



**west
sussex
music**

Zero to Hero on a Ukulele in whole class setting

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Steps to great sounds and happy kids

1. Buying Ukuleles
2. Playing position, Thumb brush, Fingers on tips, Up and Down strum
3. How to differentiate the playing of 30 children
4. Visual , Audio, Kinesthetic
5. 20% (purposeful warm up) 40% new music, 40% practising
6. Sharing tips and thoughts at the end of the session



Toy verses proper instrument ?

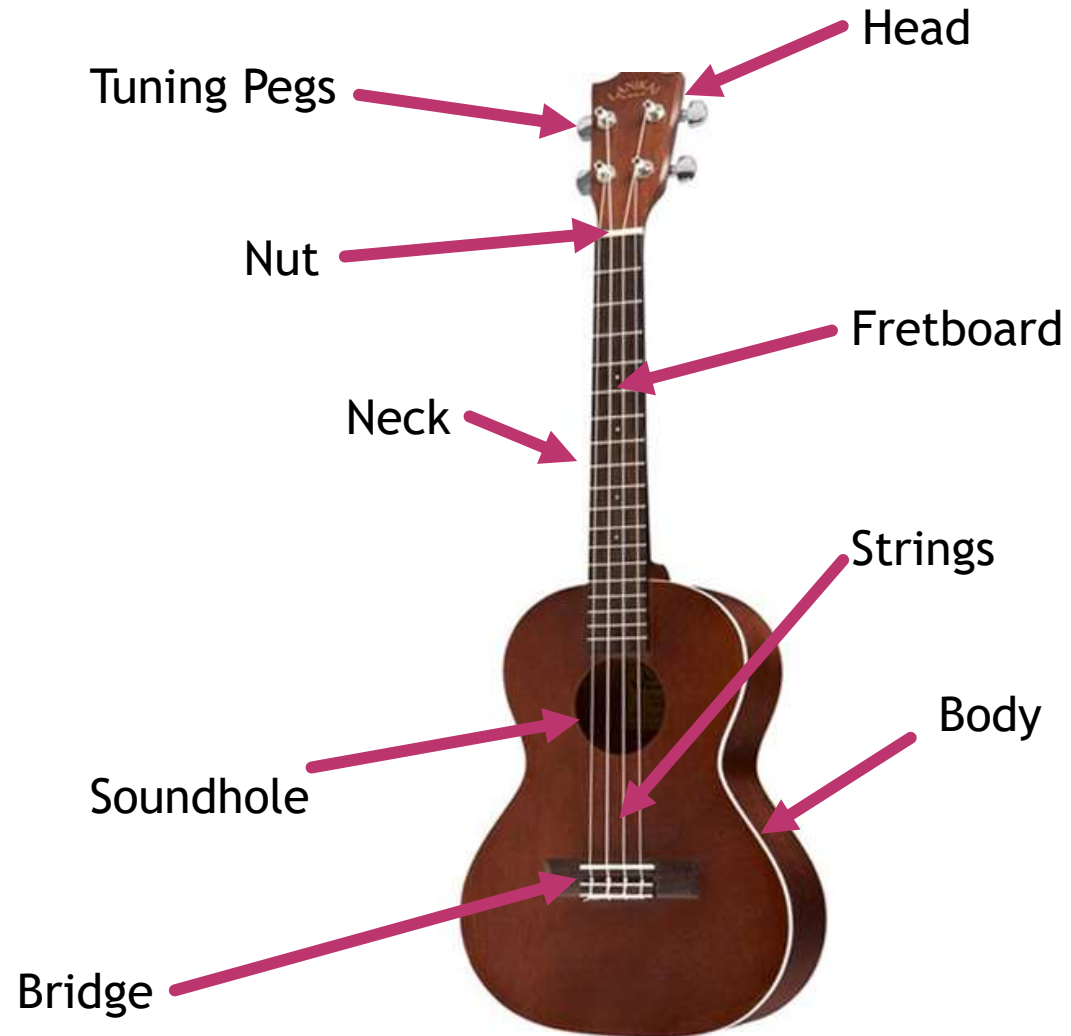
Plastic uke
pUkulele



Amazon uke



The Parts of The Ukulele



Ukulele Care

- ▶ Treat your ukulele as if it was your pet
- ▶ How would you play with your pet if you wanted it to be happy?
- ▶ Gently or roughly?



