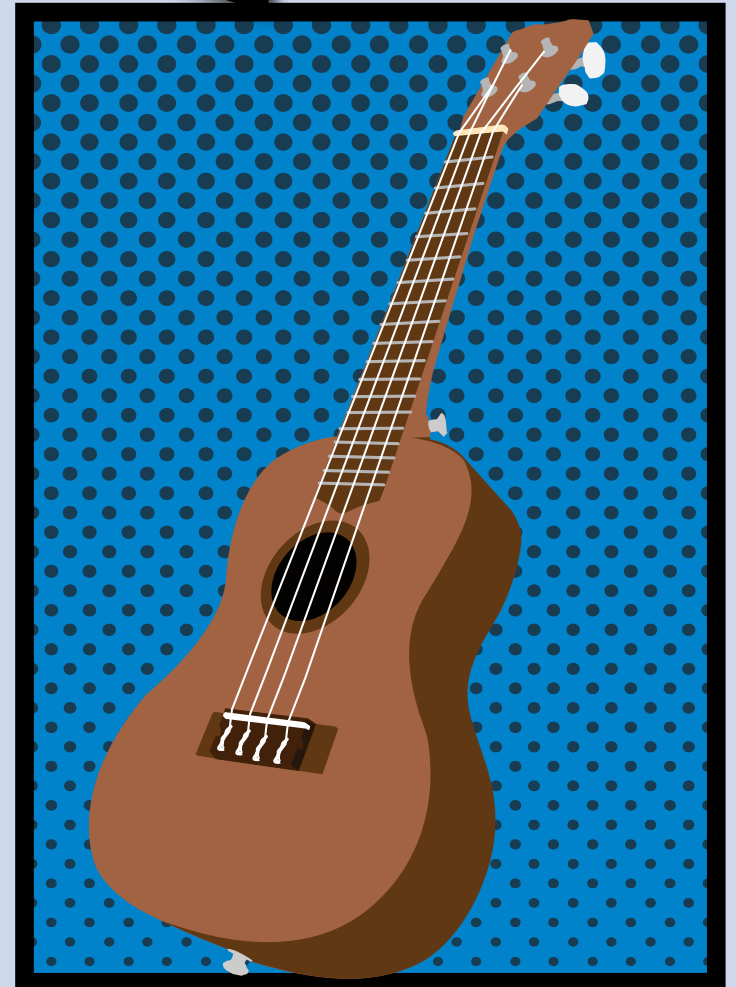


Introduction to the UKULELE



Introduction

- The ukulele originated in the 19th century as a Hawaiian interpretation of the machete, a small guitar-like instrument taken to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants.
- Since then, the ukulele has been commonly associated with music from Hawaii, where the name roughly translates as "jumping flea," perhaps because of the movement of the player's fingers.



