

Ralph's Ukulele Notes

Welcome to the Ukulele, a four-stringed instrument about the size of a violin. To get going, you will need a ukulele.

Types of Ukulele

There are different sizes but the most common is the Soprano Ukulele (21") long. Others are Concert (23"), Tenor (26"), Baritone (29") and Bass (30").

What to Buy

It's worth spending over £60. Don't buy the cheapest plastic model. Can sound a bit thin. Better if it's made of wood. I suggest a Soprano with a nice sound at about £80.

The Tuner

You will need a tuner, they are cheaper on the internet. e.g. £6

Strings and Tuning.

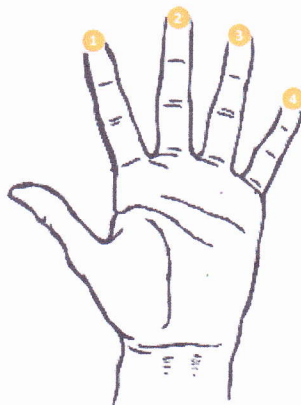
Strings are nylon and have different gauges for each note. The strings are tuned to G C E A (looking at the fretboard) with the 4th string on the left.

4th G, 3rd C, 2nd E and 1st A.

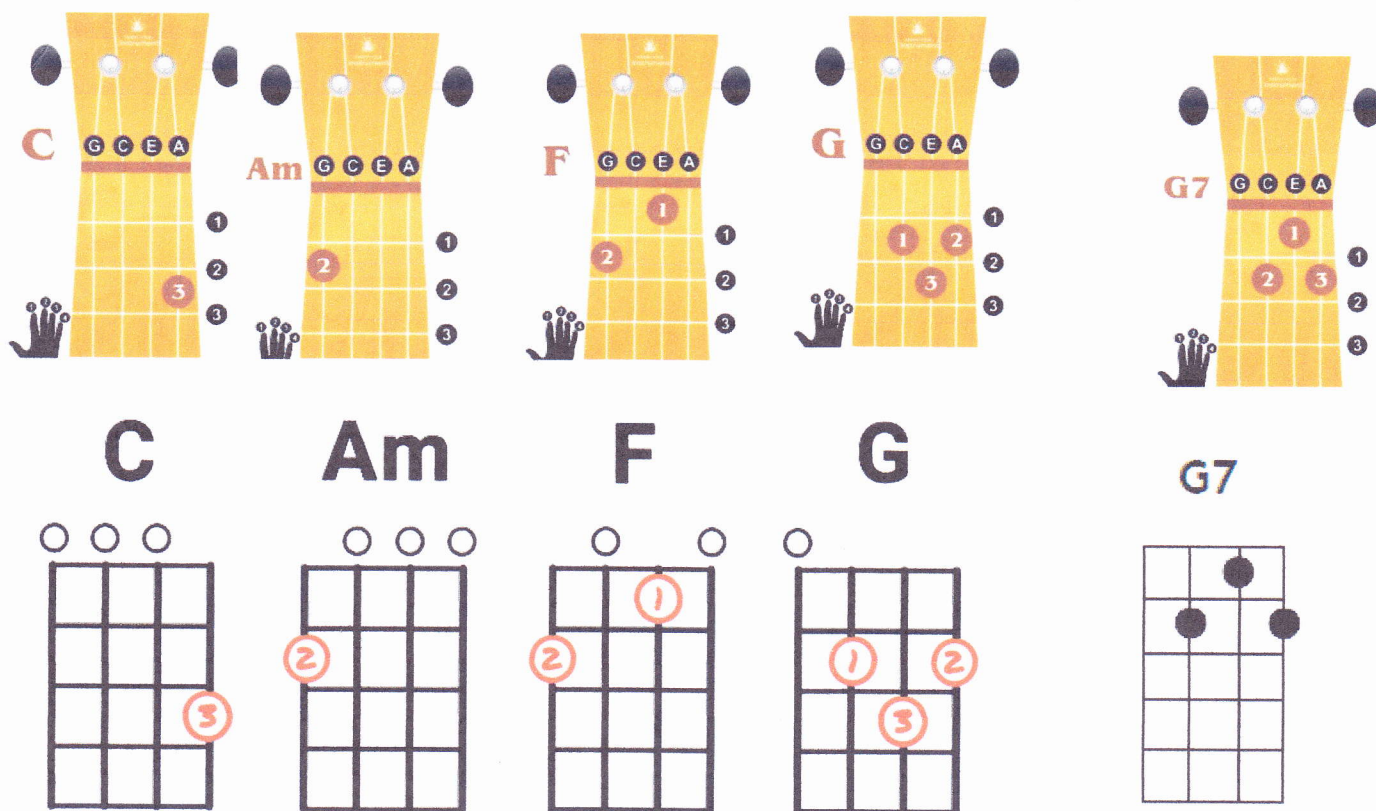
Chords

Chords are described by pressing a string down or leaving a string 'open' starting with the 1st string (A) on the right, 2nd string (E), 3rd string (C), and 4th string (G) on the left.

Fingers have codes.



Index finger 1, middle finger 2, ring finger 3 and little finger (pinky) 4.



For many songs you will just need four chords C, A minor, F and G7. Strum your chords by brushing your fingers across the board, using back of fingers or fleshy bit of the thumb. Start with C Am F and G7 and count the beats. Practice strumming the C chord four times, The Am chord four times, the F chord four times and the G7 chord four times to make up the full 16 chord phrase.

Other chords will be added to your repertoire with time. These include, Em Bb A D D E Gm C7

Strumming Patterns

D indicates Down strum and U indicates Up Strum. Use your wrist for movement. e.g. I Can See Clearly Now (in G) D DU UDU

A Popular song with basic chords is Blowing in the Wind

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| 4C 4F 4C 4C , | 4C 4F 8G7, |
| 4C 4F 4C 4C, | 4C 4F 8G7 |
| 4C 4F 4C 4C | 4C 4F 8G7 |
| 4F 4G7 4C 4Am | 4F 4G 8C |

Wishing You All the best with your ukulele

Ralph