

Miss Eliza's Beginner Ukulele Guide:

Section 1: Parts of the ukulele

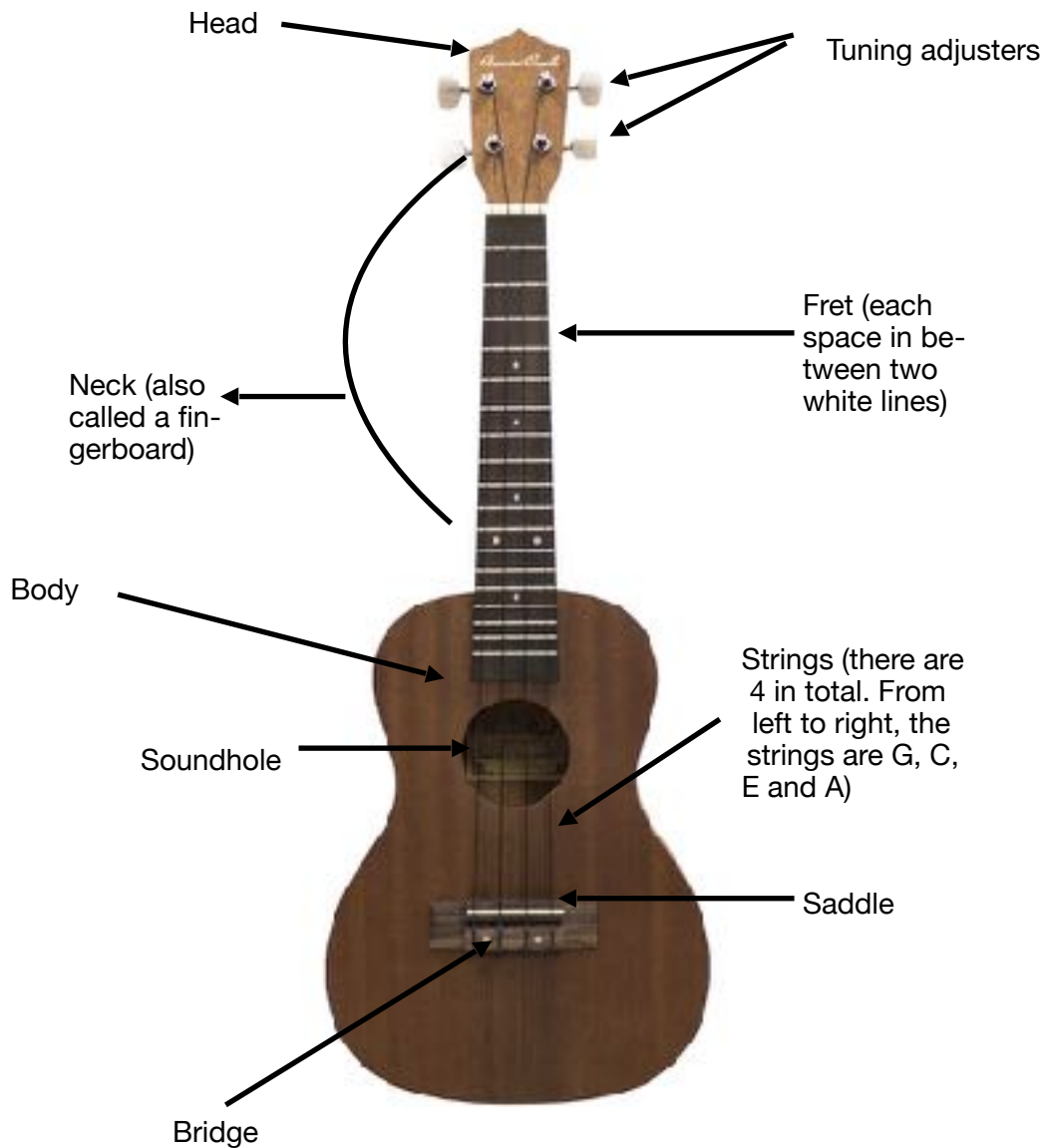
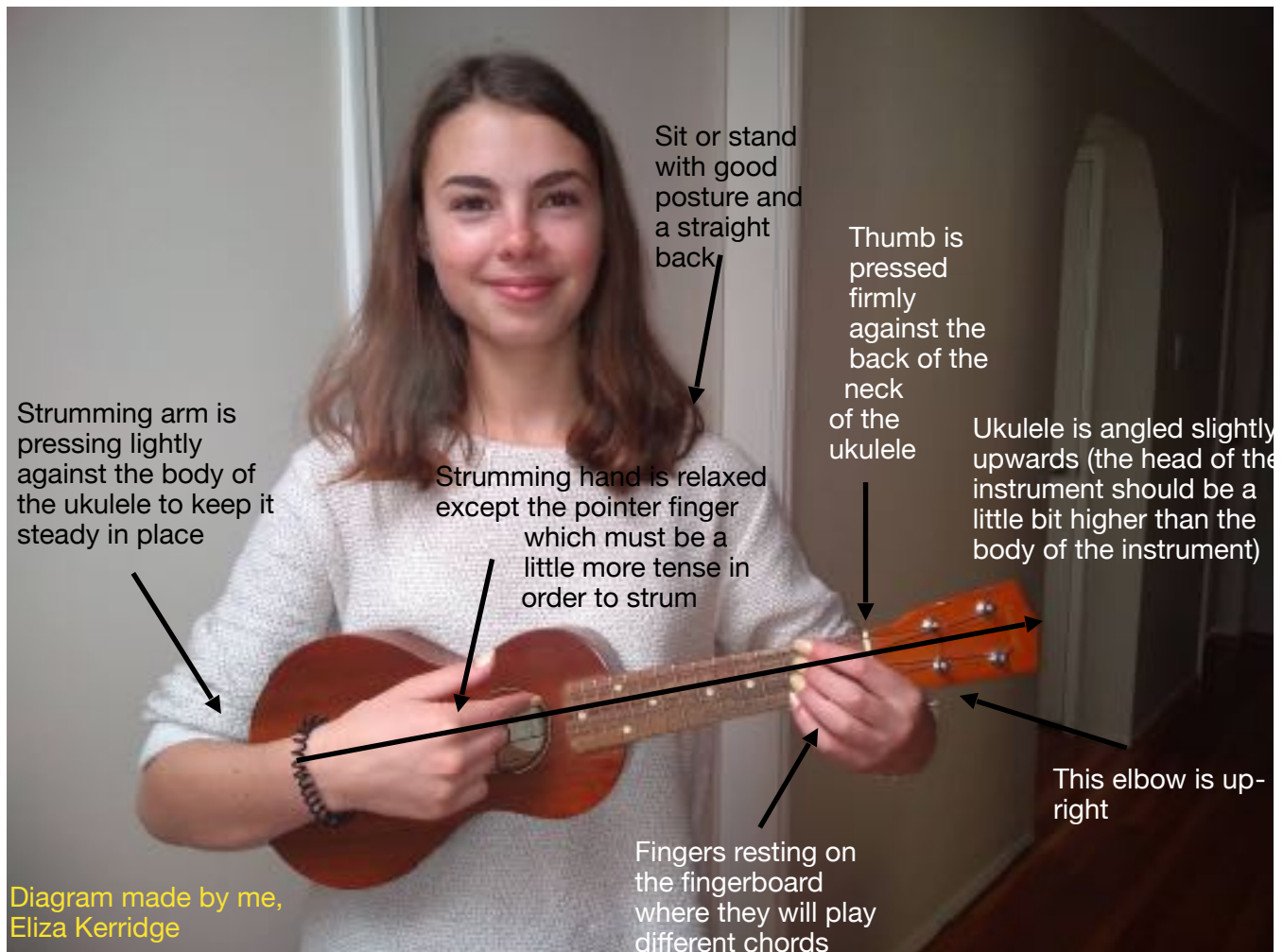


Diagram made by me, Eliza Kerridge

Section 2: How to hold your ukulele in the proper playing position



Section 3: Tuning

There are some different keys that you can tune a ukulele in, but the main ones are the key of C and the key of G. Personally, I like to tune mine in the key of C because I like the sound better. Below are 5 different methods for tuning your ukulele. They will work for tuning in either the key of C or G, just make sure to decide on the right key for you and only pay attention to that key to avoid confusion. Adjust the tuning techniques accordingly.

