



Music Tuition

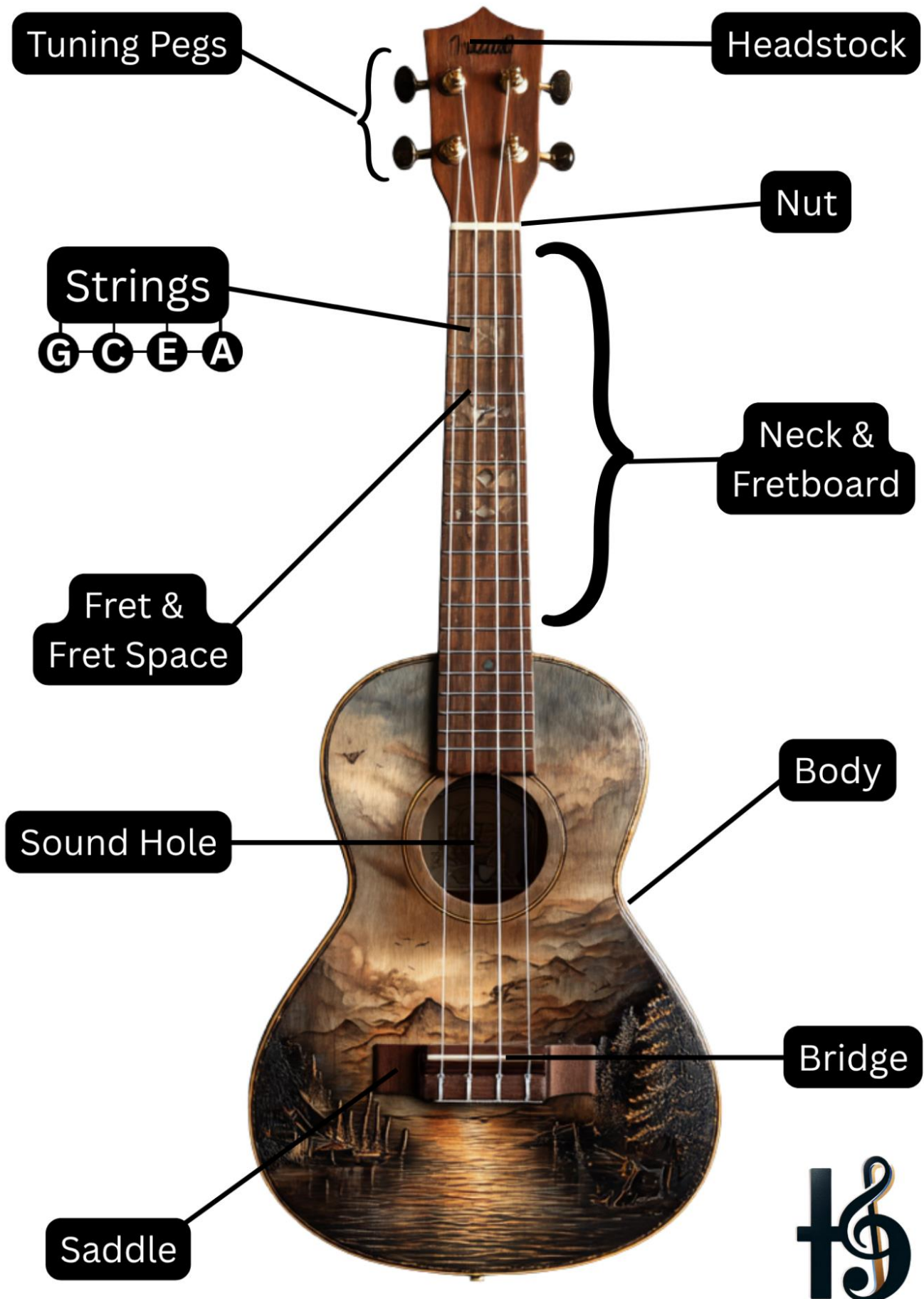
TEACHING LIFE THROUGH MUSIC, AND MUSIC THROUGH LIFE

UKULELE

**CHORDS &
STRUMMING
PATTERNS**

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Ukulele Diagram



Welcome to Your Ukulele Quick Start Guide!

Kia ora! (A traditional Māori greeting from New Zealand)

My name's **Hamish**, and I'm based in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Over the years, I've had the privilege of helping learners of all ages build confidence through music.



One of my favourite things is seeing people go from:

“I wish I could play...”

to

“Hey... I can do this!”

Inside this guide, you'll find beginner-friendly chords, helpful diagrams, tuning tips, rhythm ideas, and practical tools to help you get started quickly and confidently.

