Notes for Beginners

You have just bought a ukulele – beginner, here are a few tips to

<u>Tuning</u>

- First you need the 4 strings tuned to the right notes!
- You can buy an electronic tuner that clips onto your ukulele I
- Or you can get a free tuner app for your ipad or iphone, etc.



If you don't have either of these, look at our website:
www.marlowuke.co.uk
and go to the 'Help' section

8

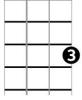
- Then choose 'Click to Tune your Ukulele'.
- You will hear the sound of each string

notes : G C E and A.

• If your uke is <u>very new</u> or you have fitted new strings, you will need to repeat this quite often until the strings have stretched.

Pick a Song and Look at the Chords

- Now on the website, click on 'Songs' -- then go to: 'MUG Beginners Songs'.
- Find the first song in the book Clementine it has 2 chords, C and G7.
- Look at the C chord shape ...
 - This is like a picture of the top of your ukulele looking from the front .. it shows the top 4 'frets' as they are called.



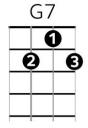
С

- The number **3** refers to finger 3 of your left hand (if you are right handed) .. it means '**Press this string** here using the third finger (3) of your left hand'.
- Try not to touch any of the other strings with your left hand as you do this.

Strum a Chord

- Now strum <u>down</u> across ALL 4 strings while fingering a C chord. Use the nail of your first finger (right hand) to strum down. You are strumming a C chord!
- Keep going, counting **123** / **123** / **123** etc. (waltz time)

More Chords



- Now try the **G7** chord
- Notice where to put your first finger (1) on the second string, second finger (2) on the third string and third finger (3) on the first string.
- This triangular shape is more difficult but try to strum all 4 strings again, without any buzzing!







great! If you are a complete help get you started before you join us!

Now Play a Complete Song

• Now try the whole **Clementine** song .. <u>very slowly</u> – notice the chord changes are marked at the appropriate places :

G7

С

In a cavern, in a canyon, excavating for a mine,

С

Dwelt a miner, forty-niner, and his daughter Clementine etc.

• Try to change chords smoothly as you strum ... without any buzzing!

G7

- Sing along as you play nobody's listening!
- Phew! When you feel more competent, try increasing the speed!

Another Song

С

- When you are ready, turn to the next song in the Beginners Book: 'He's got the whole world in his hands'
- This has the same 2 chords but this time count **1 2 3 4** / **1 2 3 4** etc.

5

He's got the whole world in his hands

G7

He's got the whole wide world in his hands etc.

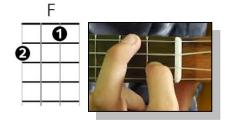
More Strumming

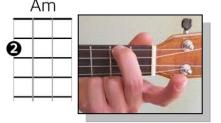
- Try strumming down with the nail of your first finger, then up with the fleshy part .. down - up, down - up, down - up, etc.
- Strum where the 'neck' joins the 'body' .. this usually gives the best sound.

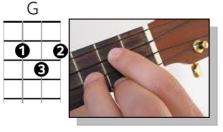


More Songs

- Carry on and try Jumbalaya and Drunken Sailor (see the new chords below).
- All the songs have chord shapes displayed too, but it is better if you can try to remember them (cover them up!).







- Try to make progress through the book with any of the songs that you know.
- 10-30 minutes a day will show real progress by the end of the week! Promise! Your fingers will also be sore .. Promise! Good Luck.