

# Your 1<sup>st</sup> Ukulele Lesson!



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Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTTySzgvVgw>

## Step 1: Standing or sitting?

When you are learning how to play the Ukulele it will be 100s of times easier to learn how to play sitting down. You can rest your Ukulele on your thigh pointing up, that way you can use your hands to strum and make chords without worrying about how to hold the instrument.

## Step 2: Tuning the Ukulele

There are many ways to tune an Ukulele, I use an app on my phone but you can also use clip on tuners or certain websites. One of the things that almost all tuners have in common is that when the letter is **red**, it is out of tune, when it is **green** it is in tune.

- The string closest to your chin when holding your Ukulele should be a G
- The following string an C
- The following string a E
- The following string an A

Unless you make a special purchase you will be playing something called a re-entrant tuning, which means that the G string, or the closest one to your chin, is not the lowest frequency on the Ukulele, but actually the C string is.

Here is additional help with tuning your Ukulele:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrXDv4yfgxU>

## Step 3: Your first chord

This chord is called the A minor. Minor chords have a sadder, more melancholy vibe.

To play the A minor you take your middle finger and place it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret (frets are the metal lines on the neck, you actually don't place your finger directly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, but rather directly behind it).

Once you have your finger on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret, simply strum down with your index finger, viola!

A minor chord photo: <https://ukulele-chords.com/Am>

## Step 4: How to strum.

To strum the ukulele it is best to learn with your index finger, not your thumb. Your thumb will have a use later down the line but strumming up with your thumb is very difficult. At first you will start with four down strums and count to four.

D represents Down, play over the A minor chord, also count to four out loud or say "down down down down" verbalizing your hand movements will help you learn faster.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Am

D D D D

Here is some extra help with strumming:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36Bmd4FarWs>

## Step 5: Your second chord.

The F chord is your second chord. To do this you will simply keep your middle finger down on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the G string and also apply your pointer finger to the first fret of the E string.

Here is a photo: <https://ukulele-chords.com/F>

## Step 6: Adding the up strum

The next step is getting our index finger to strum up. Keep your wrist loose, don't try and speed up or add extra force, and let your index finger catch the strings on the way up. It is important to try and do something called stay in time, which means keep the rhythm. You can either count it as "Down Down Down Up Down Up" or "1 2 3 and 4 and" with the "up" and the "and" as up strums. Let's do this just over the A minor, and remember, say it out loud!

Here the U represents Up

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &  
Am  
D D D U D U

## Step 7: Adding the F chord

This is the same idea, but we are going to alternate between the Am and the F chord. First let's start with only downs.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &  
Am | F  
D D D D | D D D D

The next thing to do is add our up strokes, at the risk of sounding redundant, say it out loud!

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &  
Am | F  
D D D U D U | D D D U D U

## Step 8: The C chord

We are going to have to move our fingers a little more for this one. To play the C chord we need to place the ring finger on the A string, 3<sup>rd</sup> fret.

Here is a link to a photo of the C chord. <https://ukulele-chords.com/C>

## Step 9: Putting It All Together

We are simply adding a C chord and after the A minor. Take it slow... and say it out loud! Hahaha

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &  
Am | F | C | Am  
D D D U D U | D D D U D U | D D D U D U | D D D U D U

Bonus links!

You are now ready for this song - Dreams by Fleetwood Mac:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXiYacQK55Q>

All the beginner chords in one video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-AveEJ2x3s&t=515s>

How to change chords smoothly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nD0IZutR4o&t=72s>

The six most important strum patterns:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZIMCNJP1nE&t=43s>

You got this, just keep on playing, that easy.

Ten Thumbs

If you are reading this, congratulations on being very thorough.

