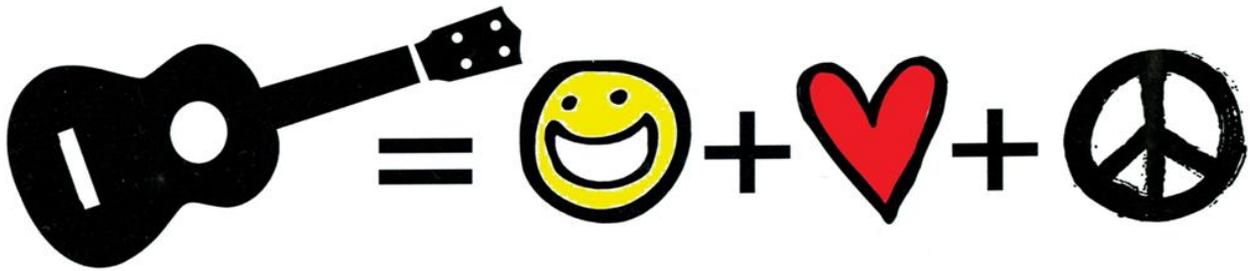


Ukelear Power



What you can expect from Ukelear Power

- A fun, low stress environment – you come here to relax, play and learn music together
- To play & sing songs selected because they are fun AND because they help develop skills
- A session which is varied and caters to different skill levels
- Instruction in ukulele techniques and some music theory (with a light touch)
- You will be pushed that little bit further to improve and therefore get more enjoyment from playing — but you can just do your own thing if you prefer
- A facilitator who actively assesses your needs and flexibly tailor what we do accordingly
- Reasonably expert knowledge. Bruce knows a lot, but he WILL make mistakes. Sometimes the best teachers are other group members!
- If Bruce doesn't know the answer to your question, he will attempt to get back with a more informed response next session
- Time for socialising after each session (well, the daytime sessions, anyway). Feel free to connect socially or musically with others outside these sessions and through the Facebook group — it's up to you. Bruce will not share contact details with other members without your consent

What is expected of you

- Play (and sing)! And do it sensitively enough so that you blend with the group, but strongly enough so that you and we can hear. Bruce can then help you improve
- Listen – to Bruce as the facilitator, and to each other. Don't play or talk when he is talking
- Ask questions. There are no dumb questions, and if you have a question, it's very likely others will have the same question, but just haven't asked it yet
- Observe group etiquette & follow instructions
- Be quiet (don't 'noodle' or talk) when Bruce or anyone else is talking
- Respect others' level of skill and ability, and respect them as people
- Help others where they welcome help, but be sensitive to when they do not want it
- Make mistakes. That's how you will improve
- Leave your cares at the door and enjoy yourself

