



Learn to play Sample Pack

Ukulele



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Learn to play Sample Pack

Ukulele



One of the few silver linings of these difficult times is a bit more time and inclination to take up a new skill or improve on an old one. Since lock down there has been a huge uptake in music making in the home and across the internet.

For beginners or those returning to an instrument after some time off, 'Learn To Play Sample Packs' present FREE content from some of the most popular tuition books on the market, distributed by Hal Leonard Europe. From tried-and-tested methods that have sold hundreds of thousands of copies, to fresh new learning approaches, each Sample Pack includes introductory lessons to help you or your child get off to the perfect start.

The ukulele has enjoyed huge popularity in the last few years. Compact, quick to learn, and easy to sing along to, it is the perfect instrument for beginner musicians of all ages. With countless books of arrangements for uke, from classics to modern-day smash hits, it's also the perfect instrument to start playing almost any repertoire.

Here we outline the most popular methods on the market, covering their strengths, and providing sample pages for a taster of what's included. The books included are:

Ukulele From The Beginning
CH72820

Hal Leonard Ukulele Method
HL00695847

Absolute Beginners Ukulele
AM998723

Uke'n Play Ukulele
AM1011615

Rockschoool Ukulele Method
RSK200123

Ukulele Magic
9781408186985

Ukulele *from the* Beginning



Reasons to pick this method

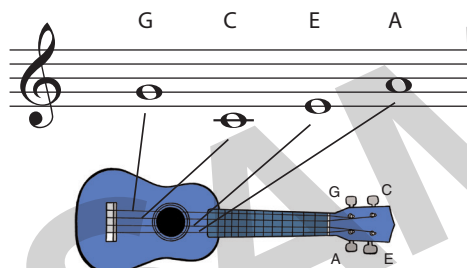
- Probably the UK's most popular ukulele method
- Suitable for individual or group learning
- No previous music experience necessary, making it ideal for parents wanting to learn alongside their child
- Excellent selection of songs suitable for young children
- Series includes two tutor books and six complementary song books, each affordably priced

Getting started

Welcome to Ukulele From The Beginning. If you're new to the instrument, you'll need to know a few basic things before you can start playing.

Strings & Tuning

The ukulele's four strings are tuned to the following notes:



You can find these notes on a piano or use an electronic tuner. Turn each tuning peg until the string reaches the same pitch as the tuning note—turning clockwise makes the note higher, anti-clockwise makes it lower.

4

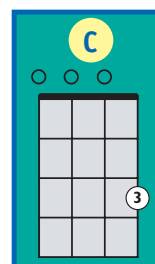
Chords

Rather than playing single notes as you might on a recorder or violin, most ukulele playing involves strumming all four strings at once. The sound you make will depend on where you place your left-hand fingers. The word for several notes played together is 'chord'—all the music in this book contains chord symbols so you know which chords to play. These usually have simple names like C and F; some have longer names like G7 ("G seven") and Am ("A minor").

The easiest way to learn a new chord is a **chord box**. This shows the strings as vertical lines, the frets as horizontal lines and the fingers as numbered dots or circles. The circle means that you play an open string.

The first song in this book uses just one chord! Here it is.

This box means: place your 3rd left hand finger at the 3rd fret on the A string.



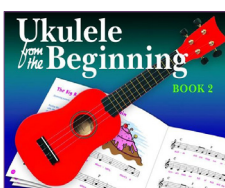
Click below for links to this book and relevant material



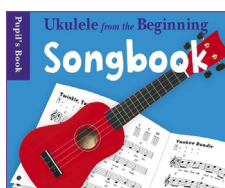
Ukulele From The Beginning



Ukulele From The Beginning
(CD Edition)



Ukulele From The Beginning Book 2



Ukulele From The Beginning Songbook

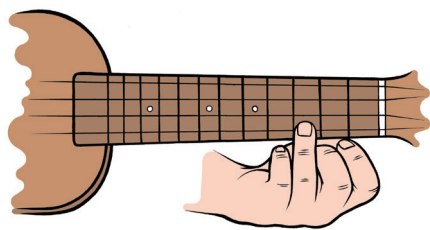


Ukulele From The Beginning Songbook Book 2

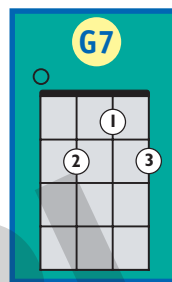


Ukulele from the Beginning Christmas Songbook

So when you see the 'C' chord symbol in any song in this book, all you need is your third finger. Just make sure you get it in the right place!

