

Doing Ukulele & Baritone Ukulele Right!



Here is the **ONLY** “rule” & it’s **IMPORTANT**

The pad of your left thumb goes behind the neck of your ukulele and follows along behind your middle finger just like Stu is doing above. We should never ever ever ever see your left thumb. There are no exceptions ... and if you do this one thing, your life will be so much easier down the road when we end up dealing with difficult chords and when speed matters.

A Simple Way to Make Playing Easier

Add a button onto the end of your ukulele and wear a strap when you play. You’ll need to drill a small pilot hole in the end of your uke. It’s OK. Don’t use the ones with the clip. They’re evil.

What You **DON’T** Need

A Capo: You’ll be making so many bar chords a capo will just get in the way. If you have guitar in your background, you’ll have to let it go.

A Pick: Seriously throw them away. You’ll be using all of your fingers simultaneously in lots of different ways. If you want to grow out the fingernails on your right hand it’s kinda weird but useful. Sorry, but the fingernails on your left hand hafta go. A good manicurist can still get unicorn stickers onto short nails and you’ll look marvy.

Ukulele Types

Soprano: Small and traditional.

Concert: A little bigger and easier to play.

Tenor: Most adults should be playing tenor.

Baritone: Four string guitar for bigger hands.

U-Bass: The lowest ukulele is tuned like a bass.

Banjolele: An ukulele with a banjo head for playing real loud without teeth or shoes.

Your hand size and finger shapes determine the best size for you. Wait to buy an expensive ukulele until you know what sound and playability issues matter for you. Almost all ukuleles can be amplified by adding an electronic pickup.

Stuff You’ll Need

- An ukulele, duh! (pronounced oo-koo-leh-lay)
- A button and an ukulele strap
- A gig bag with a shoulder strap
- A Snark ST-8 clip-on tuner
- A music stand and light
- A three-ring binder with section dividers, or if you’re loaded, use an iPad and ForScore
- Highlighters and pencils
- A kazoo ... no really, seriously

Strings: If your strings are white or black, you need to change them to modern fluorocarbon within six months of your initial purchase. You need to change strings at least once a year.

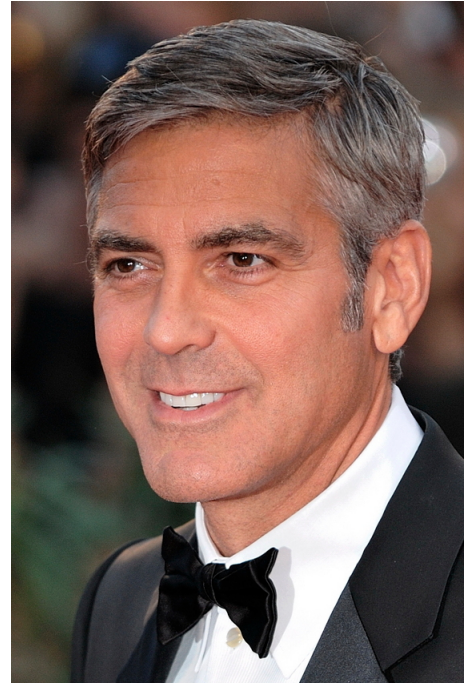
A Note About Low-G Tuning: A metal-wound Low-G string can tear your instrument apart if it’s not built for the pressure. You can always use a plastic Low-G string (but they don’t sound good). Low-G ukuleles are built stronger and cost more.

Other Helpful Notes

- Hold your ukulele at a 60-degree angle.
- Make sure the back of the ukulele remains in contact with the front side of you.
- Don’t lay your ukulele in your lap or let it fall into a horizontal position.
- Dots are on frets 5, 7 and 10. Memorize!
- Tension will ruin your joy in music. The only pain you should feel is on your fingertips and your left thumb should feel tired

Tune Your Ukulele (every time you play!)

This is George Clooney. He used to be wildly famous. People Magazine gave him an award for being dreamy in 1997 and then again in 2006. He's old now and he still looks better than everybody. He married a model and lives in Italy. But kids these days don't know him because he wears a suit of armor and sells Nespresso. I've decided I'm bringing George back. Help make him famous.



George Clooney Eats Apples = GCEA

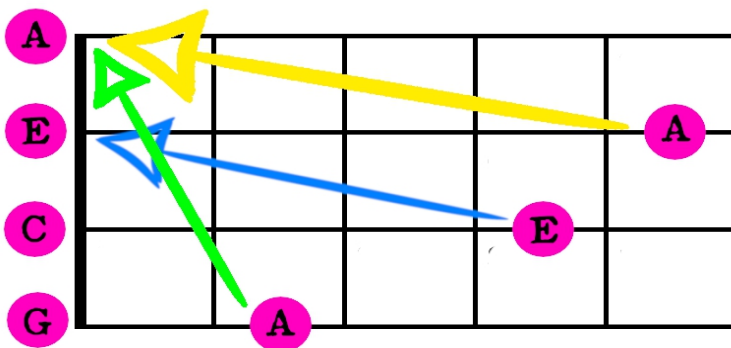
- or, Goats Can Eat Anything = GCEA
- For **BARITONE** ukuleles use DGBE
- Canadian tuning is **ADF#B** (just 'cuz)

Use a **top of the line clip-on tuner** or a **tuning app** on your phone. Check your tuning every time you play.