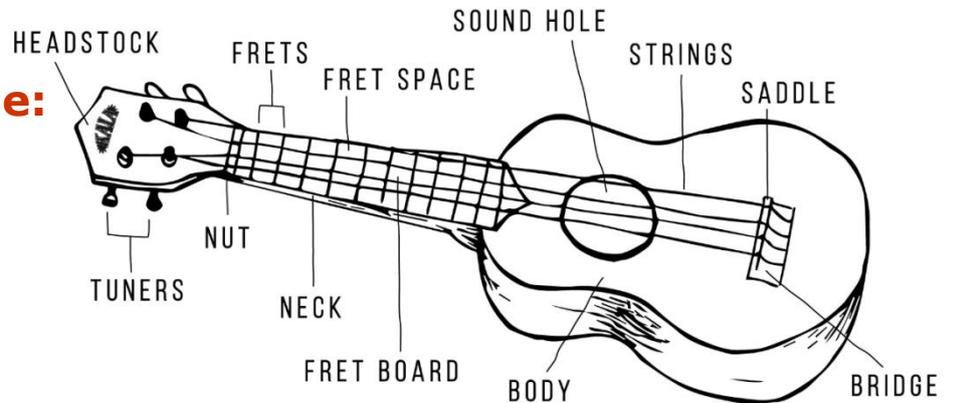


Bruce Watson's 2 rules for how to learn the ukulele

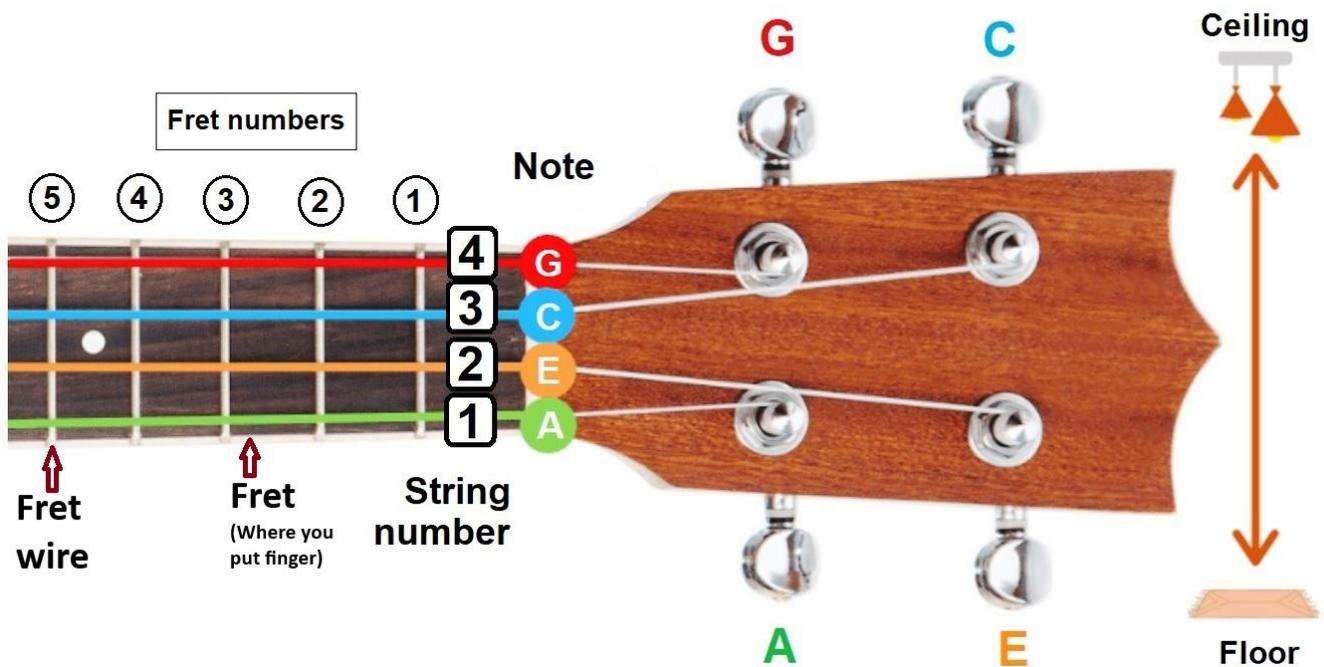
1. When you get your ukulele home, take it out of its bag/case and leave it somewhere you will see it.
2. Play it for at least 5 minutes every day. (Ideally focusing on a new skill, chord, tune, etc., till you master it)

SOME BASICS

Parts of the Ukulele:



Naming & numbering the strings, notes



Think of the string numbers like the floors of a building (American style)
 – As you go up from the ground, the number goes up.

This is the pitch of the notes in standard music notation:

(note, some ukuleles have a low G-string, one octave lower)

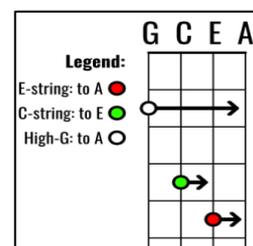


G C E A
"Goats Can Eat Anything"
"George Clooney Eats Apples"

Tuning the Ukulele

Tune the strings by turning the pegs on the headstock.