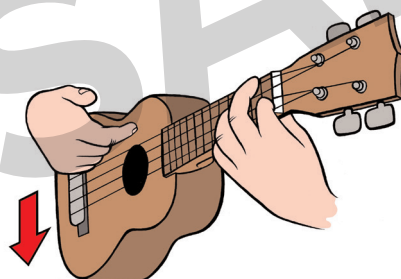


For the next few songs, you'll need one more chord:



Practise getting your fingers round these before starting the songs!

Strum all four strings with your right hand, using either your thumb or all your fingers together. For our first few songs, simply strum downwards on each beat:



5

Reading Music

It's best to learn the ukulele as an accompaniment to singing, so this book is full of songs we hope you know so you can sing and play. To play the ukulele you don't need to read music, but we have written out the tunes in this book under the chord symbols to help you know when to play (or they could be played on another instrument).

The tune has been written on the **stave**. This is made of five lines. The position of the note on the stave tells you how high or low it is.

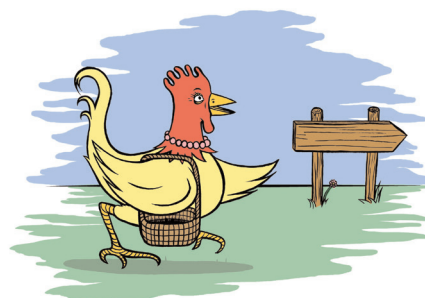


Music is written in bars, to help organise the rhythm. The **time signature** tells you how many beats are in a bar (the top number) and what type of beat (underneath).

Notes and values

- Semibreve or Whole Note
Equals four crotchets—play the note for four counts.
- ⏏ Minim or Half Note
Equals two crotchets—play the note for two counts.
- ♪ Crotchet or Quarter Note
One crotchet equals one count.
- ♪ Quaver or Eighth Note
Equals half a crotchet—play the note for half a count.
- ♪ Semi-quaver or Sixteenth Note
Equals a quarter of a crotchet—play the note for a quarter of a count.

The example above therefore has four crotchets in every bar. Different time signatures create different feels.



6

HAL LEONARD UKULELE METHOD

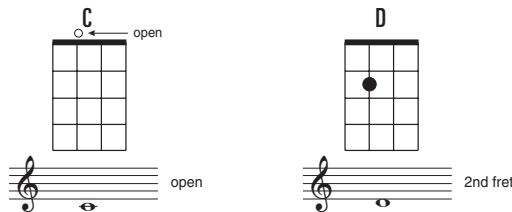


Reasons to pick this method

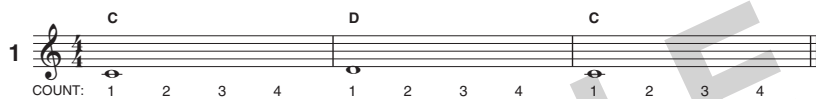
- Part of Hal Leonard's best-selling method series
- Includes a wide range of musical styles, including children's songs, folk, blues and old-time favourites
- Written by acclaimed US ukulele master, Lil' Rev
- A very thorough tutor, covering the history of the instrument, scales, tremolos, notation, melody playing, and more
- Series includes two tutor books, a "for Kids" tutor, two easy songbooks, a left-handed version & DVD

NOTES ON THE C STRING

We begin learning notes on the C string, or third string, because in C tuning, the fourth (G) string is usually not fingered except when making chords. However, many players (like Hawaii's legendary Ohta San) tune the G string low so that it can be used for melody playing.



Play these whole notes using your thumb, and count "1-2-3-4."



Now try playing C and D using half notes. Count "1-2-3-4."



In **tablature** (or **tab**) notation, the horizontal lines represent strings. The numbers indicate which fret to play (0 = open). You'll always see the tab staff under the main staff.

Keep using your thumb, and count "1-2-3-4" while playing these quarter notes.



Let's mix it up a little more now!

