

Ukulele Lesson One Open Strings

My dog has fleas

The word Ukulele means jumping flea. The instrument comes from Hawaii in the pacific ocean.

The notation above shows the pitches of the open strings in standard notation and TAB.

How to Read Ukulele TAB

- line 1 (bottom) = top string = G
- line 2 = 2nd string (from top) = Middle C
- line 3 = 3rd string = E
- line 4 = 4th string = A

Recorder Fingering to Aid Tuning

Play the following using your thumb for the top two strings and your pointer finger for the bottom two strings

♪ is a Minim or Half Note and gets 2 counts ○ is a Semibreve or Wholenote and gets 4 counts

2

9

♪ is a crotchet or a quarter note and gets one count.

Now have a try plucking the strings in different patterns using all the strings. Playing the Uke is about having fun and enjoying music, not just reading it

You could give it some words and make a tune up using these notes.

When you have finished run your finger over all the strings quickly. This is called a chord.

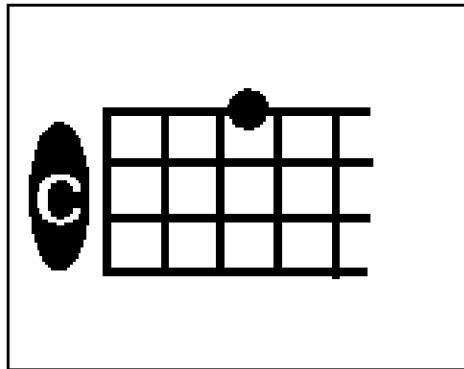
Try writing a simple tune below and then play it on your Uke,

You can use ♪ for 1 count each or ♪ for 2 counts. Each bar must add up to 4, I have put the last chord in for you.

To write the TAB just put a 0 on the string to be played.

13

Chords



On the chord chart to the left the strings go from left to right

The lines going from the top to the bottom are called FRET WIRES

The spaces in between are called FRETS

This large picture shows the chord of C.

The spot is your finger, I would use finger 3 for now.

This small picture is the same chord and is called a CHORD BOX. You saw one at the end of the piece you wrote, did you notice?

Turn back, circle it and label it CHORD BOX. It shows the chord C6.



If you hold your Uke in front of you with the tuning pegs up (the bit sticking out at the top). Can you see how we get the chord box ?

Every time you see '/' run your thumb down over the strings. You could write a tune on the stave below and play it with a Uke friend.

I have put two high C notes in, the 3 on the TAB line means 3rd fret like the chord on the A string, can you find it?