- 1) Download a tuning app and use it to tune your ukulele with amazing precision. The one I use is called BOSS Tuner (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?>

id=jp.co.roland.bosstuner). While you are using an app to tune your ukulele, make sure to let the sound reverberate from each string. This makes it easier for the app to pick up on the sound and accurately tell you if it is the right note or not.

2) Tune using a reference instrument, like a piano.

3) Sing and memorize “My (G) dog (C) has (E) fleas (A)” to remind yourself of what each string should sound like when it is in tune.

4) Purchase an electronic tuner for your ukulele.

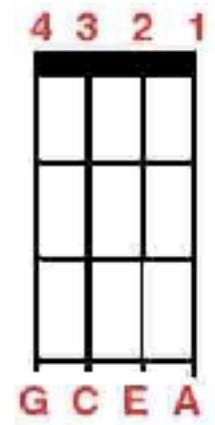
5) Tune the strings in comparison with each other: tune the G string first (the one closest to you), then place a finger on that G string in the second fret to play an A note which is what the A string (the one furthest from you) should sound like.

Tune the A string based on the A note you played on the G string. Place your finger on the E string (third one down) in the third fret to play a G note that matches the sound of the G string. Tune accordingly. Then, place your finger on the C string (second one down) in the fourth fret and this should be an E note. Tune accordingly.

Section 4: Strumming

-Strumming is the motion of brushing the end of your finger(s), thumb or a pick either upwards or downwards across the strings of your ukulele so that they make sound. The volume of the music you want to play on your ukulele depends on your preference, but the more pressure you apply, the louder the sound will be.

-The most common strumming pattern on ukulele is called the “island strum”. There are many other types of strumming, but since this is just a basic guide for beginners, we won’t get into those. I will focus on teaching this one because it is the most versatile and widely-used. The sequence is Down-Down-Up-Up-Down-Up. Strumming down means that you strum all the way through from the 4th string (the G string) to the 1st string (A string), hitting all the strings as you go along and strumming up is the opposite (1st string to 4th string). Start off by strumming the pattern very slowly, then with practice you will be able to do it faster.

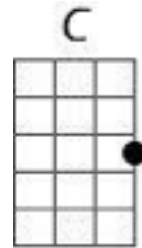


Section 5: Chords

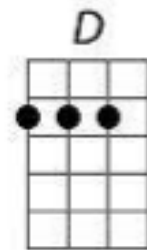
-How to play some common ukulele chords (shown through images of finger positions and brief descriptions):



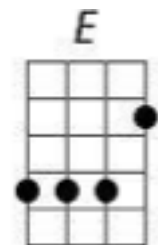
1. C chord: 1 finger (middle or ring finger) on the 3rd fret of the A string.



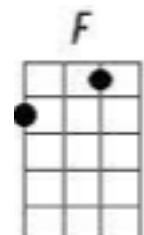
2. D chord: Pointer finger on 2nd fret of G string, middle finger on 2nd fret of C string, ring finger on 2nd fret of E string.



3. E chord: Pointer finger on 2nd fret of A string, middle finger on 4th fret of G string, ring finger on 4th fret of C string, pinky on 4th fret of E string.

