↓	↓ ↑	↓ ↑
d	D	d u	d u

Miss out the first 2 'and's, and then on bars 3 & 4 say the word 'chugga'. Accent the 2nd beat. One of the most common strum patterns, especially in folkie type songs. Song: 'Folsom Prison Blues'

Skip Shuffle 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓	↓	↓	↓ ↑
d	d	d	d u

Miss out the first 3 'and' s and then put a 'chugga' on bar 4. Song: Sweet Caroline.

Church Lick 01 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓	↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑
d	d u	d	d u

Miss out the 'and's on bars 1 & 3. Song: 'You Are My Sunshine'

Church Lick 02 4/4 time

1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑	↓
d u	d	d u	d

This is a variation on the Church Lick. The 2nd & 4th 'ands' are missed out.

Count 1		Strum		4/4 time	
1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and		
! Clip	<i>l</i> <i>J</i>	<i>i</i> Clip	<i>l</i> <i>i</i>		
d	d u	d	d u		

'Clip' the strings on the down stroke for bars 1 & 3, it's not a full strum.
Song: 'Tum, Tum, Turn'

Cla1ypso			4/4 time
1 and	2 and	3 and	4 and
			
d	d u	u	d u

Combines the 2 Church Licks.
Song: 'Jamaica Farewell'

Strums that have the emphasis on the 2nd and 4th beat.

Back Beat			4/4 time
1	2	3	4
l l	i r	l l	i r
d u	D u	d u	D u

Put the emphasis on the 2nd and 4th beat
Song: 'Heroes'

Reggae		4/4. time	
1	2	3	4
			
d u	D u	d u	D u

Emphasise the 2nd and 4th beat. The dashed lines mean the strings are muted to give a percussive sound.
Song: '3 Little Birds'

Strums for songs in 3/4 time and 2/4 time

Basic Waltz		3/4 time
1	2	3
 <i>Thumb</i>		
t	d	d

Use your thumb to play the G string on the first beat, followed by 2 down strokes.

Full Waltz		3/4 time
1	2	3
		
d	d u	d u

A full down stroke on the first beat, followed by down. up, down, up.
Song: 'Mull Of Kinlyre'

Polka		2/4 time	
1	2		
<i>i</i> Clip	<i>i</i>		
d	D		

'Clip' the 1st beat and then accent the 2nd.
Song: 'Its All Over Now'

All these strumming patterns are meant only as guides. Practice them by all means but you don't have to follow them slavishly. Don't let them constrain your playing. It's much better to listen to the music and feel the rhythms that come naturally.

"First you master your instrument, then you master the music; then you forget about all that and just play." - Charlie Parker

10 TIPS FOR PROGRESSION

Happy to further your enjoyment of ukulele playing? Here are some suggestions to facilitate your progress.

1. Contemplate purchasing a better instrument

- decide the size and the budget
- always try to inspect/play before you buy.

2. Keep the instrument in temperate conditions

- excessive levels of heat and humidity can damage it.

3. Keep your ukulele (more or less) in tune

- regularly check the tuning to avoid potential string damage

4. Learn how to change the strings

- buying new strings is a minefield
- fitting them requires some little expertise

5. Always adopt a comfortable position to play

- develop good posture to avoid unnecessary strains etc.
- practise playing standing-up using a music stand

6. Keep your fingernails short (ish)

- long nails diminish both left and right hand functions

7. Gradually amass a wider knowledge of chords

- remember the real skill here is to form them "cleanly"

8. Master the basic 2,3 and 4-chord progressions

- there are lots of other songs using simple chord sequences
- search them out before going on to more complex ones

9. Don't stress over strumming patterns

- you know the *basic* patterns work
- never forsake rhythm in attempting more complex patterns

10. Practice! Practice! Practice!