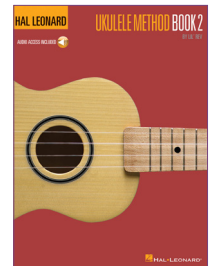


8

Click below for links to this book and relevant material



Book 1
& Audio



Book 2
& Audio



Ukulele for Kids

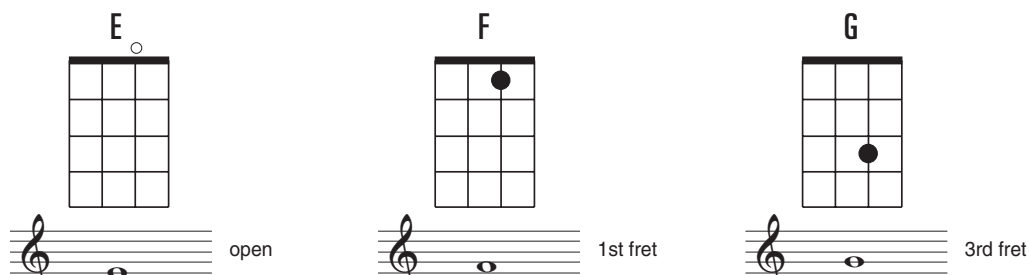


More Easy Songs
for Ukulele
& Audio



Ukulele Method
DVD

NOTES ON THE E STRING



Count "1-2-3-4" as you did on the last exercise.

Each time you repeat these exercises, try picking up the speed without sacrificing accuracy.



Exercise 5:

Notes: E E E E F F F F G G G G G G E E

Fretboard diagram (T, A, B strings):

0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Now let's mix it up again.

Exercise 6:

Notes: E E F F G G F F G G F F G F E E

Fretboard diagram (T, A, B strings):

0	0	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

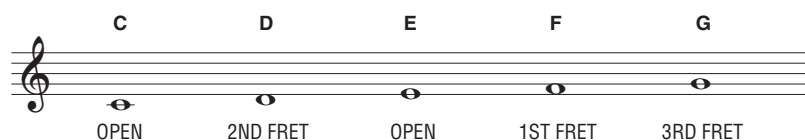
Exercise 7:

Notes: E F G G E G F F G F E E G F E

Fretboard diagram (T, A, B strings):

0	1	3	3	0	3	1	1	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

C AND E STRING REVIEW



FRÈRE JACQUES (Are You Sleeping?)

Children's Melody

8

Musical staff for measure 8 of Frère Jacques. The staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of quarter notes: C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D. Below the staff is a tablature line with fret numbers: 0 2 0 0 | 0 2 0 0 | 0 1 3 | 0 1 3.



MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

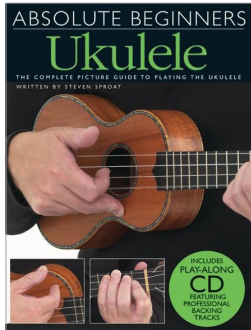
9

Musical staff for measure 9 of Mary Had a Little Lamb. The staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of quarter notes: C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D. Below the staff is a tablature line with fret numbers: 0 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 | 0 3 3.

Musical staff for measure 10 of Mary Had a Little Lamb. The staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a melody of quarter notes: C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D. Below the staff is a tablature line with fret numbers: 0 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 | 2 2 0 2 | 0.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

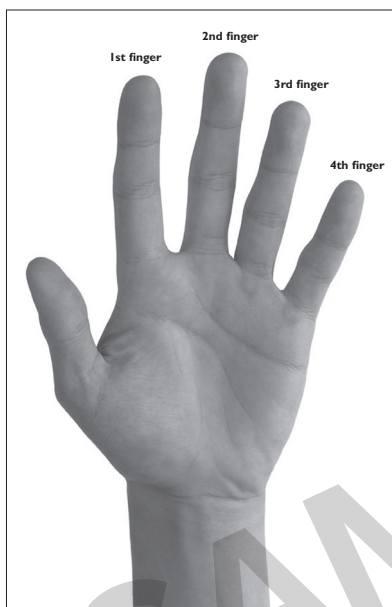
Ukulele



Reasons to pick this method

- Part of Absolute Beginners, the UK's most popular self-teaching method series, available for twenty different instruments
- A look-and-learn course, using clear pictures to explain methods rather than long explanations
- CD audio tracks demonstrate how things should sound and provide full-length accompaniment tracks
- Has two volumes, an all-in-one omnibus edition, and is available in Dutch and Danish!

First five chords 13



At first, holding down a chord will seem like a challenge. You have to be able to apply enough pressure from your fingertips and also be pressing into the fingerboard just behind or before the fret (not actually on the fret).