This booklet is designed to be **clear, simple, and useful**. No unnecessary fluff — just the foundations you need to start making real progress.

Keep it nearby, practise a little at a time, and most importantly —

Enjoy the journey.

Hamish Guthrie

Let's Get in Tune

Hold your ukulele as if you're about to play it.

Starting from the string nearest your chin, tune the strings to:

G - C - E - A

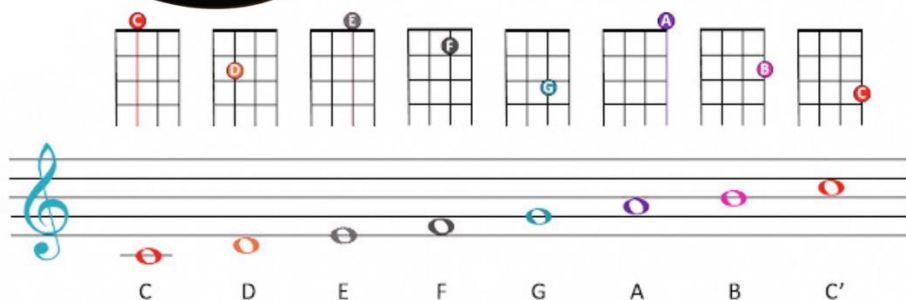
A handy memory phrase is:

Green Cows Eat Apples

Ukulele Tuning

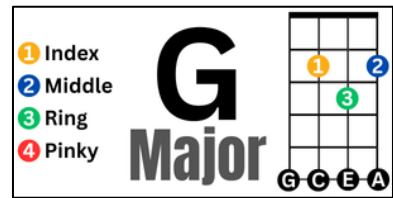
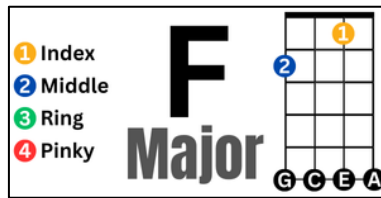
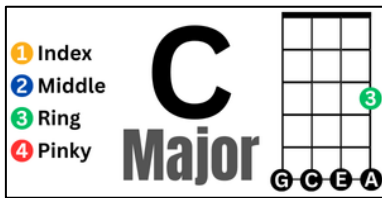


Green
Cows
Eat
Apples



*Note: Notes in the diagram shown above relate to a standard **soprano ukulele***

Your First Set of Chords (Key of C)



Chord Progression Chart

C ///	F ///	C ///	C ///
F ///	F ///	C ///	C ///
G ///	F ///	C ///	C ///

A chord progression chart shows you **which chord to play, and when to change** with each box or space representing a section of time (often referred to as a **bar** or **measure**).

Example: **C ///** means:

- Play a **C chord** for 4 counts/beats/strums
The slashes show the remaining beats in that bar/measure

Reading Across the Line

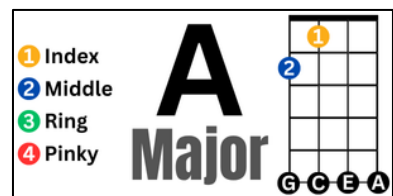
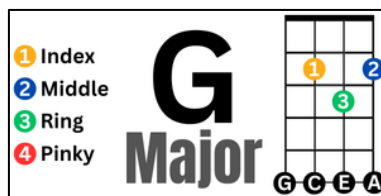
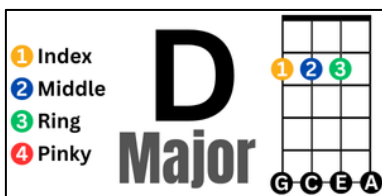
Start on the left and move across:

C /// | F /// | C /// | C ///

Quick Tip

Keep your strumming hand moving steadily, even when changing chords.











Your Second Set of Chords (Key of D)










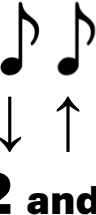

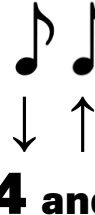

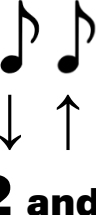

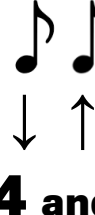




Chord Progression Chart

D ///	G ///	D ///	D ///
G ///	G ///	D ///	D ///
A ///	G ///	D ///	D ///

Note Values & Strumming Patterns

# Beats per note	4 Beats	2 Beats	1 Beat	½ Beat	¼ Beat
British Term	Semibreve	Minim	Crotchet	Quaver	Semiquaver
Note Symbol					
American Term	Whole	Half	Quarter	Eighth	Sixteenth
Rest Symbol					

