

Beginner's Uke Page 1

Tuning

Strings are tuned as you look at them as G C E A

Tuning tips – you can purchase a digital tuner – eg a SNARK or you can download a free ukulele tuning app onto your phone if you have one.

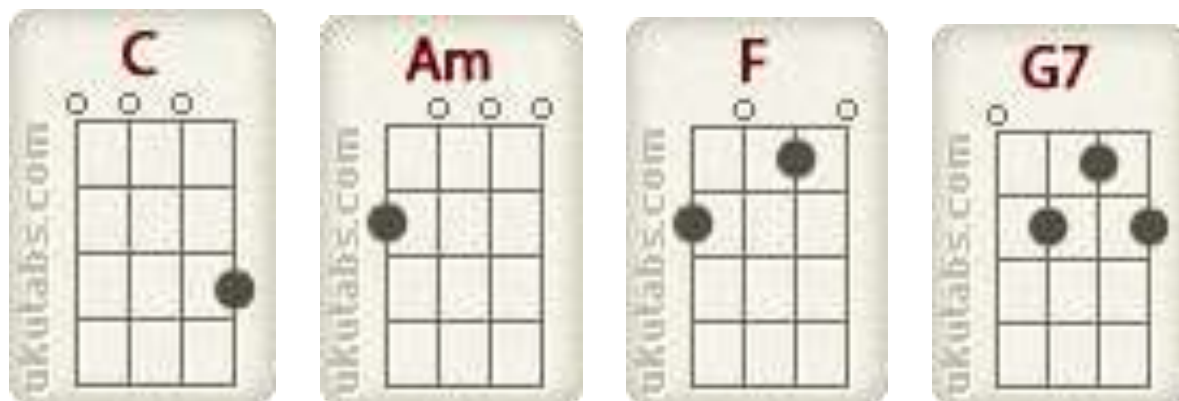
New ukes need tuning all the time, as they need to get some work into the strings. Once you have played for a few hours, you just need to check your tuning.

When we play in the group, we always tune up first and others will help you if you need it.



Playing Chords

One of your helpers will explain the way chord diagrams work and which fingers to use.





Start with C first and get that comfortable and then move onto to Am etc etc.











Strumming

Strums either go up  or down  and most normally a pattern of ups and downs.

BASIC STRUM 1

|     :|| (NB The : means repeat and the || means the end)

BASIC STRUM 2

|         :||

Once you have these ones under control, try making the first one of each set a bit louder and the others a bit softer



Now for a song pattern

| C / / / | C / / / | C / / / | C / / / ||

You can strum however you like, but you need to keep in time with a 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 pattern, with the C being on number 1.

Changing Chords

It is better to play slowly and keep a steady rhythm than to play each chord fast and then have a break until you get to the next chord. If you play steadily and practice, you will eventually be able to speed up, at a steady pace.

Your aim is to learn where the chords are so you can train your fingers to find them by themselves!

First pattern

C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	
Am / / /	Am / / /	Am / / /	Am / / /	
C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	

Second pattern

C / / /	C / / /	Am / / /	Am / / /	
C / / /	C / / /	Am / / /	Am / / /	
C / / /	C / / /	Am / / /	C / / /	

Third pattern

C / / /	**C** / / /	**Am** / / /	**C** / / /	
C / / /	**C** / / /	**Am** / / /	**C** / / /	
F / / /	**F** / / /	**C** / / /	**C** / / /	

Fourth pattern

C / / /	**C** / / /	**Am** / / /	**Am** / / /	
C / / /	**C** / / /	**F** / / /	**F** / / /	
G7 / / /	**G7** / / /	**C** / / /	**C** / / /	

Fifth pattern

C / / /	**C** / / /	**Am** / / /	**C** / / /	
C / / /	**C** / / /	**F** / / /	**C** / / /	
C / / /	**C** / / /	**G7** / / /	**C** / / /	

Sixth pattern (the tough one..... but this is really a song !)

C / / /	**Am** / / /	**F** / / /	**G7** / / /	
C / / /	**Am** / / /	**F** / / /	**G7** / / /	
C / / /	**Am** / / /	**F** / / /	**G7** / **C** /	

TIP : If you can practise for 30 minutes a day, you will see your own steady improvement by next week.