Tuning a Ukulele

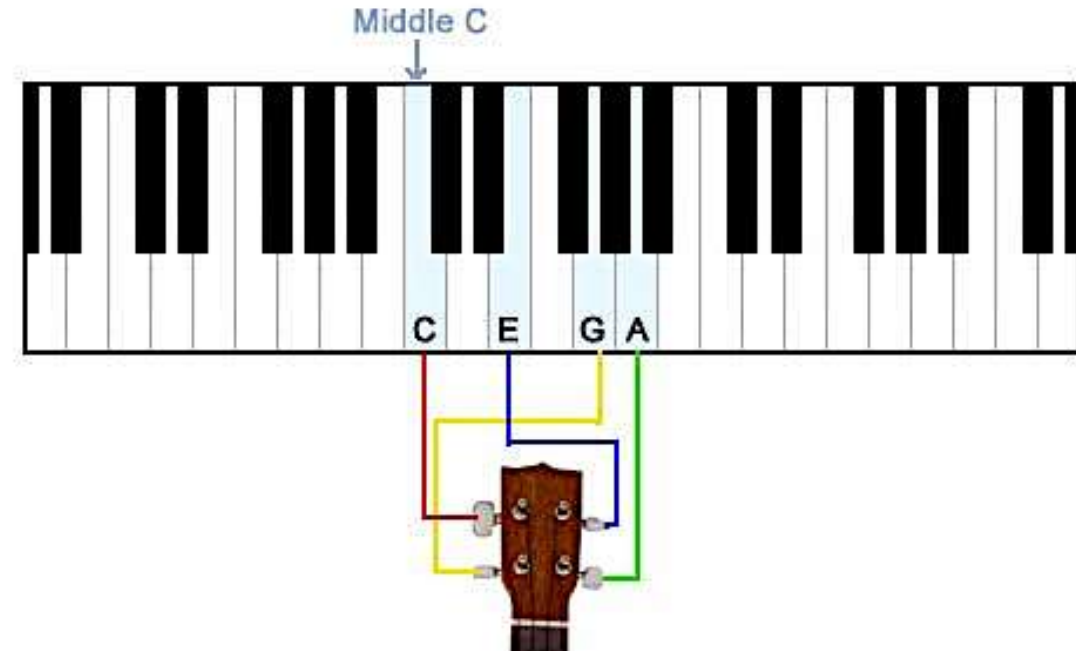
Apps and online

- ▶ [Fender Tune](#)
- ▶ [Uke Buddy](#)
- ▶ [Piano Keyboard app](#)
- ▶ [Online piano](#)

Strategies for tuning 30 ukes

- ▶ Year 6 tuning monitor
- ▶ Incorporate tuning into the lesson
- ▶ Use one of the tuning apps on your class screen and show the children how to use it
- ▶ Walk around and listen for any out of tune strings

Using A Piano



How to sit when playing the Ukulele

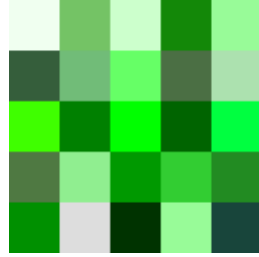
Playing position:

- ▶ Sit up straight
- ▶ Front of chair
- ▶ Feet flat on floor
- ▶ Ukulele back against your tummy
- ▶ Ukulele neck horizontal and pointing left.
- ▶ Hold the head with left hand without touching the strings or tuning pegs