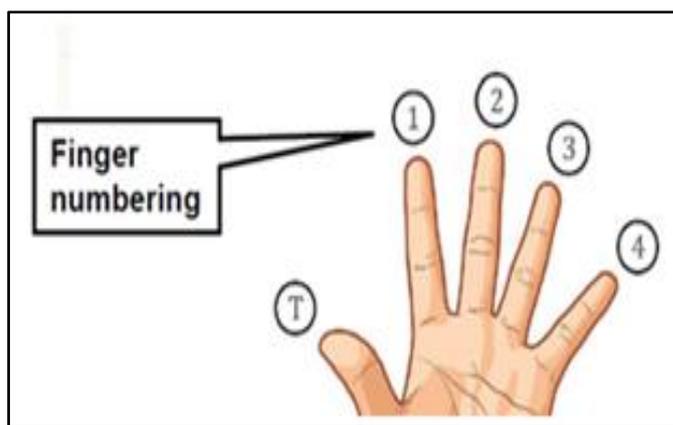
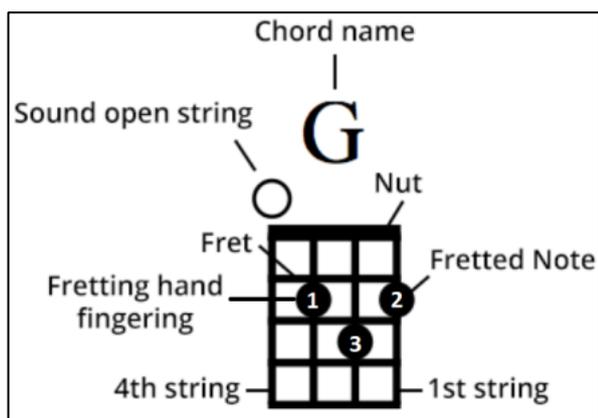
1. Clip-on tuner. The best option: quick & easy. Doesn't pick up ambient sound.
 - If your tuner has settings for different instruments and Chromatic, the Chromatic setting [C] or [Chro] is best, because it will pick up ALL pitches, not just G C E and A.
 - If your tuner has numbers between 430 - 450 (that's the Hz, or vibrations per second), make sure it's on 440. Otherwise you will be out of tune with everyone else!
 - Tuners from shops cost \$30+. You can get them online far cheaper (less fancy graphics, but they work as well). Bruce has some bought on line, available for \$10.
2. Tuner app (free) for your phone. A good back up, but it picks up ambient noise.)
3. Tune by ear against another instrument (piano, etc)
4. Tune the uke to itself by matching the 2nd fret of the hi G string to the open A string, the 4th fret of the C string to the open E string, and the 5th fret of the E string to the open A string. This is complicated!



Here's a good step-by-step guide: <https://liveukulele.com/lessons/tuning-your-ukulele/>

Chord diagrams

- The horizontal lines represent the nut and the frets
- The vertical lines represent the strings in the order: G C A E or 4 3 2 1
- The dots represent where your fingers go. Sometimes the fingers are numbered, but mostly not.



To form a chord, place your fingers just next to the relevant fret.

“Postcodes”: Chords can be described verbally by saying the fret numbers for each string in the sequence 4 3 2 1. So a G Chord would be 0 2 3 2, a C chord is 0 0 0 3, etc.

The default fingering position is to use the 1st finger on the 1st fret, the 2nd finger on the 2nd fret & the 3rd finger on the 3rd fret. – but this is a guideline, not a rule, & often not possible.

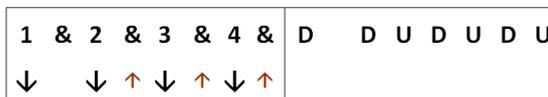
Tabs

Tablature notation represents individual notes.



The top set of lines here is standard musical notation. The bottom set is ukulele tablature (TAB). The horizontal TAB lines represent the strings (top = string 1, then down to 2 3 4) The numbers represent the fret played (0 being open string, 1 being first fret, etc)

Rhythm notation



There is no single way of representing rhythm patterns, but this diagram shows two common ways, showing the down and up strokes and how they fit into a four-beat bar (the most common type of bar).

Strumming

- The sweet spot for the best tone is around where the neck meets the body.