Sizes of Ukuleles

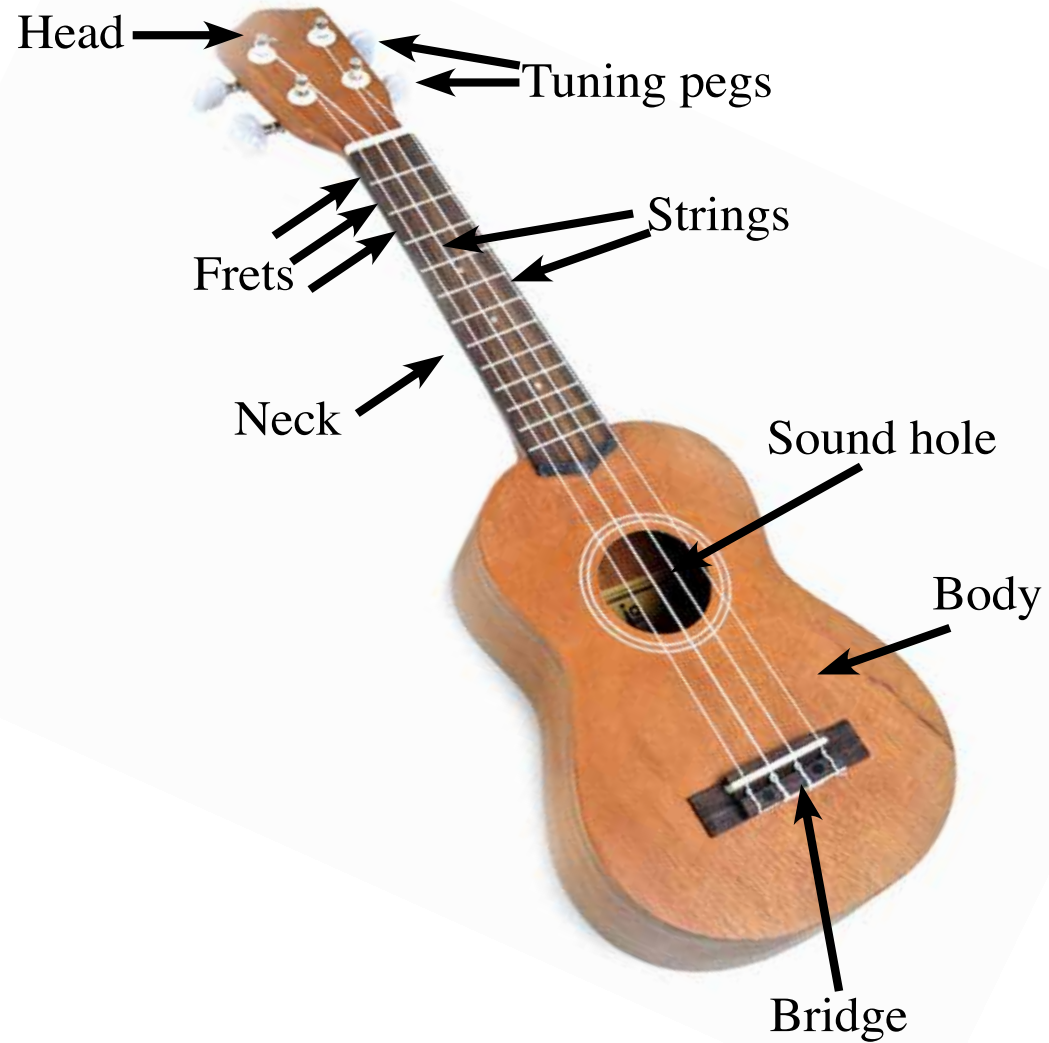
- Ukulele is sometimes abbreviated to uke.
- The ukulele is a member of the guitar family of instruments. It has four strings that are played by plucking or strumming. Ukuleles are usually made of wood.
- There are four main sizes of ukulele: soprano, concert, tenor and baritone.



Tenor ukulele

Soprano ukulele

Parts of the Ukulele



Playing Position

Sitting

- Sit up straight with your feet flat on the floor and your shoulders relaxed.
- If the ukulele is large enough, rest the ukulele on your right leg.
- If the ukulele is too small to rest on your leg, hold it against your ribcage with your right forearm.



Playing Position

Standing

- Press the ukulele against your ribcage with your right forearm to keep the uke in place.

Use a strap

- Some players like to use a strap to keep the ukulele in place.