Your fingers will not be used to pressing down on the string and so some chords will seem like a real effort and possibly make your fingertips a little sore. Be encouraged that your fingertips will harden with regular playing, and your fingers will get used to stretching.

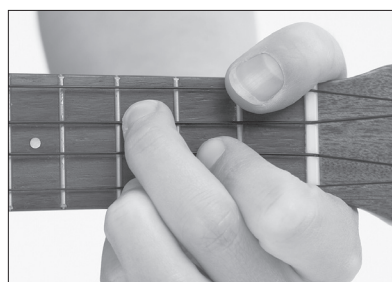
Chords that once looked near impossible become less challenging!



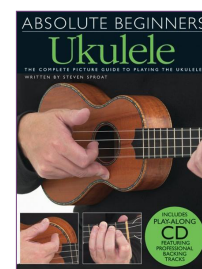
Tip

Try to keep the nails on your left hand quite short but allow the nails on your right hand to grow longer for strumming!

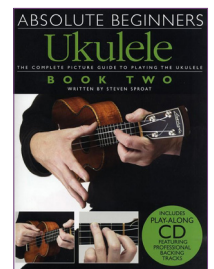
Sometimes it is okay to allow your thumb to appear to hang over the fretboard. On other chords you might find pressing your thumb into the middle of the back of the neck better – it depends on your fingers and the chord shape.



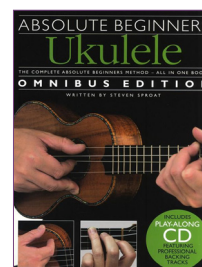
Click below for links to this book and relevant material



Book 1



Book 2



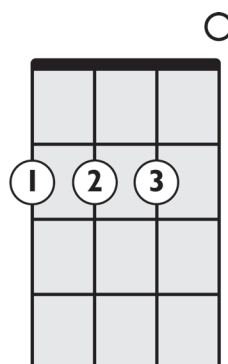
Omnibus Edition

Chord boxes

Chord boxes or 'windows' are diagrams which represent the four strings and the first three frets from the nut.

The heavy dots indicate where to place your fingers to hold down that particular chord.

Imagine that you are looking at your ukulele fretboard as if it were held vertically in front of your face.



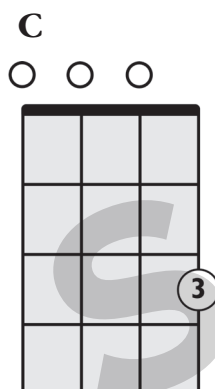
The circle above the diagram indicates that this string is to be played open.

Whenever you see a window box, imagine turning it on its side to match the way you'd normally play your ukulele (ie horizontally).

Let's take a look at our first five chords:

C, F, G7, E7, and A7.

Firstly the **C** chord: **Track 2**

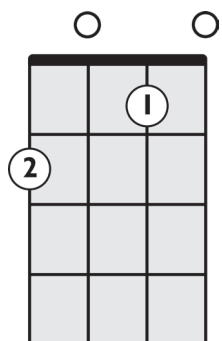


This chord box is indicating that we use our 3rd finger at the 3rd fret and pressing down the 1st string.

Remember to press down on the fingerboard and not actually on the fretwire.



F

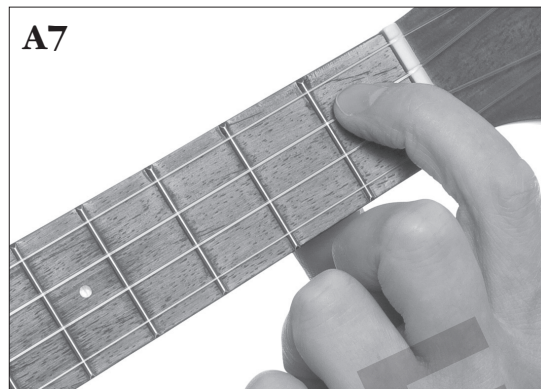
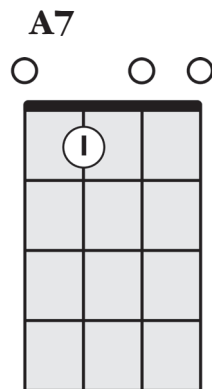


Now the chord of **F**: **Track 3**

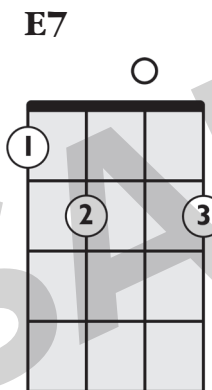
This is telling us to use our 1st finger at the 1st fret and place it on the 2nd string. Our 2nd finger goes on the 4th or 'top' string at the 2nd fret. Get the hang of it?