Fingers and thumbs

- There are different techniques different people use, and different ones that are appropriate for different situations:
 - One finger (or more fingers): using your nail on the downstroke and the pad of your finger on the upstroke.
 - Finger(s) & thumb: using the nail of your finger on the downstroke and the nail of your thumb on the upstroke. This gives a stronger upstroke. Some people do the reverse: pad of thumb down and pad of finger up.
 - Thumb: Good for single downstrokes, say on the first beat of every bar. But thumb upstrokes make the upstroke louder than the downstroke, which is strange.
 - Pick: Ukulele picks are made of felt, not plastic, which is better on nylon strings

Technique

- Try to strum by rotating the wrist, not moving the elbow up and down. Keep your wrist relaxed. To prepare, shake your wrist like you're shaking water off your hand.
- When a strumming pattern misses a strum (esp. an up strum), keep your strumming arm moving, just don't make contact with the strings (a ghost strum). This keeps you in time better and helps your wrist stay relaxed.

Keep in rhythm

- Tapping your foot on the down beats, especially the first beat of each bar, may help you to maintain steady timing.
- If the next chord is a difficult one for you, that may take a second or two to get into position, anticipate it, and don't strum the preceding beats. That will give you time to hit the new chord right on the correct beat instead of late.

Picking

- Instead of strumming, you can pick individual strings one at a time with your thumb, a finger, or a combination. This is more advanced, but adds to your versatility as a player.

Where does the ukulele come from?

- The ukulele originated in the 19th century as an adaptation of the machete, braguinha, rajão and cavaquino, small guitar-like instruments, which were introduced to Hawaii by the Portuguese. It gained great popularity throughout the United States in the early 20th century and from there spread internationally.
- It is often said that ukulele means “jumping flea” in Hawaiian. However, the last queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii, Liliuokalani, translated ukulele as “gift from afar”. It’s also worth noting that, as well as ‘flea’, ‘uku means, “small, tiny.”

You say ‘ukulele’, I say ‘ukulele’

- You may sometimes see “an ukulele” written. This is because the Hawaiian pronunciation is *oo-koo-ley-ley*, rather than *yew-ka-ley-lee*.

Ukulele Sizes



Choosing a size depends on what sound you want, how big your hands/fingers are, whether you are a guitarist or bass player already, and lots of other factors.

There are also banjo ukuleles and 8-string ukuleles (2 courses of each string)

