

UKULELE I - KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER AUTUMN TERM

The Story of the Ukulele:

Our story starts on the Portuguese island of Madeira. Here, a small guitar with 4 strings, called a 'machete' was played. The earliest known reference to the machete was in 1716...

In 1879, a massive famine in Madeira caused a boat load of contract workers (427!) to leave for Honolulu in search of work. The machete, as an instrument, came over with them, as well as 3 machete makers! These 3 machete makers worked on plantations for a short while before setting up as furniture and instrument makers. In less than a decade, the ukulele came about and became known as the 'national instrument' of Hawaii.

Ukulele posture and positioning

Support the ukulele with the right forearm

First finger on right hand is your 'strumming finger'

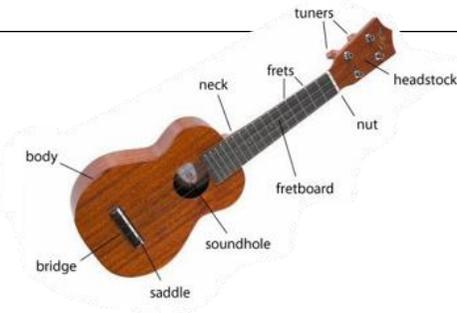
Be sure to keep a loose wrist movement (don't strum from your elbow!) stroke, not hammer!



Keep your left-hand thumb behind the neck, resting so you have room to wiggle your fingers around

Keep left fingers close to the fingerboard (arm and hand at 90° to the neck)

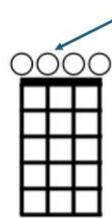
Don't let the neck sink into the left-hand palm (your left hand should not be in charge of supporting the ukulele)



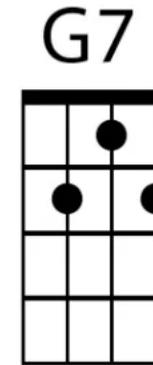
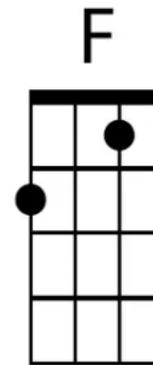
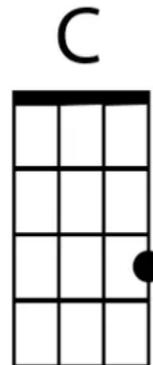
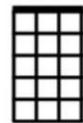
How to Read Uke Chord Charts

Hollow dots mean 'open strings', no fingers press down anywhere on those strings

Solid dot means place a finger here.



G C E A



Arrows can be used to show the direction of strum (down or up)

The Strings of a Ukulele

When you play the strings of a ukulele without pressing them down, it is known as 'open strings'

MUSIC KEY TERMS

Tempo	The speed of the music
Dynamics	Loud (<i>forte</i>) and quiet (<i>piano</i>)
Plectrum (pick)	Thin, flat bit of plastic used to pick strings
Strumming	When you play more than one string at a time
Tablature (TAB for short)	A simple form of music notation for a string instrument that uses lines, numbers and symbols to show where to put your fingers on the fret board
Chord	Two or more notes played together
7th Chord	A chord that has an additional (specific) note added on the top, creating a different sound
Time Signatures	 Count 3 beats in every bar  Count 4 beats in every bar