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The songs in this guide are representations of the originals and adjustments have been made for learning purposes only. We do not claim ownership of the original artists' work and gain no profit from this guide.

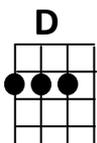
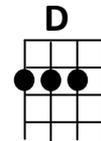
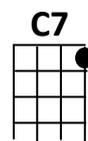
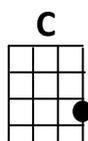
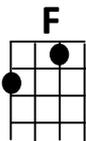
# Ukes, Chords and Strumming

## Buying a Ukulele

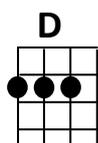
Ask other players for recommendations before you buy and when you do buy don't buy too cheaply. Also, if you have medium-sized to large fingers you will find a soprano ukulele difficult to play as it is quite small. A concert or tenor uke would therefore be a better option as they are larger instruments. Short nails on the left hand are also an advantage (if you are right-handed).

## Chords Used in this Guide

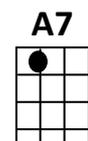
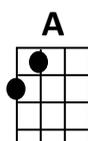
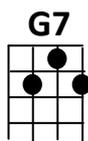
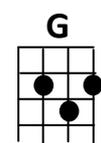
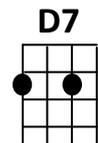
The chords shown below are pretty simple and yet they allow you to play many, many songs. The majority of songs in this guide can be played by using just two of these chords. The last couple of songs in the guide have 3 and 5 chords in them respectively, but they are still reasonably easy to play, especially if you have worked through the earlier songs. The photographs below give you an idea of which fingers to use and where to place them. There are also some alternatives for the D chord.



OR



OR



## **Tuning**

If your ukulele is not in tune it will sound awful no matter how well you play so buy an electronic tuner. Prices range from £5 to £25. Again, ask a friend. You should tune up every time you play so a tuner is really a ‘must have’.

## **Strumming**

Some people use only their index finger to strum which is fine, but to be able to employ a variety of strums in the future, and for more control generally, it might be better to use the back of your thumb (the nail) for the upstrokes and three of your fingers (index, middle & ring) for the down strokes, again making contact with your nails. The nail contact gets a brighter sound from the strings.

This style needs a minimum of hand/wrist movement; you don’t need to move your arm, just your wrist a little and you have more control, especially when playing songs that are quite quick or have a change of rhythm.

An alternative to worn out fingers is a soft, felt plectrum - some folk prefer these.

## **Strumming the Songs in this Guide**

At the top of each song is a strum suggestion. You don’t have to use it, but it is one that does work. To start, you might just prefer to play a simple, continuous:

↓↑↓↑↓↑↓↑

which is ok as it lets you concentrate on counting the rhythm in your head and finding the chord positions with your other hand - not easy at first and rather like patting your head and rubbing your tummy.

A couple of strums used in this guide are:

(a)                      ↑↓   ↓↑↓   ↓↑↓   ↓↑↓   ↓↑↓

and

(b)                      ↓↑↓↑   ↑↓   ↓↑↓↑   ↑↓   ↓↑↓↑   ↑↓   ↓↑↓↑   ↑↓

The first of these two (a) can be applied to lots of songs, as you’ll find in this booklet. To see these strums in action go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWQm7aWrEA4> for the (a) strum

or type in YouTube’s search bar: ‘WUC Ukulele Strumming Lesson Video 1’

and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OBeoVbt\\_Hw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OBeoVbt_Hw) for the (b) strum

or type in YouTube’s search bar: ‘WUC Ukulele Strumming Lesson Video 2’

## **Tip**

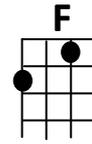
Strumming is just as important as finding the right chords, but often neglected. You need to get a rhythm going that eventually can run by itself without you thinking about it. One idea is to softly cover all four strings with your left hand (so they won’t ring out or make a sound other than a dampened ‘chugging’) and then strum along to a song to get the rhythm and to practise your strum pattern. When you’ve got the strum sorted you can then concentrate on the chords 😊

**“Happy Strumming!”**

# Achy Breaky Heart

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on F **Strum:** a steady  $\overset{1}{\downarrow} \overset{2}{\uparrow} \overset{3}{\downarrow} \overset{4}{\uparrow} \overset{1}{\downarrow} \overset{2}{\uparrow} \overset{3}{\downarrow} \overset{4}{\uparrow}$

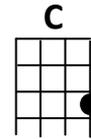
**F**  
You can tell the world you never was my girl