You can get a cheap uke for \$25-\$30. You can get a GOOD uke for ~\$100

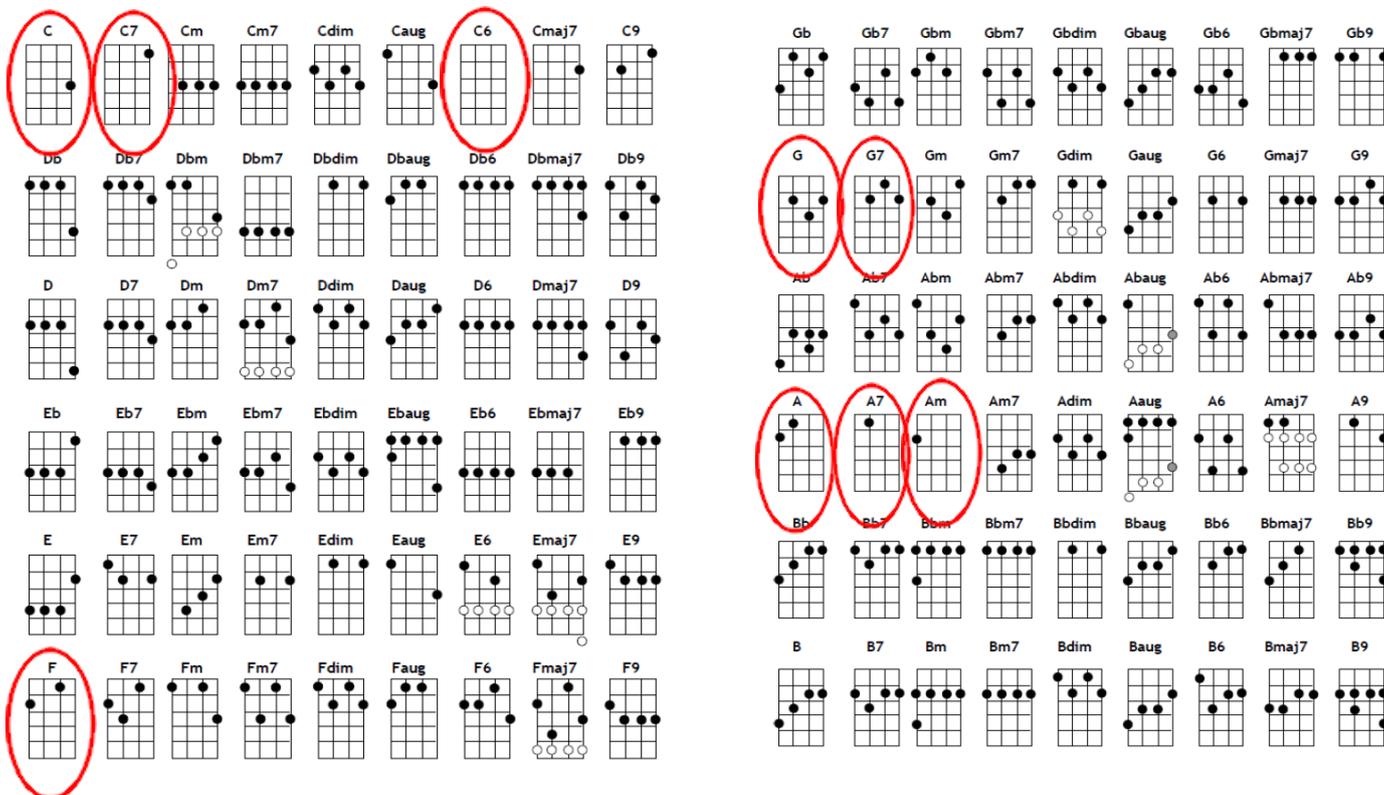
Optional Ukulele Accessories

- Tuner: Very handy, but can use phone app (see above)
- Music stand (useful in group sessions and practicing at home) approx. \$20+
- Strap: Not essential, but can help you have a relaxed strumming/picking hand, and especially good when standing. Cost \$20 +. If your uke has no strap button, a music shop can install one for a few dollars. Or you can buy one and do it yourself.

CHORD CHART

Don't be intimidated — we start with easy chords! And each song sheet will have chord diagrams for the chords in the song

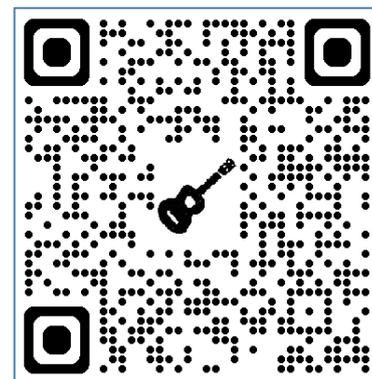
Some of the first chords you will learn are circled. Focus especially on **C Am F & G7**



If you want to know more . . .

You can just do an internet search, or watch any of the millions of YouTube tutorials. The Ukelear Power web page has lots of short introductory resources and links to others: <https://www.brucewatsonmusic.com/ukelearpower.html> (or use QR code).

1. [Buying Your First Ukulele.pdf](#)
2. [Ukelear Power Introductory Resource](#)
3. [Tuning the ukulele \(video\)](#)
4. [Strumming basics](#)
5. [More advanced Strumming, and a bit about Picking](#)
6. [All about chords - Basics](#)
7. [11 basic chords \(Video\)](#)
8. [Chord chart](#)
9. [Movable chords, open string chords and chord inversions](#)
10. [Web based chord finder & generator](#)
11. [How to get tunes in a key and speed that you can play along to](#)
12. [Scales \(Major & Pentatonic\)](#)
13. [The Circle of Fifths](#)
14. [Finger Picking](#)



ZITS

by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