The Right Hand

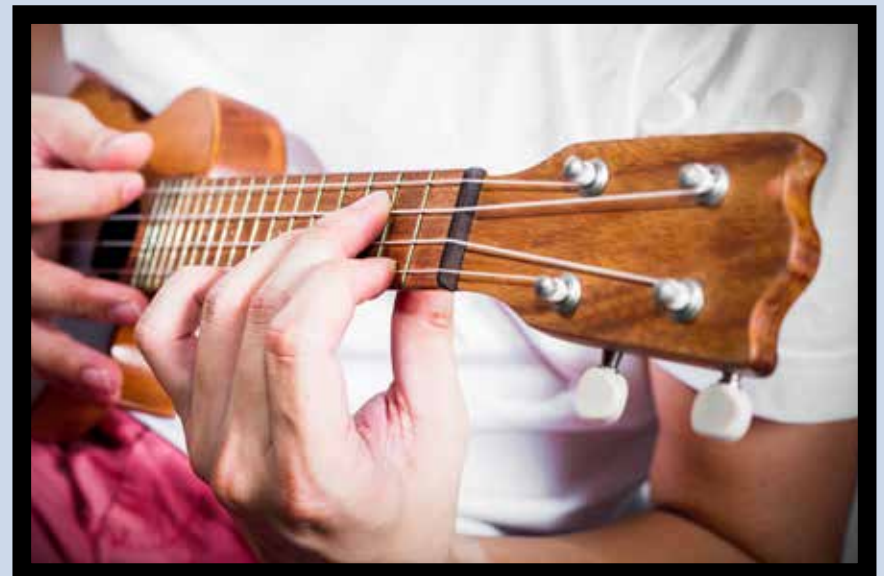
- You can use either your thumb or your index (pointer) finger to strum.
- Some players like to use a pick. Hold the pick between your thumb and the middle knuckle of your pointer finger, in the same way you would hold a key. Felt picks are used most often on ukulele.



Playing Chords

The Left Hand

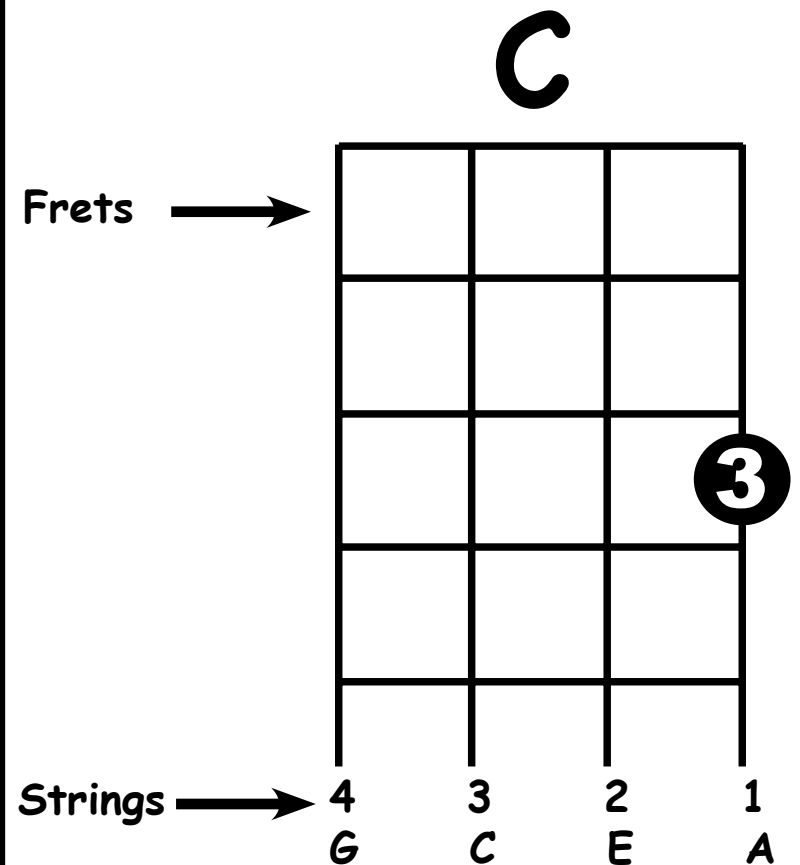
- The fingers of your left hand are numbered 1-2-3-4
- The left thumb goes on the back of the ukulele neck,
- Press the strings using the tips of your fingers between the two frets,