You can burn my clothes when I am gone

**C**  
Or you can tell your friends just what a fool I've been

And laugh and joke about me on the phone



**F**  
You can tell my arms go back into the farm

**C**  
You can tell my feet to hit the floor

**C**  
Or you can tell my lips to tell my fingertips

**F**  
They won't be reaching out for you no more

**F**  
**But don't tell my heart my achy breaky heart**

**C**  
**I just don't think he'd understand**

**C**  
**And if you tell my heart my achy breaky heart**

**F**  
**He might blow up and kill this man wooooo**

Play the chords to the above 4 lines with kazoos! Then continue →

**F**  
You can tell your maw I moved to Arkansas

**C**  
You can tell your dog to bite my leg

**C**  
Or tell your brother Cliff whose fist can tell my lip

**F**  
He never really liked me any-way

**F**  
**But don't tell my heart my achy breaky heart**

**C**  
**I just don't think he'd understand**

**C**  
**And if you tell my heart my achy breaky heart**

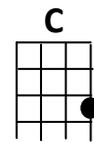
**F (3) F ↓**  
**He might blow up and kill this man wooooo**

# How Much Is That Doggie In The Window?

**Strum:** slowish waltz rhythm  $\overset{1}{\downarrow}\overset{2}{\uparrow}\overset{3}{\downarrow}\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$   $\overset{1}{\downarrow}\overset{2}{\uparrow}\overset{3}{\downarrow}\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$   $\overset{1}{\downarrow}\overset{2}{\uparrow}\overset{3}{\downarrow}\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$   $\overset{1}{\downarrow}\overset{2}{\uparrow}\overset{3}{\downarrow}\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$

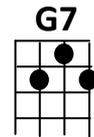
**Intro:** 1 2 3 then play 4 (like the above) on C

**How much is that dooo-ggie in the window?** woof woof



**The one with the wagg-er-ly tail**

**How much is that dooo-ggie in the window?** woof woof



**I do hope that doggie's for sale**

I must take a triiip to California

And leave my poor sweetheart a-lone

If she has a doog she won't be lonesome

And that doggie will have a good home

I read in the paaper there are robbers

With flashlights that shine in the dark

My love needs a dooo-ggie to protect her

And scare them a-way with one bark

I don't want a bunnny or a kitty miaow miaow

I don't want a parrot that talks pretty polly

I don't want a bowwl of little fishes (fish impressions)

You can't take a gold-fish for walks

**How much is that dooo-ggie in the window?** woof woof

**The one with the wagg-er-ly tail**

**How much is that dooo-ggie in the window?** woof woof

**I do hope that doggie's for sale**

# Buffalo Gals

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on D     **Strum:** a jaunty ↗↘ ↓↗↘ ↓↗↘ ↓↗↘ ↓↗↘

D

As I was walking down the street

A7

D

Down the street     down the street

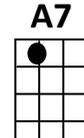
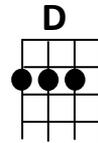
D

A pretty little gal I chanced to meet

A7

D(2)

And we danced by the light of the moon     ohhh



D

**Buffalo Gals     won't you come out tonight**

A7

D

**Come out tonight     come out tonight?**

D

**Buffalo Gals     won't you come out tonight**

A7

D(4)

**And dance by the light of the moon?**

D

I stopped her and we had a talk

A7

D

Had a talk     had a talk

D

Her feet took up the whole side-walk

A7

D(2)

And left no room for me     ohhh ... **chorus**

D

I asked her if she'd have a dance

A7

D

Have a dance     have a dance

D

I thought that I might have a chance

A7

D(2)

To shake a foot with her     ohhh ...

D

**Buffalo Gals     won't you come out tonight**

A7

D

**Come out tonight     come out tonight?**

D

**Buffalo Gals     won't you come out tonight**

A7

D↓ A7↓D↓

**And dance by the light of the moon?**

# Lord Of The Dance (simplified + shortened)

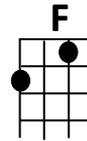
4

**Strum:** ↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on **F** (i.e. one of the above)

**F**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun

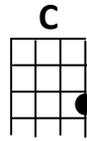


**C**

I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun

**F**

I came down from Heaven and I danced on earth



**C**↓ (stop)

**F**↓ (stop)

At Beth-le-hem I had my birth straight on →

**F**

**Dance dance wherever you may be**

**C**

**I am the Lord of the Dance said He**

**F**

**And I'll lead you all wherever you may be**

**C**

**F(6)**

... 3 4 5 6

**And I'll lead you all in the Dance said He**

**F**

I danced for the scribes and the Phar-i-sees

**C**

. . . . .