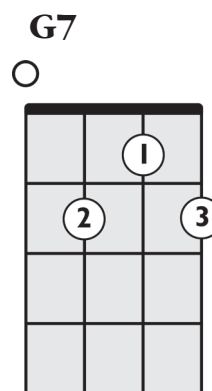
Try playing the chords of **A7**, **E7** and **G7** in the same way:



Have a go at playing each of these chords making sure that there are no 'buzzes' or any 'unclean' notes.



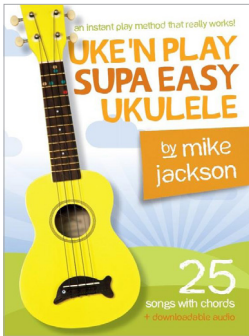
Remember to press down hard enough, otherwise you will find you are just 'dampening' the notes and they won't sound clean and clear.



We will come back to these chords in our exercise once we've looked at strumming.



UKE'N PLAY



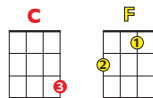
Reasons to pick this method

- Uses author Mike Jackson's innovative "instant play" method to help you learn songs quickly
- Comes in "Supa Easy", "Easy", the original Uke'n Play, and a "For Kids" edition, allowing you to pick a level you're comfortable with to get going
- The all-in-one Omnibus edition, with 45 songs, covers the whole series and works perfectly for a family with learners working at different speeds
- Free online video support from Mike Jackson's website



DOWN BY THE BILLABONG (STATION)

Verse 1 trad.; additional verses Mike Jackson and Michelle Freeman.
Traditional. This arrangement by Mike Jackson.



2 strums only
on every F chord

C Down by the billabong, early in the morning
See the cockatoos sitting all in a row
See them preen their feathers then stick their yellow combs up
Screech screech, flap flap, off they go

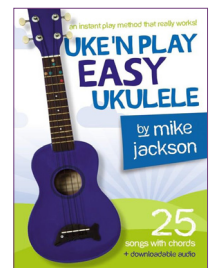
C Down by the billabong, early in the morning
See the little wallabies all in a row
See them sniff the air then turn their little ears round
Hop hop, bounce bounce, off they go

C Down by the station, early in the morning
See the little engines all in a row
See the engine driver turn the little handle
Puff, puff, toot toot, off they go

Click below for links to
this book and relevant
material



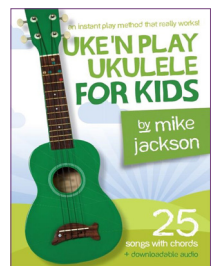
Supa Easy Ukulele



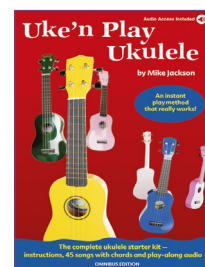
Easy Ukulele



Ukulele



For Kids

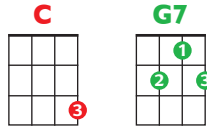


Omnibus Edition



SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON

Traditional. This arrangement by Mike Jackson.



C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon

C **G7**
L'on y danse, l'on y danse

C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon

C **G7** **C**
L'on y danse tous en rond

Les beaux messieurs font comm' ça **G7** **C**

Et puis encore comm' ça **G7** **C**

C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon

C **G7**
L'on y danse, l'on y danse

C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon

C **G7** **C**
L'on y danse tous en rond

Les bell' dames font comm' ça **G7** **C**

Et puis encore comm' ça **G7** **C**

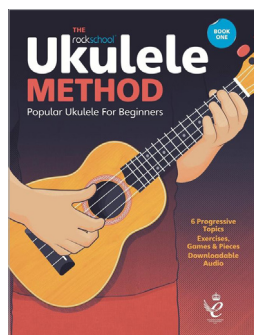
Practise 4 strums on C,
then 4 strums on G7
and repeat for the first
3 lines of each verse

C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon
C **G7**
L'on y danse, l'on y danse
C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon
C **G7** **C**
L'on y danse tous en rond
G7 **C**
Les jardiniers font comm' ça
G7 **C**
Et puis encore comm' ça

