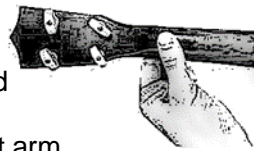


# SPRUKU Beginners

## 1. Parts of a ukulele / Types of ukulele

### 2. Getting comfortable

Hold your uke comfortably, positioning your thumb behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret. Keep your uke almost horizontal. Make sure it is well supported. The elbow joint of your left arm should be approximately a right angle.



### 3. Styles of playing

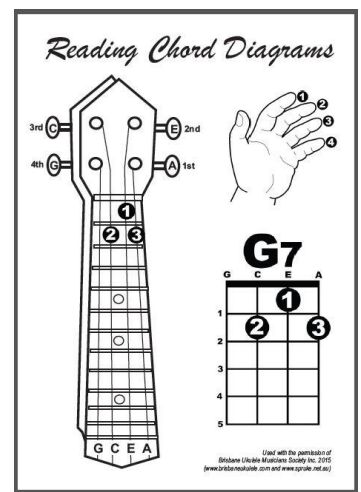
Strumming, picking or playing the melody.

### 4. Notes

Tuning your ear to:

the string notes — G, C, E, A. (**Good Children Eat Apples**)

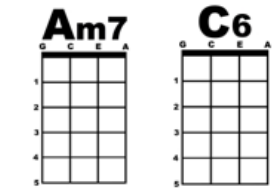
- Fingerboard walk — Pluck the G string. Place your 1st finger in the first fret of the G string. Pluck the string. Listen to the sound of the note to make sure your finger is positioned correctly. If a string sounds 'dead', reposition your finger.
- Staying on the G string, place your 2nd finger in the second fret and pluck the string, then your 3rd finger in the third fret, then your 4th finger in the fourth fret.
- Repeat the exercise on each string to practice moving your fingers independently.



### 5. Finger picking patterns

Practise this picking pattern on the open chord, Am7 (aka C6)

- thumb, forefinger, middle finger, ring finger: G(T), C(1), E(2), A(3)



### 6. Focusing on Strum Patterns — Z chord

Basic strumming is a continual down-up movement.

Use the Z chord to focus on a strumming pattern,

Mute the strings by holding your fingers lightly across all strings.

Strum to make a percussion sound.

Experiment with strum patterns until you find one that fits the song.

Strum in front of the sound hole, just behind where the neck meets the body.



### 7. Strum patterns

How to Strum Your Ukulele <http://ukuleleunderground.com/lessons/how-to-strum-your-ukulele/>

**Basic Ballad (4/4 Time)**     D\_ D\_ D\_ D\_ **Straight Shuffle (4/4 Time)**     du du du du

1& 2& 3& 4&

1& 2& 3& 4&

### 8. Playing chords – three or more notes played together

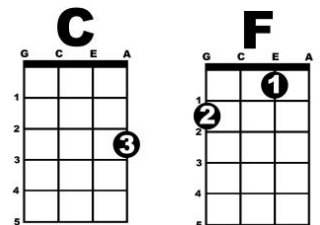
Pick the strings on each chord you learn.

Listen to the sound of each string as you pluck.

If a string sounds 'dead' reposition your fingers.

### 9. Practising chord changes – economy of movement

- Simple chord progressions, e.g. C → F,     C → G7,     G7 → F.
- Common progressions, e.g. C, F, C;     F, C, G7;     C, F, C, G7, F, C.



### 10. Basic 12 Bar Blues in C

C /// C /// C /// C ///  
 F /// F /// C /// C ///  
 G7 /// F /// C /// C ///

### 11. Try a simple song

- Achy Breaky Heart (F, C)
- Amazing Grace (C, F, G7)



**Aids to playing** – tuner, strap, music stand, song book plus a ukulele stand

Come along to one of the jams at the Brisbane Ukulele Musicians Society. Check out the site ([BUMS](#))