But they wouldn't dance and they wouldn't follow me

**F**

I danced for the fishermen James and John

**C**↓ (stop)

**F**↓ (stop)

They came with me and the Dance went on straight on →

**F**

**Dance dance wherever you may be**

**C**

**I am the Lord of the Dance said He**

**F**

**And I'll lead you all wherever you may be**

**C**

**F(6)**

... 3 4 5 6

**And I'll lead you all in the Dance said He**

**F**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame

**C**

. . . . .

The Ho-ly peo-ple thought it was a shame

**F**

They cut and they stripped and they hung me high

**C**↓ (stop)

**F**↓ (stop)

And they left me there on a cross to die straight on → **CHORUS** and slowing on last line

# Hush Little Baby

**Strum:** a slow  $\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$  OR  $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow$

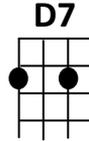
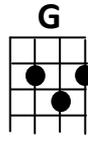
**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on G

G D7  
Hush little baby don't say a word

G  
Papa's gonna buy you a mockingbird

D7  
If that mockingbird don't sing

G  
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring



D7  
**If that diamond ring turns brass**

G  
**Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass**

D7  
**If that looking glass gets broke**

G(4)  
**Papa's gonna buy you a Billy goat**

*Play the previous verse again  $\uparrow$  without singing, concentrating on the strum. Try humming while you strum.*

*Then on to the next verse  $\downarrow$*

D7  
If that Billy goat won't pull

G  
Papa's gonna buy you a cart and bull

D7  
If that cart and bull turn over

G  
Papa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover

D7  
If that dog named Rover won't bark

G  
Papa's gonna buy you a horse and cart

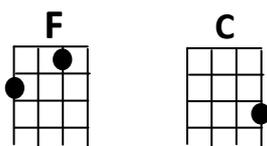
D7  
If that horse and cart fall down

slowing . . . . . G $\downarrow$  G $\downarrow$  G $\downarrow$   
You'll still be the sweetest little baabe iiii toowwn

# Iko Iko

**Strum:** a brisk  $\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on F



**F** **C**  
My grandma and your grandma were sittin' by the fire

My grandma told your grandma "I'm gonna set your flag on fire" **F** straight on →

## chorus

**F**  
Talkin' 'bout hey now up↑ hey now hey now up↑ hey now

**C**  
Iko iko un-day oh ohhh

**F(4)**  
Jack-a-mo fee-no ai na ney jack-a-mo fee na nay

**F** **C**  
Look at my king all dressed in red iko iko un-day

I betcha five dollars he'll kill you dead jack-a-mo fee na nay **F** straight on →

## chorus

**F** **C**  
My flag boy and your flag boy were sittin' by the fire

My flag boy told your flag boy "I'm gonna set your flag on fire!" **F** straight on →

## chorus

**F** **C**  
See that guy all dressed in green? Iko iko un-day

He's not a man he's a lovin' machine jack-a-mo fee na nay **F** straight on →

## chorus

*and then after a count of 2 instead of 4 on the last line, you finish with →*

**C** **F** **C** **F** **F**↓ **F**↑ **F**↓  
Jack-a-mo fee na nay Jack-a-mo fee na nay cha cha cha

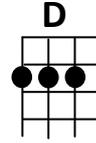
# Skip To My Lou

**Strum:** a steady, slightly jaunty  $\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on D

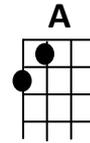
D A  
Lost my partner what'll I do? Lost my partner what'll I do?

D A D  
Lost my partner what'll I do? Skip to my Lou my darling



D A  
Gone again skip to my Lou gone again skip to my Lou

D A D  
Gone again skip to my Lou skip to my Lou my darling



D A  
I'll get another one prettier 'n' new I'll get another one prettier 'n' new

D A D  
I'll get another one prettier 'n' new skip to my Lou my darling

D A  
Little red wagon painted blue little red wagon painted blue

D A D  
Little red wagon painted blue skip to my Lou my darling

## Instrumental/kazoos to the following 2 lines:

D A  
Little red wagon painted blue little red wagon painted blue

D A D  
Little red wagon painted blue skip to my Lou my darling

D A  
Flies in the buttermilk two by two flies in the buttermilk two by two

D A D  
Flies in the buttermilk two by two skip to my Lou my darling

D  
Flies in the sugar bowl shoo shoo shoo

A  
Flies in the sugar bowl shoo shoo shoo

D A D  
Flies in the sugar bowl shoo shoo shoo skip to my Lou my darling

D A  
Lou Lou skip to my Lou Lou Lou skip to my Lou

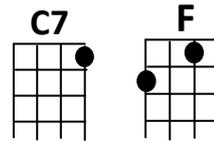
D A D↓ D↓  
Lou Lou skip to my Lou skip to my Lou my dar - ling

