

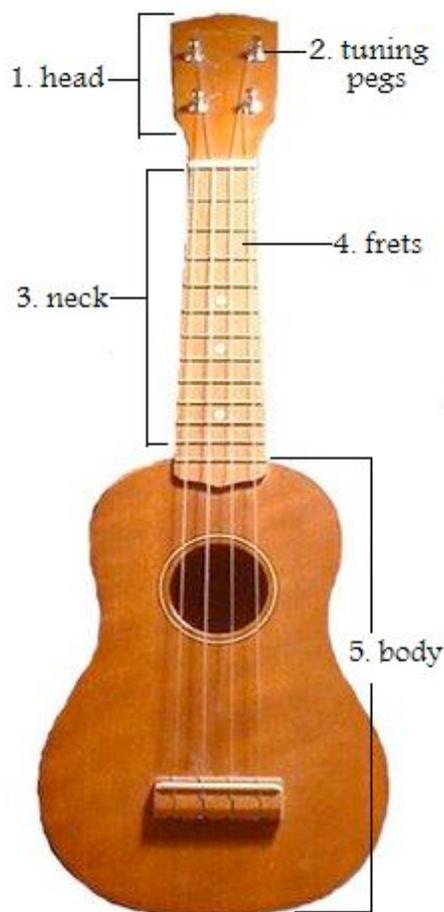
How To Play Ukulele Chords

This guide is for anyone interested in learning how to play the ukulele. The guide will explain some common knowledge about the ukulele such as recognizing the main parts, understanding tuning, and giving instructions to strum and play chords.

Contents:

- Main Ukulele Parts
- Tuning
- Knowledge Needed To Understand Making Chords
- Making The Gm Chord
- Making The F Chord
- Reggae Strumming Pattern

Main Ukulele Parts



1. *Head* - The tuning pegs are located on the head.

2. *Tuning pegs* - The tuning pegs are **used to tune** the ukulele's strings.

3. *Neck* - The neck is where your fingers create chords.

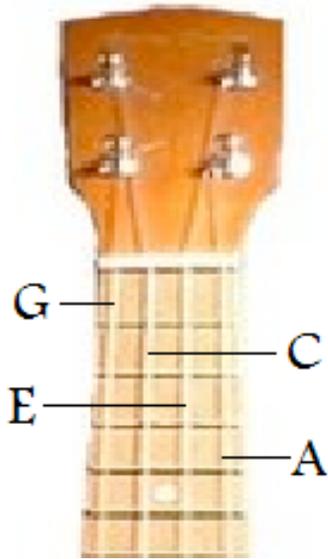
4. *Frets* - The frets are the **spaces** on the neck.

5. *Body* - The body is the foundation of the ukulele and creates the instrument's resonating sound

Tuning

The ukulele's strings are tuned to the notes **G, C, E, A**. To play chords properly, the **strings must be tuned** properly.

* If the strings are out of tune, the chords will be played out of tune, causing the chords to sound **flat** and out of pitch.



One way to tune the ukulele is with a **tuner**. The tuner is a small pocket-sized device with a screen that shows what note is playing on an instrument. It is commonly used for the ukulele or guitar.

1. Turn on the tuner.
2. Play one of the ukulele's strings **loud and next to the tuner**. The tuner will hear the sound of the string and will show on its screen what note is playing.
3. Tune the strings until the tuner shows the desired note for the string: G, C, E, or A.

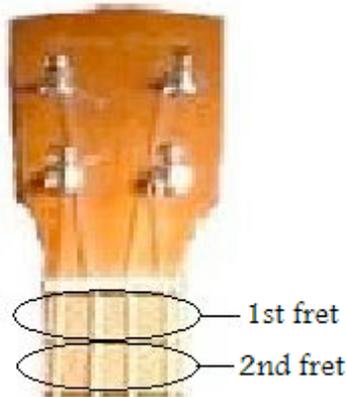
Another alternative for tuning is **using a piano**.

1. Play the notes, G, C, E, and A on the piano.
2. Listen and **adjust the sound** of the ukulele's strings to the piano's notes.

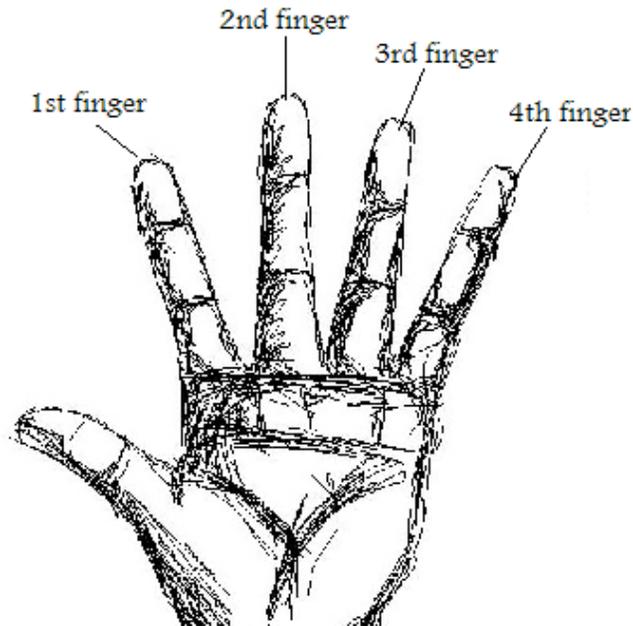
Knowledge Needed To Understand Making Chords

*The **frets**, **strings**, and your **fingers** are **numbered** to help you understand how to make a chord.