Chord Diagrams

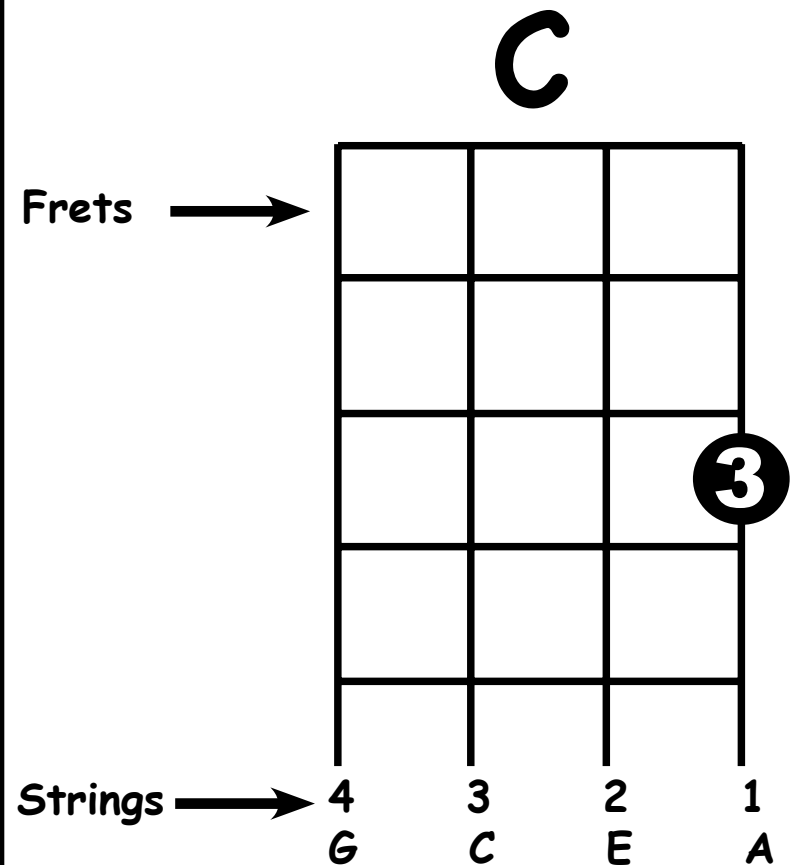
Chord Diagrams

- The chord diagram is like a picture or map of the neck of your ukulele.
- It shows where to place the fingers to play a chord.
- The lines down represent the strings.
- The horizontal lines represent the frets.



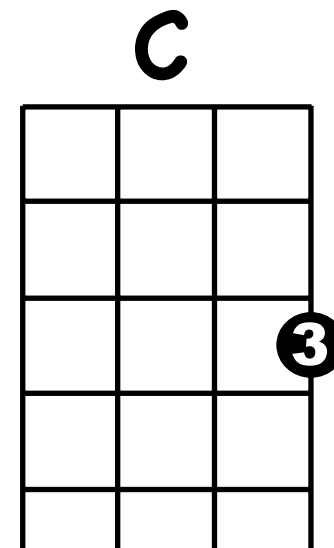
Chord Diagrams

- The numbered circles show you where to depress a string and which finger to use.
- In this example, press down the **first string** at the **third fret**.
- Use your 3rd finger.



Strumming the C chord

- A chord is sounded when three or more notes are played at the same time.
- To play a C chord, press the first string down in the third fret with the third finger.
- You can use either your thumb or your index (pointer) finger to strum.
- Some players like to use a felt pick.



Strumming

- Strum all four strings in a smooth downward stroke.
- Keep a steady beat as you strum.
- The best place to strum is the "sweet spot" near the area where the neck meets the body.



strum / strum / strum / strum / strum / strum / strum / strum /

Strumming Patterns

Try some different strumming patterns on a C chord. The letter d is for a down strum and u is for an up strum.

1. d d d d
2. du du du du
3. d du d du
4. du d du d
5. d d du du

When you are playing a song, choose a strumming pattern that suits the style of the music.

Tuning the Ukulele

- Use a tuner app or play a G on a piano (or the ukulele tuner found at www.musicplayonline.com).
- For easy tuning start at the G with a tuner and move up.
- The melody will sound like "My dog has fleas."
- Always loosen the string and then tighten it up until it is in tune.
- Students should never touch the tuning pegs after the teacher has tuned the ukulele. Make music!

The strings are tuned as follows:

String 4: G

String 3: C

String 2: E

String 1: A

