

## Aeron's Ukulele Basics for Beginners

### Welcome to the Ukulele Guys.



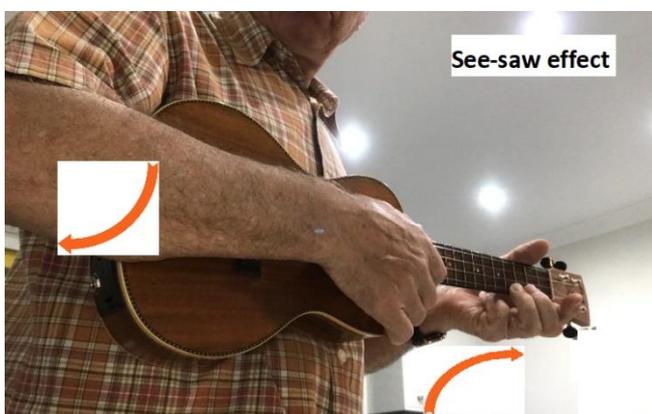
You are going to love this little instrument which has taken the World by storm. It is being played by young and old alike. All you need is a ukulele, a willingness to have a go and a yearning to enjoy yourself.

**Let's begin**

**How to hold your ukulele** (See the pictures below) The answer is where it "feels most comfortable" for you. Whether High up on your chest, midway, low down or sitting down. Or you may even decide to use a strap!



The ukulele is held in place against your body using your forearm (as you see in the first 3 pictures above), unless you choose to sit down of course. Push the ukulele into your body using your right forearm and elbow and you will experience the **see-saw effect** as the ukulele neck is pushed outwards against your left hand. This will be very helpful as it saves you having to press too hard with your fingers when playing notes and chords.



**Where to strum?** Between where the neck meets the ukulele body and the sound hole.

**How to strum?** If you are right handed you will **strum** with your **right hand**.



**Using Open strings only**

**Strum; Down, Down, Down, Down.**

Use this hand shape to begin. You can see that you are pointing at yourself. Strum down across all the strings until you are pointing at the floor. You could also use your thumb to strum instead. Don't press down any strings just yet.

**Using Open strings only Strum; Down, Down, Down, Down.**

Repeat this several times in a regular timing pattern. **Count out loud 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4 etc.**

Now let's try fitting **Up strums** in between the **Down strums**. Just like this and count out loud **1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &**. Point to yourself then point to the floor. Try to **"roll your wrist."**

**Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up, Down, Up.**

**1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &**

Repeat this several times until you feel comfortable with the pattern.

We are almost ready to play our first chords.

**But, before we can do that, we need to take note of a few things.**

**1 How to hold the neck of your ukulele** (see the photo below)

Put your ukulele on the first knuckle of your left hand (if you are right handed)

Then wrap your other fingers around the neck. Keep your thumb where it feels most comfortable.

**Right handed players strum with their right hand and fret chords with their left hand**

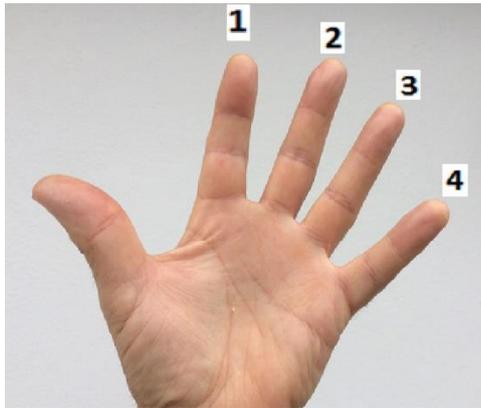


**Note that the ukulele is NOT in the palm of the hand.**

2. Your fingers will be given numbers as in the photos below.

Starting with the index finger as 1, middle finger as 2, ring finger is 3 and pinky is 4.

**Picture A** Right handed players will use their left hands to fret chords

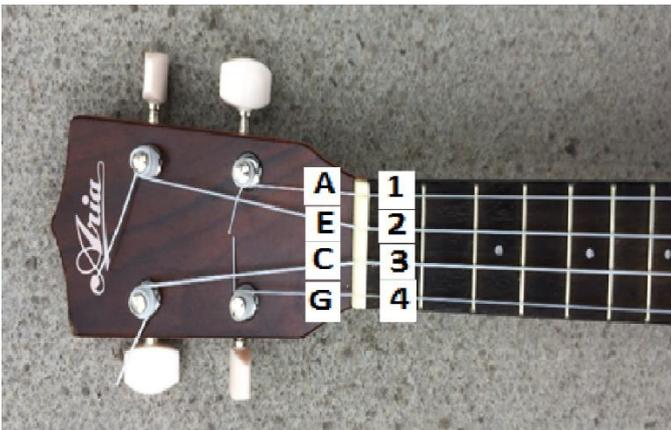


3. The strings have numbers too as in the photo below.

The ukulele strings are tuned to the notes **G C E A**

These can be easily remembered by the simple mnemonic

**Goats Can Eat Anything**



4. The last set of numbers are given to the **FRETS** which are the shiny bits of metal which run cross the neck of the ukulele. These show you where to put your fingers in order to change the pitch of a note on a particular string.