# Tom Dooley

8

Same key as The Kingston Trio at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UG539yiQt98>

**Strum:** a slow  $\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$   $\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$



**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then strum following 2 lines

**F** Hang down your head Tom **C7** Dooley hang down your head and cry  
**F(4)**  
 Hang down your head Tom Dooley poor boy you're bound to die

Remember to pause between Tom + Dooley

**F** Hang down your head Tom **C7** Dooley hang down your head and cry  
**F(4)**  
 Hang down your head Tom Dooley poor boy you're bound to die

**F** Met her on the moun-tain **C7** and there I took her life  
**F(4)**  
 Met her on the moun-tain stabbed her with my knife

**F** Hang down your head Tom **C7** Dooley hang down your head and cry  
**F(4)**  
 Hang down your head Tom Dooley poor boy you're bound to die

**F** (pause) This time to-morrow **C7** reckon' where I'll be?  
**F(4)**  
 Hadn't been for Grayson I'd be in Tennessee well now boy

**F** Hang down your head Tom **C7** Dooley hang down your head and cry  
**F(4)**  
 Hang down your head Tom Dooley poor boy you're bound to die

**F** (pause) This time to-morrow **C7** reckon' where I'll be?  
**F(4)**  
 Down in some lonesome valley hangin' from a wide oak tree well now boy

**F** Hang down your head Tom **C7** Dooley hang down your head and cry  
**F(4)**  
 Hang down your head Tom Dooley poor boy you're bound to diie

**C7** **F(4)** **C7 slowing** **F(4)**  
 Poor boy you're bound to diie poor boy you're bound to diiiiiie

# Jambalaya (shortened)

**Strum:** ↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓

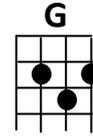
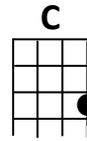
**Intro:** count 1 2 3 then strum on C x 3. After 3 on C sing "Good-bye ..."

Good-bye <sup>C</sup> **Joe** me gotta go me oh my-oh <sup>G</sup>

Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the bayou <sup>C</sup>

My Yvonne the sweetest one me oh my-oh <sup>G</sup>

Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou <sup>C (3 ↓stop)</sup>



<sup>C</sup> **Jamba-laya** and **crawfish pie** and **file gumbo** <sup>G</sup>

**For tonight I'm gonna see ma cher a-mio** <sup>C</sup>

**Pick guitar fill fruit jar and be gay-oh** <sup>G</sup>

**Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou** <sup>C (3 ↓stop)</sup>

<sup>C</sup> Thibo-deaux Fontaineaux the place is buzzin' <sup>G</sup>

Kin-folk come to see Yvonne by the dozen <sup>C</sup>

Dress in style go hog wild me oh my-oh <sup>G</sup>

Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou <sup>C (3 ↓stop)</sup>

<sup>C</sup> **Jamba-laya** and **crawfish pie** and **file gumbo** <sup>G</sup>

**For tonight I'm gonna see ma cher a-mio** <sup>C</sup>

**Pick guitar fill fruit jar and be gay-oh** <sup>G</sup>

**Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou** <sup>C (3 ↓stop)</sup>

<sup>C</sup> Settle down far from town get me a pirogue <sup>G</sup>

And I'll catch all the fish in the bayou <sup>C</sup>

Swap my mon to buy Yvonne what she need-o <sup>G</sup>

Son of a gun we'll have big fun on the bayou <sup>C (3 ↓stop)</sup>

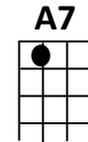
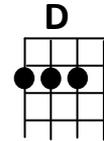
**Sing chorus, ending with** up↑ <sup>C(3)</sup> **... oon the bayouuu** G↓ C↓

# Dance The Night Away

**Strum:** ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 D A7 x 2

D A7 D A7  
Here comes my happiness again  
D A7 D A7  
Right back to where it should have been  
D A7 D A7  
'Cause now she's gone and I am free  
D A7 D A7  
And she can't do a thing to me



D A7 D A7  
**Just wanna dance the night a-way**  
D A7 D A7  
**With senoritas who can sway**  
D A7 D A7  
**Right now tomorrow's lookin' bright**  
D A7 D A7  
**Just like the sunny mornin' light**