Play each string and sing with me

► **Green**



G

► **Cats**



C

► **Eat**



E

► **Ants**



A



Ukulele Magic



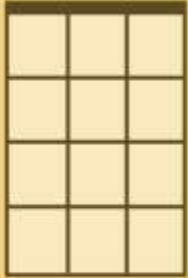
That thumb brush strum

String Along Rag

Unit 1

Meet my ukulele

G C E A

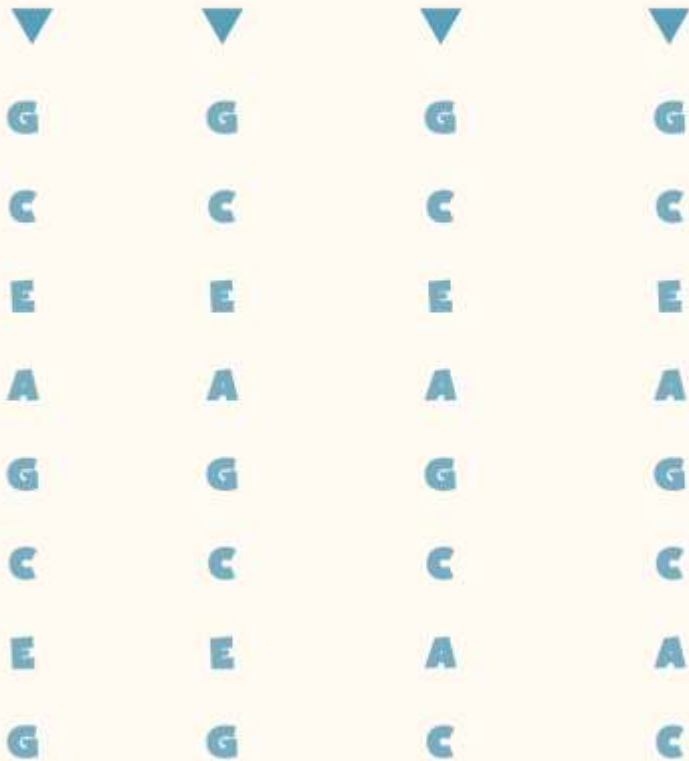


FINGERTIPS

- This piece has a slow, steady pulse. Try tapping the pulse before you attempt to play the rest strokes.
- Join in after the introduction, listening carefully to the track as you play. Relax and try not to rush.

Stringalong rag

PLAY



**Ukulele
Magic**

Stringalong rag

Finger Number Rumba



Finger number rumba

Unit 3

Our first chord

FINGERTIPS

- Hold up your left hand 'high five' style and tap the tip of each finger as you sing the song.
- Mix up the numbers and display them on a card to try new combinations of fingers.

Finger number rumba

Hold up your left hand

1 is for pointing

2 is tall,

3 can wear a wedding ring and

4 is small.

For ukulele the finger numbers go:

1 2 3 4

So now you know!



Try: 4 3 2 1 or 1 3 2 4

Unit 3

Our first chord

C MAJOR



Ukulele left hand fingers

SING

**Ukulele left hand fingers,
Count with me 1 2 3
3 goes on the third fret,
Holding down the A string,
That's how we play chord C.**



FINGERTIPS

- Keep your left hand thumb on the back of your ukulele's neck and your third finger up on its tip ~ this lets you pinch down on the A string without touching the others accidentally.
- When we hold down the A string at the third fret the note changes from A to C. This means that the instrument is now sounding only the notes of the C major chord C, E and G

SING AND STRUM

C MAJOR



Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques,

Dormez vous? Dormez vous?

Sonnez les matines! Sonnez les matines!

Ding, dang, dong! Ding, dang, dong!