C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon
C **G7**
L'on y danse, l'on y danse
C **G7**
Sur le pont d'Avignon
C **G7** **C**
L'on y danse tous en rond

REPEAT LAST SECTION x 2

THE rockschool® Ukulele METHOD



Reasons to pick this method

- Brand-new method, published in early 2020
- Two-book tuition series covering twelve progressive benchmark topics to get anyone playing the uke quickly
- Approaches learning the instrument from a modern angle, providing a solid technique for an easier access to rock, pop and other contemporary styles
- By the end of the second book players should be ready to enter for their Debut exam
- Begins a graded learning approach, giving access to a huge repertoire of expertly arranged pieces from the Rockschool Ukulele syllabus

Using The Fretting Hand **TOPIC 3**

C and D



Ok, it's time to start fretting those strings! Look back to page 12 if you need a reminder. In fact, if you press with your second finger on the **second fret** on the **C string** you will produce the next note we need: **D**

D is written just under the bottom line on the staff.

MISSION 1

Can you play smoothly between **C** and **D**? Keep your second finger really close to the note when you lift it off so it is easy to put it down again.

MISSION 2

Can you play smoothly between **C** and **D WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED**? Ahhhh. You can do it, go for it!

MISSION 3

Ask your teacher to **sing** or **play** a little tune using **C** and **D**. Can you play it back to them?

'Stepping Up And Down'

Student

Teacher

Am Dm G Am

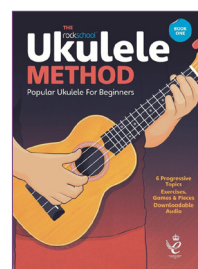
0 2 3 0 5 3 2 0 3 3 0 2 5 0

Download your audio
See page 4 for details

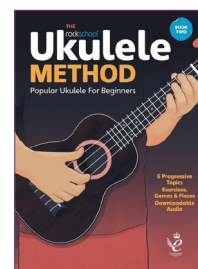
Stick your achievement sticker here!

rockschool® 25

Click below for links to this book and relevant material



Method - Book 1



Method - Book 2



Rockschoool Ukulele
Debut



Rockschoool Ukulele
Grade 1

C, D and E

Let's use all our notes now. Don't forget to sit well and walk those fingers!

Sometimes in music, you will see numbers telling you which strings and fingers to use, like this:

Numbers in circles tell you which **string** to play.

Plain numbers tell you which **finger** to use. **0** means play an **open string**.

The diagram shows a musical staff with three notes: C, D, and E. Above the staff, the string numbers 3, 2, and 1 are circled and labeled with arrows pointing to the notes. Below the staff, the finger numbers 0, 2, and 0 are written under the notes C, D, and E respectively.

However, as we've been learning the 'one finger per fret method', you can simply look at the **TAB** to see which string and finger to use!

'Ohhh Yeah!'

♩ = 116

Student

Teacher

The student part is a musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 116. It contains a sequence of notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (half). The teacher part is a musical staff in 4/4 time with a tempo of 116. It contains a sequence of notes: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), and C5 (half). Below the student staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with six lines labeled T, A, B, G, D, and E. The TAB shows the following fret numbers: 0, 2, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0.



Download your audio
See page 4 for details



C, D and E

Let's use all our notes now. Don't forget to sit well and walk those fingers!

Sometimes in music, you will see numbers telling you which strings and fingers to use, like this:

Numbers in circles are tell you which **string** to play.

Plain numbers tell you which finger to use. **0** means play an **open string**.

The diagram shows a musical staff with three notes: C (open string, 0), D (2nd string, 2), and E (3rd string, 3). Red arrows point from the explanatory text to the corresponding numbers on the staff.

However, as we've been learning the 'one finger per fret method', you can simply look at the **TAB** to see which string and finger to use!

'Ohhh Yeah!'

♩=116

Student

TAB

0 2 2 0 2 2 2 0

Teacher

F G C G F

The score includes a student melody line, a guitar tab line with fret numbers, and a teacher accompaniment line with chord names (F, G, C, G, F). A tempo marking of ♩=116 is shown at the top.



Download your audio
See page 4 for details

Stick your
achievement
sticker here!