### One finger per fret is the way to go to learn chords quickly

That means that you will use your index finger to play any notes on the first fret

Use your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger to play any notes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret

Use your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger to play any notes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret and finally

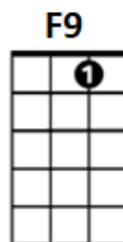
Use your little finger for the 4<sup>th</sup> fret

**Note** Sometimes a chord will require 2 or 3 fingers on the same fret. You will see this later on as you learn more chord shapes

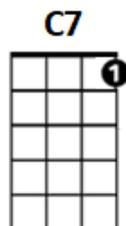
**Chords** are displayed using “chord windows” which show you where to put your fingers on the fret board **and** also which fingers to use

### Here are the first 2 chords you are going to learn to play

The first one is called **F9**. You use your first or index finger on the first fret of the second string of the first fret for this chord. See the diagram below



The second chord is a **C7**. You use your index finger on the first fret of the first string of the. See the diagram below



You will be able to play a lot of songs with these 2 chords. There's a great song below called Jambalaya

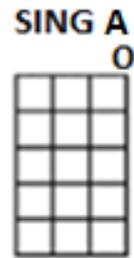
**Jambalaya** (On The Bayou) (Williams & Mullican) Hank Williams 1942

Count in 1 2, 1 2

Strum D\_DUDUDU

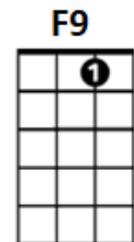
Starting note A

[F9] Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh [C7] my oh  
 Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the [F9] bayou  
 My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh [C7] my oh  
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou

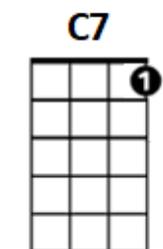


**Chorus**

[F9] Jambalaya crawfish pie and filet [C7] gumbo  
 'Cos tonight I'm gonna see my ma chera-[F9]-mio  
 Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be [C7] gay..o  
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



[F9] Thibodeaux, Fontaineaux, the place is [C7] buzzin'  
 Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the [F9] dozen  
 Dress in style, go hog wild, me oh [C7] my oh  
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



**Chorus**

[F9]Settle down far from town get me a [C7] pirogue  
 And I'll catch all the fish in the [F9] bayou  
 Swap my mon' to buy Yvonne what she [C7] need..o  
 Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.

**Chorus**

**Outro;**

Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.  
 Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.  
 Son of a [C7] gun, we'll have big fun on the [F9] bayou.



**Deep in The Heart Of Texas** (Swander/ Herchey) Performed by Perry Como 1941

**Intro: Count: 1..2..1 2 3**

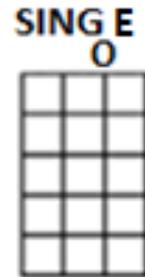
**Starting note is E**

The **[F9]** stars at night are big and bright **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

The prairie sky is wide and high **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas

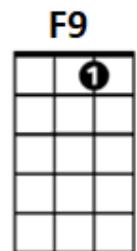


The **[F9]** sage in bloom is like perfume **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

Reminds me of the one I love **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas

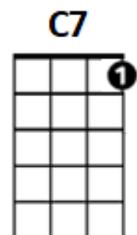


The **[F9]** cowboys cry ki-yip-pee-ay **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[C7]** Texas

The doggies bawl an' bawl 'ya-all' **(4 stamps)**

Deep in the heart of **[F9]** Texas



**Repeat song from beginning**



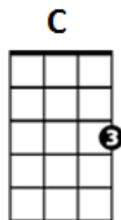
## Here is our first 4 chord progression in the key of C major (Part 1)

Try **8 down strums** for each chord. This will allow you time to work on your down strums and give you time to prepare for the change to the next chord in the progression  
The count is **1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4** strums on C major then change to **1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4** strums on Am and so on. The plan here is to **keep the strumming continuously** whilst changing from one chord shape to the next.

**TIP Don't stop at the change! Strum through it! You can do it!**

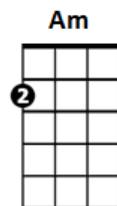
**Step 1.** Use your third finger for this chord **C major**.

It's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret, so you use the 3<sup>rd</sup> finger.

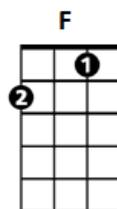


**Step 2.** Move 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on to 4<sup>th</sup> string at 2<sup>nd</sup> fret to form the **Am** chord. This is the **A minor** chord.

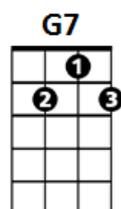
It's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret so you will use the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger



**Step 3.** For the **F major** chord just leave 2<sup>nd</sup> finger where it is and put your first finger on the 1<sup>st</sup> fret of the 2<sup>nd</sup> string.



**Step 4** Leave your index finger in place as a "pivot" and move fingers 2 & 3 to form the G7 chord



**Step 5.** Finally we need to take off your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers and **slide your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger** up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret to return to the C chord again. Simple!