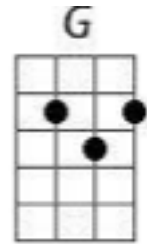


4. F chord: Pointer finger on 1st fret of E string, middle finger on 2nd fret of G string.

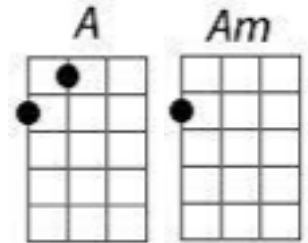




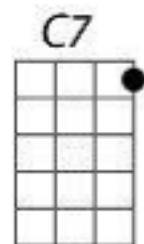
5. G chord: Pointer finger on 2nd fret of C string, ring finger on 3rd fret of E string, middle finger on 2nd fret of A string.



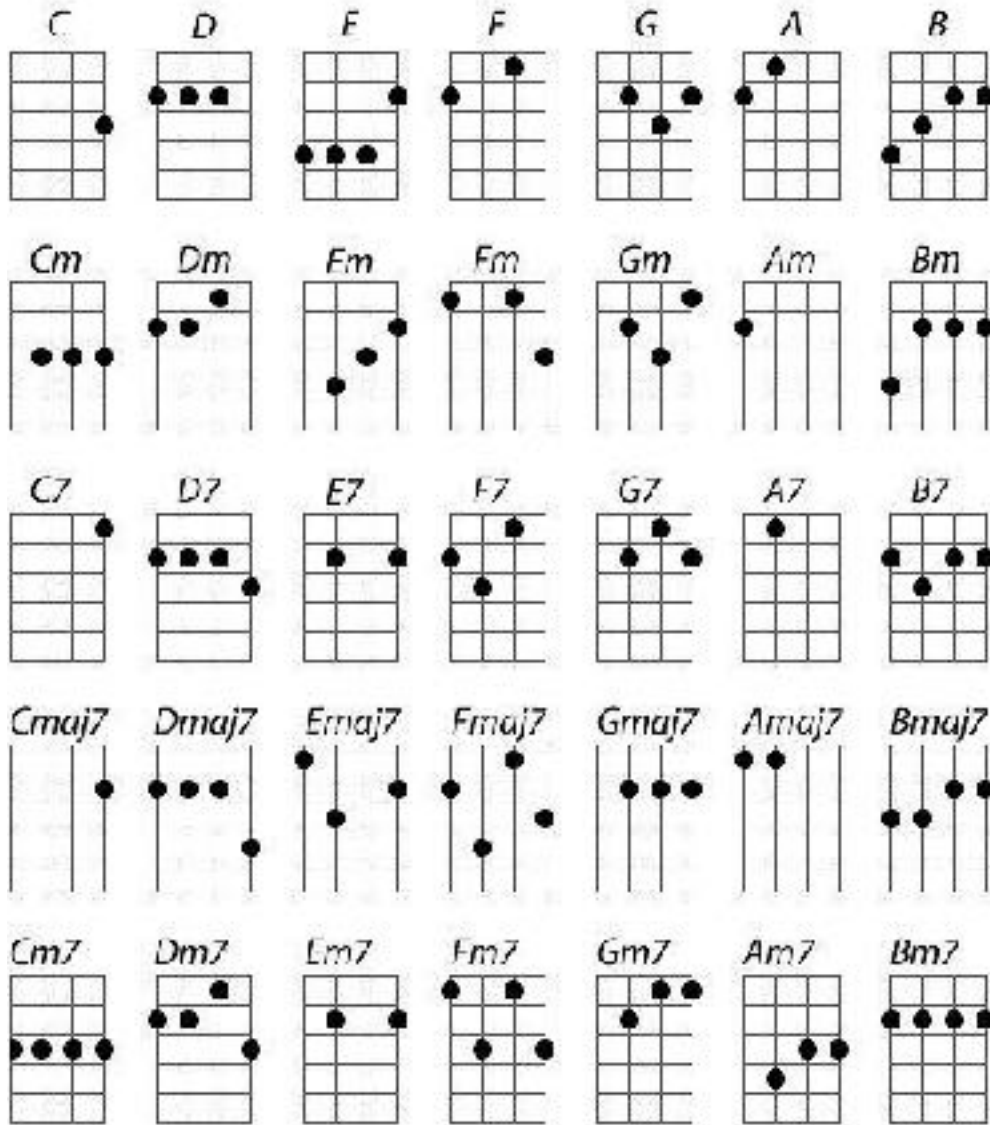
6. A chord: Pointer finger on the 1st fret of the C string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the G string. (Lift pointer finger to play an A7 chord)