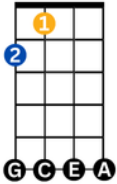
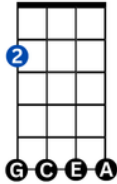
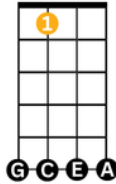
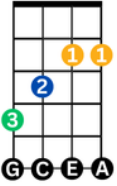
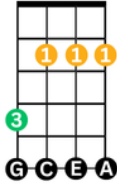
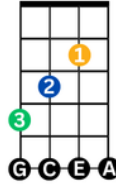
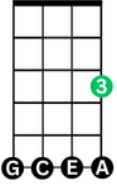
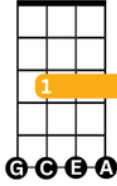
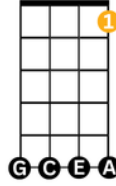
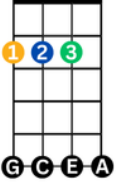
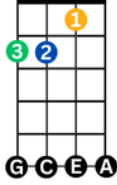
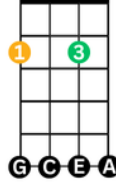
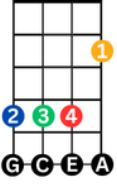
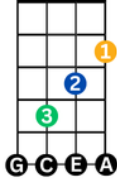
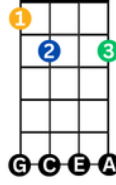
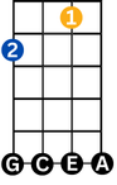
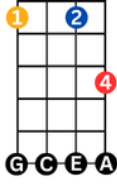
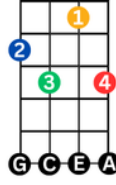
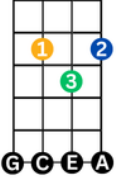
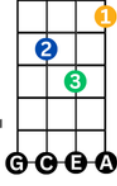
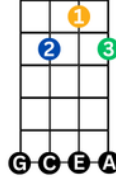
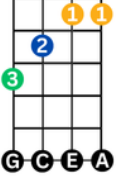
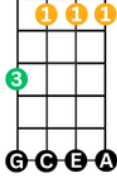
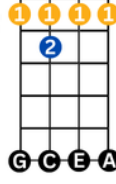
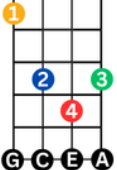
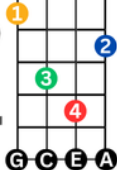
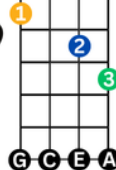
Symbol			-	X
Action	Down Strum	Up Strum	Missed Strum	Muted Strum

Type of Strum	Pattern			
Maintenance 4/4	 1	 2	 3	 4
Syncopated #1	 1	 2 and	 3	 4 and
Syncopated #2	 1	 2 and	 - and	 4 and
Off Beat / Reggae	 - and	 - and	 - and	 - and

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Chord	A chord is a set combination of notes played at the same time. <i>Example, if you play a "C" chord on the ukulele and strum all the strings, you are sounding the notes G, C, E, and (with your finger on the 3rd fret of the A string) another C.</i>
Major	A chord or scale that generally sounds happy, bright, or uplifting. A major chord is made from the root note, major third, and perfect fifth.
Minor	A chord or scale that generally sounds sad, mellow, or serious. A minor chord is made from the root note, minor third, and perfect fifth.
Seventh	A chord that adds the seventh note of the scale to a major or minor chord, giving it a jazzy or bluesy sound.
Sharp	A symbol that raises a note by one semitone (half step). For example, F becomes F#.
Flat	A symbol that lowers a note by one semitone (half step). For example, B becomes Bb.
Tuner	A device or app that helps you adjust each string to the correct pitch.
Metronome	A device or app that produces a steady beat to help you keep time when practising.
Beat	The basic unit of time in music, like the pulse you tap your foot to.
Down Strum	↓ Strumming the strings from the top (closest to your head) down towards the floor.
Up Strum	↑ Strumming the strings from the bottom (closest to the floor) up towards your head.
Missed Strum	- Moving your hand in the strumming motion but deliberately not hitting the strings, creating rhythmic space.
Muted Strum	✘ Strumming the strings while muting them with your fretting hand, creating a percussive "chuck" sound.

Bonus Chord Reference Chart (Majors, Minors & Sevenths)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Index 2 Middle 3 Ring 4 Pinky 	A Major 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Index 2 Middle 3 Ring 4 Pinky 	A Minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Index 2 Middle 3 Ring 4 Pinky 	A 7 
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