UKULELE MAGIC



Reasons to pick this method

- A modern, accessible tuition series, which is perfect for individual or classroom teaching
- Comes with CD containing full audio performance and backing support, as well as online video tutorials, making it ideal for individual practice
- A thorough, musical introduction to the ukulele, paving the way for individual music-making, rather than just introducing a few chords
- Consists of two tutor books and a songbook, with two teacher editions designed for making classroom teaching more accessible

Unit 1

Meet my ukulele

Meet my ukulele

My ukulele has a **body,
a **neck** and a **head**,
But it's got no arms and legs!**

My ukulele has a **body,
a **neck** and a **head**,
But it's got no arms and legs!**

It has a **bridge and a **sound hole**,
a **fretboard** and a **nut**,
Four strings and tuning pegs,**

My ukulele has a **body,
a **neck** and a **head**
But it's got no arms and legs!**

FINGERTIPS

During this action song:

- turn your ukulele round to the back and point to the body, neck and head:
- turn it to the front and point to the other parts.

Learning objectives

★ To learn the parts of the ukulele.

Extras

Compare the parts of a ukulele with the parts of a guitar or a violin. Are they exactly the same?

page 2

Video Audio 1 Audio 2

Click below for links to this book and relevant material



Tutor Book 1
(Pupil's Book)



Tutor Book 2
(Pupil's Book)

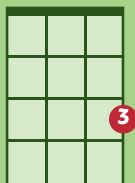


Songbook

Unit 3

Our first chord

C MAJOR



FINGERTIPS

- Keep your left hand thumb on the back of your ukulele's neck and your third finger up on its tip ~ this lets you pinch down on the A string without touching the others accidentally.
- When we hold down the A string at the third fret the note changes from A to C. This means that the instrument is now sounding only the notes of the C major chord C, E and G

SING

Ukulele left hand fingers,
Count with me 1 2 3
3 goes on the third fret,
Holding down the A string,
That's how we play chord C.



SING AND STRUM

C MAJOR

Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques,
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les matines!
Ding, dang, dong! Ding, dang, dong!



C MAJOR

3 third fret

page 11



Video

Audio 18

Audio 19

Learning objectives

- ★ To learn • how to play the chord of C major • to use it to accompany a familiar song.

Extras

Play a C major strum with:
Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree: Row row row your boat.

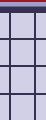
Unit 5

All change

F MAJOR



C7



FINGERTIPS

- Practise the calypso strum on open strings until it feels confident. Play it with first finger down and up strokes.
- When playing the down stroke you need to have your finger nail brushing the strings, so make sure your finger points towards the floor and not towards the head of the ukulele.
- When you're confident with the strum, practise the turnaround chord sequence: **F C7 C7 F** x2
- Play along with the audio. Can you sing at the same time?
- When you play the xylophone part say the words to help you with the rhythm.

CALYPSO STRUM

Down down-up up-down

SING AND CALYPSO STRUM

F **C7**
Down down-up up-down, down in Kingston town
C7 **F**
When the Carnival comes,
F **C7**
They sing calypso, and play calypso
C7 **F**
With down down-up up-down strums.

XYLOPHONE

A A A C C A Bb Bb Bb D D Bb
singing ca - ly - pso band playing ca - ly - pso band
C C C C D E F F F F C F
singing ca - ly - pso band playing ca - ly - pso band

page 21



Video

Audio 35

Audio 36

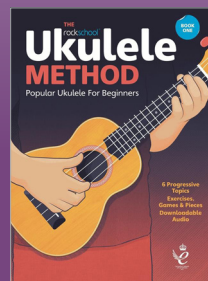
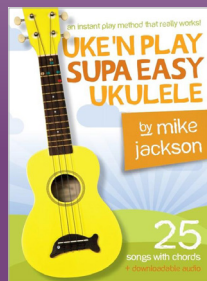
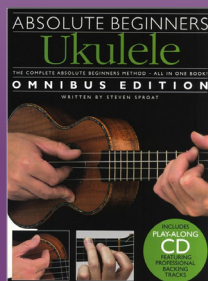
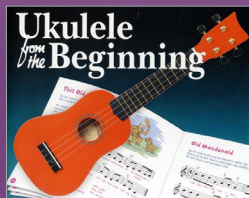
Learning objectives

- ★ To learn • to play a new strumming pattern, the calypso strum • to sing a song and play the calypso strum at the same time.

Extras

Play Everybody Loves Saturday Night with these chords and strum. The calypso strum works in other styles of music like samba and even some rock songs.

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