7. C7 chord: Pointer finger on 1st fret of A string.



-Complete ukulele fingering chart:



Section 6: Song Suggestions for beginners

-All of these songs are in the key of C, except for #5 which is in the key of G. I have organized them from easiest to hardest. Enjoy!

1. You are my Sunshine. Key: C. Chords: C, C7, G, F.

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/folk-songs/you-are-my-sunshine-uke-tab-15237.html>

2. Riptide by Vance Joy. Key: C. Chords: Am, G, C & F.

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/vance-joy/riptide-uke-tab-31868.html>

3. Hey Soul Sister by Train. Key: C. Chords: C, G, Am & F.

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/train/soul-sister-beginner-uke-tab-14336.html>

4. I'm Yours by Jason Mraz. Key: C. Chords: C, G, Am & F.

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/jason-mraz/im-yours-uke-tab-11804.html>

5. Upside down by Jack Johnson. Key: G. Chords: G, Am, C, D & Bm

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/jack-johnson/upside-down-uke-tab-39797.html>

6. Somewhere over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole. Key: C. Chords: C, Em, F, G & Am.

Link to sheet music: <https://www.ukulele-tabs.com/uke-songs/israel-kamakawiwoole/somewhere-over-the-rainbow-uke-tab-11761.html>

Section 7: Some additional tips and tricks

-When you are playing the ukulele, make sure to press your thumb against the back of its neck (see “Section 1: Parts of the ukulele”) for support and stability.

-Press down firmly on the strings with the padded part of your fingers to get a better sound while playing notes and chords! The harder you press, the more precise those notes and chords will be, and the sound produced will be more crisp.

-Tuning your ukulele takes practice just like any other skill, so don't be too hard on yourself if you find it tricky at the start! To increase your accuracy and efficiency while tuning, try randomly twisting the tuning adjusters to purposefully cause your ukulele to go out of tune, then get it back in tune using one of the five methods in “Section 3: Tuning”.

-The most important thing to remember while learning how to play the ukulele is that practice makes perfect! It is best to practice your ukulele frequently for short periods of time, rather than spending 4 frustrating hours trying to become a ukulele prodigee in one day (it's not going to come that easily). It is much more beneficial to have practice sessions every other day for 20-30 minutes in which you make mini-breakthroughs, learn new skills each time, and broaden your musical knowledge bit by bit.

-The best way to start learning a song on the ukulele is by learning and memorizing the chords it requires you to play. Try playing them one after the other in a sequence, switching between each one faster and faster as you become more comfortable. Once you know the chords, try playing the song while following a long with the sheet music/tab, first without singing, then with signing if you wish to. I find that playing a song on the ukulele is easier when you sing because the chord switches usually line up with the lyrics.

-Most of all, have fun!!! Learning a new instrument involves lots of effort, concentration, and dedication but the process should also bring you joy. Remember, you are on your way to gaining the amazing and impressive skill of playing the ukulele, and that's what makes all the hard work worthwhile!

List of resources used:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Tune-a-Ukulele>

<https://takelessons.com/blog/10-easy-ukulele-songs-for-beginners-z10>

[BOSS Tuner - Apps on Google Play](#)

<https://ukuguides.com/beginner/10-ukulele-tips-for-beginners/>

https://cosmomusic.ca/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/9df78e-ab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/F//FIUKBEABCUKEC_1_5.jpg
zukulele.com

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/7a/02/3e/7a023eb5c5f81d-d6067979c45768d8be.jpg>