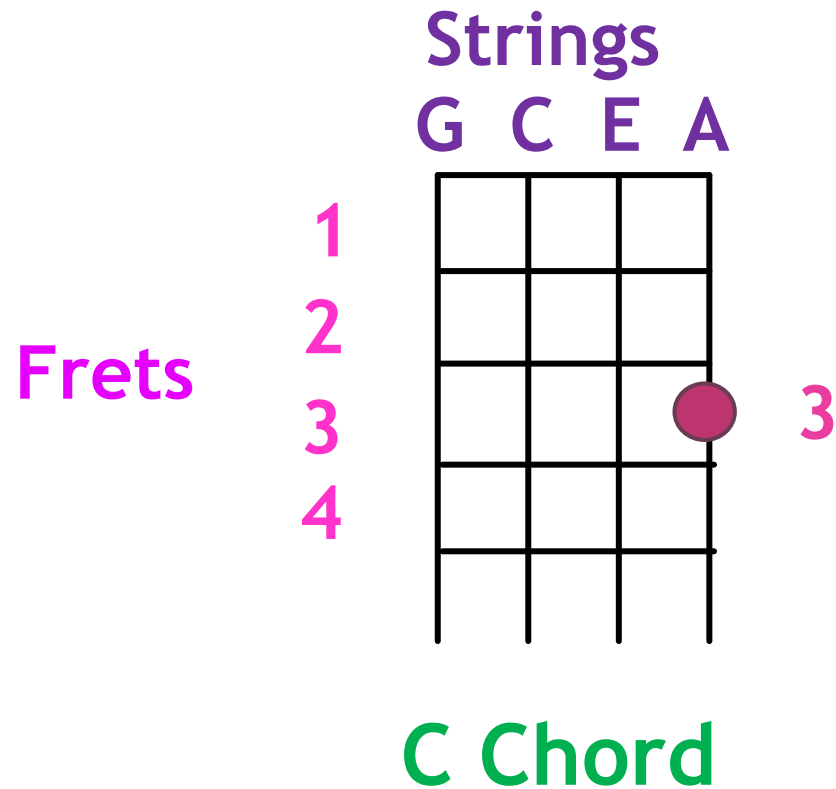


How To Play The Chords

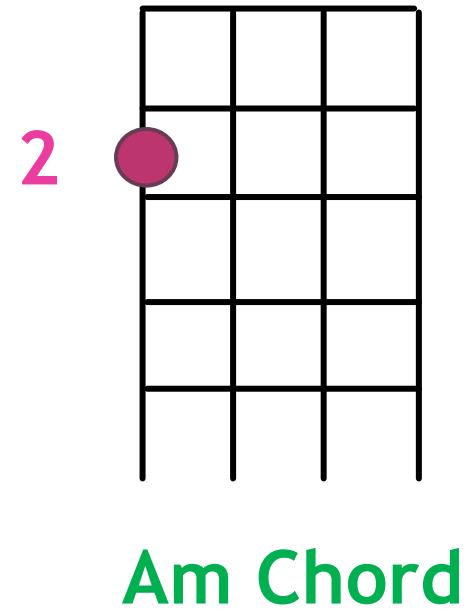


- It is important that you press down as hard as you can with your *fingertip*, to produce the clearest sound when you pluck the string.
- When first learning to fret, ensure your finger number matches the fret number.

Chord Diagrams



Left
Hand
Finger
Number



Unit 2

Opening it up

Ukulele strummer

FINGERTIPS

● Make up a new strumming rhythm in the gap after the song. Use your right hand first finger to play:

- down strokes
- up strokes
- shuffle strums (down up strokes)

● You can use the thumb brush strum to play your rhythms but faster patterns are easier with first finger strokes and shuffles.

SING

**Ukulele strummer,
Can you play us something new?
If you strum a rhythm,
Maybe we can copy you!
One two three four
Off you go!**

LEADER



ALL COPY



Ukulele Magic

Ukulele strummer

down stroke

up stroke

Learning objectives

- ★ To learn • first finger down stroke • first finger up stroke • shuffle strum (down up).
- ★ Improvise and echo rhythms.

Extras

With some friends, choose four songs that you all know. Take turns to sing one of them in your head and strum the rhythm of the words. Can the others identify it?

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HO HEY

UKULELE PLAY ALONG

PERFORMED BY:
THE LUMINEERS

Differentiation

Challenges

1. Using their 2nd and 3rd finger when fretting C and Am chord
2. Changing from one C to Am
3. Changing to F chord from Am
4. Left handers

Solution

1. Use 1st finger
2. Fret C then use open strings for Am or just play the A string
3. Play the A string on its own
4. Play C string for C Chord, A string for Am and F Chord **or** strum chords in minims or with rests to do the finger change. Use them as much as possible for conducting or “percussion” on the uke body
Retune a couple of ukuleles to left hand position

Visual Audio Kinaesthetic

- ▶ Always use a picture of the technique you are demonstrating (hand drawn or on PPT)
- ▶ Always model the technique you are demonstrating and try and walk around the class, so all pupils can see and hear the technique clearly
- ▶ Alternatively, video yourself performing the technique and show the video as this will be larger and louder than you demonstrating
- ▶ Sing the technique e.g. GCEA four strings we play
- ▶ Allow the pupils enough time to practise the technique. If they need more time to practise turn it into a game or a competition e.g. First one to play the C chord gets a sticker etc.
- ▶ Use backing tracks and lots of singing



20% (purposeful warm up) 40% new music, 40% practising

- ▶ Use a warm-up that is appropriate to one, many or all the techniques you will be covering. E.g. “Don’t Play This One Back” to practice thumb brush, thumb pluck, chord shape etc.
- ▶ Introduce a new piece first then if you have time go over the ones you have learned previously.
- ▶ Do not be afraid to go over old techniques frequently.

Sharing tips and thoughts

- ▶ What has worked?
- ▶ What has been challenging?
- ▶ What support do you need from us?
- ▶ Any other questions?

tina.oberman@westsussexmusic.co.uk



Useful resources

- ▶ [Ukulele Magic](#)
- ▶ [More Ukulele Magic](#)
- ▶ [Ukulaliens](#)
- ▶ [Ukulele Basics](#)
- ▶ [Ben's Jam Tracks \(C major\)](#)