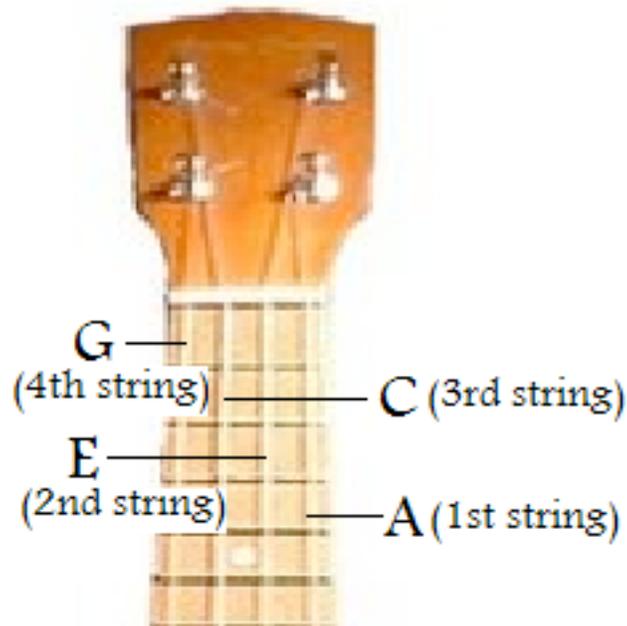
1. The fret **closest** to the ukulele's head is the 1st fret. The next fret closest to the ukulele's head is the 2nd fret, and so on.



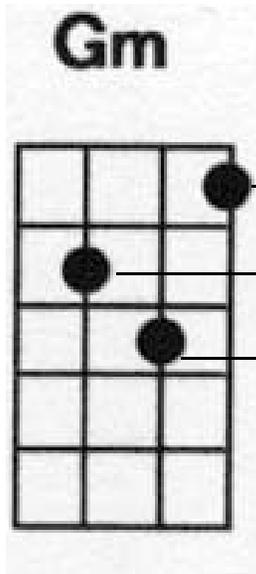
2. Your **pointer** finger is the 1st finger, your middle finger is the 2nd finger, your ring finger is the 3rd finger, and your pinky finger is the 4th finger.



3. The **A (bottom)** string is the 1st string, the **E** string is the 2nd string, the **C** string is the 3rd string, and the **G (top)** string is the 4th string.



How To Make The G Minor Chord



1st fret, 1st finger,
1st string

2nd fret, 2nd finger,
3rd string

3rd fret, 3rd finger,
2nd string

*The musical abbreviation for G minor is **Gm**.

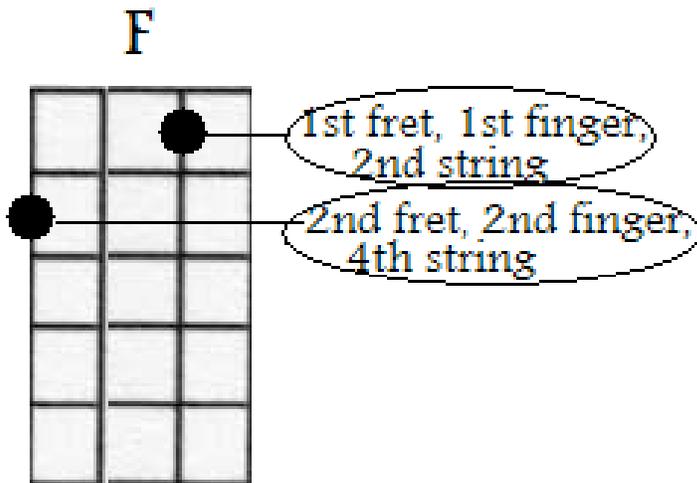
1. Look for the **1st fret** and put your **1st finger (pointer)** on the **1st string (A - bottom)**.

2. Look for the **2nd fret** and put your **2nd finger (middle)** on the **3rd string (C)**.

3. Look for the **3rd fret** and put your **3rd finger (ring)** on the **2nd string (E)**.

* **Press down firmly** on the strings with each finger, so that when you strum, the strings will ring longer, creating a fuller sound. If you do not press the strings down hard enough, the strings will not ring as long when you play the chord.

How To Make The F Chord



1st fret, 1st finger,
2nd string

2nd fret, 2nd finger,
4th string

1. Look for the **1st fret** and put your **1st finger (pointer)** on the **2nd string (E)**.

2. Look for the **2nd fret** and put your **2nd finger (middle)** on the **4th string (G - top)**.

Reggae Strumming Pattern



1. Rest your forearm on the **bottom** of the ukulele's body, as shown in the picture to the left, and use it to hold the ukulele against your body.
2. Use your **pointer finger** to strum all four strings.
3. Strum the strings **upward, downward, then upward**.
4. Strum this pattern **two times on Gm**, then **two times on F**, then **go back to Gm and repeat**.

*If you are having trouble strumming the pattern, listen to the common beat used in Reggae music to gain a better sense of the strumming pattern.

5. **Start off slow** and get used to switching chords when you are strumming.
6. Keep practicing and you will become progressively better at playing.