How to use Relative Tuning ... buy a tuning fork tuned to A.

Check the open string #1, string #2 on the fifth fret, and string #4 on the second fret. Once those are set, double check every string as shown to see if they sound the same.



Frère Jacques

Introduction to Ukulele
https://jollyrogerukulele.com

April 18, 2025
Traditional (1780-ish)
Arranged for Ukulele
by Gary Jugert

Repeats:
0 thru 8
1 thru 7
9 to end

Chords & Lyrics

Ukulele Melody

♩ = 80

1

Frè - re Jac - ques. Frè - re Jac - ques.
Are - re you sleep - ing? Are - re you sleep - ing?
Open Middle Pinkie Open Open Middle Pinkie Open

2

3

Dor - mez vous? Dor - mez vous?
Bro - ther John? Bro - ther John?
Index Middle Pinkie Index Middle Pinkie

4

5

Son - nez les ma - tin - es. Son - nez les ma - tin - es.
Morn - ing bells are ring - ing. Morn - ing bells are ring - ing.
Middle Pinkie Middle Middle Index Open Middle Pinkie Middle Middle Index Open

6

7

Ding. Dang. Dong. Ding. Dang. Dong. Ding. Dang. Dong.
Ding. Dang. Dong. Ding. Dang. Dong. Ding. Dang. Dong.
First String Second String First String First String Second String First String First String Second String Strum.

8 1.

9 2.

Remember:

1 = Index

2 = Middle

3 = Ring

Try thumb down

and the claw!

Use a rest stroke in
measures 8, 10 & 12.

My Spaghetti Monster

Play Ukulele the Flying Spaghetti Monster Way

<https://jollyrogerukulele.com>

April 3, 2020

Composed by Siouxi ExcuseMe

Arranged by Gary Jugert

for Ukulele and Harmonica

Chords & Lyrics

Ukulele Melody

TuffUke

Harmonica in C

Chords: N.C., C, N.C., Cmaj7, N.C., C6, Cmaj7, C, G/C, N.C., G/C, N.C., G/C, C

Lyrics:

My Spa - ghet - ti Mon - ster play - ing u - ku - le - le
 Open Open Open Open Ring Ring Open Open Open Open Middle Middle
 fly - ing through the rain - bows with my heart. Tas - ty mar - i - nar - a.
 Open Open Open Open Open Open Middle Ring Ring Index Open Middle Open Ring Ring
 Yum - my par - me - san. We're Pas - ta - far - i - ans.
 Index Open Middle Open Ring Ring Index Open Middle Ring Ring

Harmonica in C: 4 5 4 5 7 7 4 5 4 5 ~7 ~7

Ukulele Melody: 0 0 0 0 3 3 0 0 0 0 2 2

TuffUke: 0 0 0 0 3 3 0 0 0 0 2 2

Harmonica in C: 4 5 4 5 ~6 ~6 ~7 7 6 ~5 5 ~4 4 6 6

Ukulele Melody: 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 1 0 2 0 3 3

TuffUke: 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 1 0 2 0 3 3

Ukulele Melody: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

TuffUke: 1 0 2 0 3 3 1 0 2 3 3

Harmonica in C: ~5 5 ~4 4 6 6 ~5 5 ~4 6 7

Ukulele Melody: 1 0 2 0 3 3 1 0 2 3 3

TuffUke: 1 0 2 0 3 3 1 0 2 3 3

Brahms' Lullaby

April 18, 2025
Johannes Brahms (1868)
Arranged by Gary Jugert
for Ukulele

Notes tabbed on the 4th string
will sound an octave higher than
notated on High G ukuleles.

Introduction to Ukulele
<http://jollyrogerukulele.com>

Repeats:
0 thru 16
1 thru 15
17 to end

Chords & Lyrics

Ukulele Melody

TuffUke

Chords: C, G7, F

Lyrics:

Lull - a - by and good - night with ro - ses be - dight. - With li - lies be -
(Lull-a) - by and good - night. Thy mo - ther's de - light. - Bright an - gels be -

spread is - ba - by's wee bed. Lay you down now and rest. May your slum - bers be blessed. Lay you
side my dar - ling a - bid. I will watch as you sleep. May your dreams be so sweet. I will

down watch now and rest. May your slum - bers be so blessed. Lull - a sweet.
as you sleep. May your dreams be so

Ukulele Melody: 0 0 3 0 0 3 0 3 3 2 0 0 3 2 0 1 2 2 0

TuffUke: 0 0 3 0 0 3 0 3 3 2 0 0 3 2 0 1 2 2 0

Chords: G7, G7, C, F, C, G7, C

Lyrics:

down watch now and rest. May your slum - bers be so blessed. Lull - a sweet.

Ukulele Melody: 3 0 1 3 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 3

TuffUke: 3 0 1 3 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 3

Happy Birthday

March 24, 2026
Patty and Mildred Hill (1893)
Arranged by Gary Jugert
for Ukulele

Notes tabbed on the 4th string will sound an octave higher than notated on High G ukuleles.

Repeats:
None

Isolated on High G ukuleles.

Repeats:
None

♩ = 92

Chords & Lyrics

Ukulele Melody

TuffUke

1 2 3 4

Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

5 6 7 8 9

birth-day dear Joe Schmoie. Hap-py birth-day to you. _____

7fr.