\*\*\* D A7  
And if you ... should see her  
D A7 D A7 D A7  
Pleeease let her know ... that I'm well ... as you can tell  
D A7 D A7  
And if she ... should tell you ... that shee wants me baack  
D A7 D A7  
Tell her no ... I gotta go

D A7 D A7  
**Just wanna dance the night a-way**  
D A7 D A7  
**With senoritas who can sway**  
D A7 D A7  
**Right now tomorrow's lookin' bright**  
D A7 D A7  
**Just like the sunny mornin' light**

then repeat from \*\*\*

and after the last line underlined above, play this to finish:

tap D↑↓↑↓↑↓ - A7↑↓↑↓↑↓ - D↑↓↑↓↑↓ - A7↑↓↑↓↑↓ - D↑↓↑↓↑↓ - D↑↓↑↓

# Leaving On A Jet Plane

**Strum:** ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ ↓↑↓↑ ↑↓ or ↓↑↓↑ ↓↑↓↑ <sup>1 2 3 4</sup> <sup>1 2 3 4</sup> **Intro:** 1 2 3 4 G(4) C(4) x 2

All my bags are packed I'm ready to go

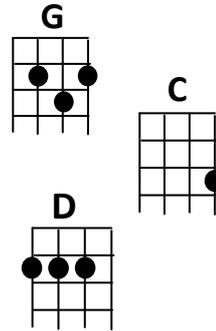
I'm standing here out-side your door

I hate to wake you up to say good-byye

But the dawn is breaking it's early morn'

The taxi's waitin' he's blowin' his horn

Al-ready I'm so lonesome I could diie



**So kiss me and smile for me**

**Tell me that you'll wait for me**

**Hold me like you'll never let me go-o-o-o-oo**

**'Cause I'm leeaavin' on a jet plane**

**pause Don't know when I'll be back again**

**pause ... Oh babe I hate to gooo**

There's so many times I've let you down

So many times I've played around

I tell you now they don't mean a thing/**they don't mean a thing**

Every place I go I'll think of you

Every song I sing I'll sing for you

When I come back I'll wear your wedding ring/**I'll wear your ring**

**chorus as above**

**So kiss me and smile for me . . . and then last line as follows:**

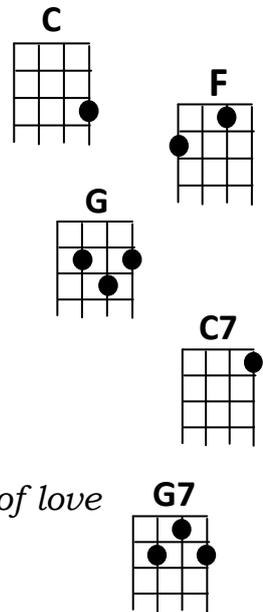
**pause ... Oh babe I hate to gooooooooooooo**

# Travellin' Light (simplified)

**Strum:** a slow, steady  $\uparrow\downarrow \downarrow\uparrow\downarrow \downarrow\uparrow\downarrow \downarrow\uparrow\downarrow \downarrow\uparrow\downarrow$

**Intro:** 1 2 3 4 then 4 on C

C  
I got no bags and baggage to slow me down  
F . C  
I'm travellin' so fast my feet ain't touching the ground  
G C  
Travellin' liiiight travellin' liiiight  
F G C(4) C7(4)  
And I just can't wait to be with my baby to-niiight



F C C7  
No comb no tooth brush I got nothing to haul  
F G(stop) G(stop)  
I'm carrying only a pocketful of dreams a heart full of love  
G(stop) G7  
And they weigh nothing at aaall

C  
Soon I'm gonna see that love light in her eyes  
F C  
I'm a hoot an' a holler away from para-dise  
G C  
Travellin' liiiight travellin' liiiight  
F G C(4) C7(4)  
And I just can't wait to be with my baby to-niiight

F C C7  
No comb no tooth brush I got nothing to haul  
F G(stop) G(stop)  
I'm carrying only a pocketful of dreams a heart full of love  
G(stop) G7  
And they weigh nothing at aaall

C  
Soon I'm gonna see that love light in her eyes  
F C  
I'm a hoot an' a holler away from para-dise  
G C  
Travellin' liiiight travellin' liiiight  
F G C(4) C7(4)  
And I just can't wait to be with my baby to-niiight  
F G go up C(5) G7↓C↓  
No I just can't wait to be with my baby to-niiiiight