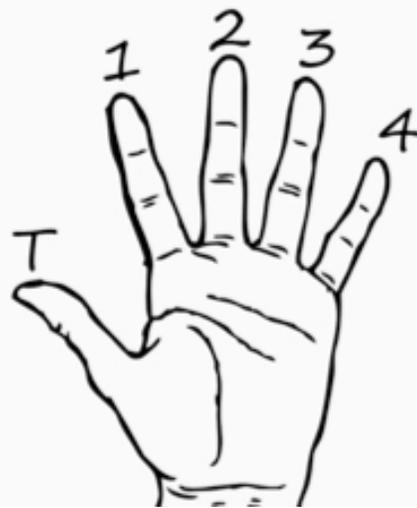
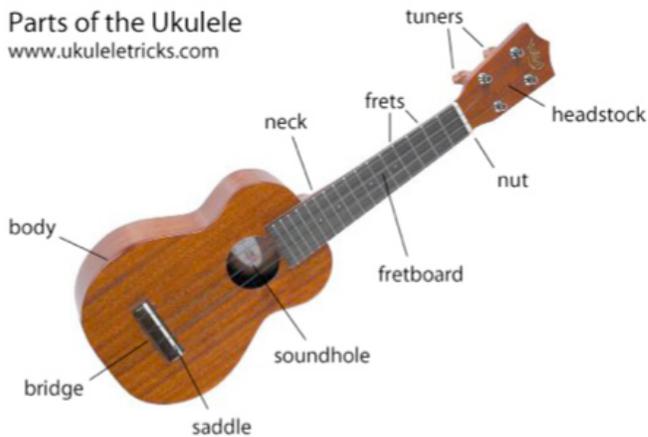


BEGINNERS TIPS FOR UKE PLAYERS

The Ukulele (pronounced 'ookoolele' in Hawaiian) originated in Hawaii over 100 years ago, when Portuguese workers modified their own country's traditional 5 stringed instrument into a 4 stringed instrument – Ukulele means 'Jumping Fleas'. **They are tuned to G, C, E & A**

There are 3 basic Ukulele sizes – the smallest being the Soprano, then the Concert which is slightly larger & the Tenor, larger still. **I recommend you to try as many different sized instruments as possible (with us or at a music shop) to see which size suits you best –** with most settling for either a Concert or Tenor!

Parts of the Ukulele
www.ukuleletricks.com



Sound is created by plucking or strumming the strings. The string vibrates between the nut (top) & the saddle/bridge (bottom), bouncing sound out of the hole in the middle of the instrument. **Fingers are numbered: Pointer = 1, Middle = 2, Ring = 3, Pinkie = 4!**

The metal bars on the neck are called "Frets" – pressing your fingers **between** the frets & plucking/strumming them, creates the different notes. **It is very important to press FIRMLY to play a clean, crisp note. If the note is muffled at all, chances are you need to press harder, or make sure the other strings are NOT in contact with another part of your other fingers or hand! Keep your fingernails SHORT to form CLEAN chords!**

A digital TUNER is required to keep your ukulele in tune when you are playing with the group! Tune your uke EVERY TIME that you play it – eventually, it should maintain the tuning, but still check it, each time especially if playing with others.

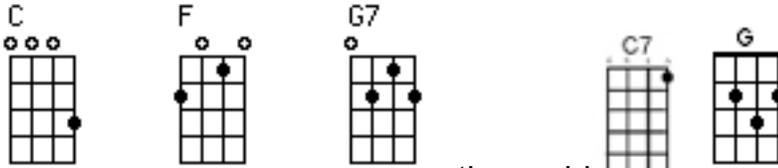
Try & keep your wrist & hand relaxed when playing – this will assist in your playing & prevent aches developing. **The 'sweet spot' to strum, is where the neck meets the body! 'Shake Hands' with your uke, holding it there with your right hand. Where the Bottom of the uke rests on your arm, THAT position will have you strumming at the Sweet Spot! NEVER grip the uke Tightly with your left hand - Rest the neck of the ukulele between your thumb & forefinger of your left hand, as some chords require the uke to 'move/twist' to facilitate the chord! **With your right forearm resting on the bottom edge of the uke, your 'strumming hand/finger' is at the junction of the neck & body of the uke.****

Initially, Just use your thumb to strum 'Down' in time with the beat – trickier strumming will come later – it is important to get the chord's position right first, by listening well to make sure there are no muted/muffled notes! Just press HARDER if they sound muted/muffled!

Later on, for easier strumming as you progress – you can rest your thumb **under** the first joint of your Pointer Finger & the 3 remaining fingers will 'tuck in behind' – out of the way & **use the Pointer finger to strum – fingernail down on the down strum, flesh on the up strum.**

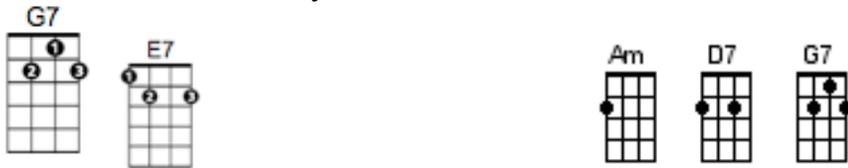
Don't have your ukulele laying 'flat' it needs to be fairly upright to do the chord shapes!

Start off with the songs that use only C, F & G7 chords then add the C7 & G chords to the mix. There are MANY songs are based on C, F & G7 – See our Beginners Song Book No 1 that has lots of neat easy songs to start off with:

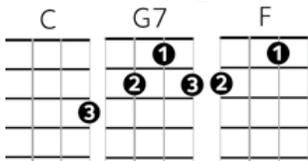


then add to your repertoire & you'll have thousands of songs 'covered'! If you want a specific song, let me know & I'll try & find it for you! ☺ Where Possible, I recommend the Slide & Glide Principle – where you don't actually remove the fingers from the frets unless you positively HAVE TO – as it is too easy to 'get lost' trying to find the next chord! It will become '2nd nature' to you after a while.

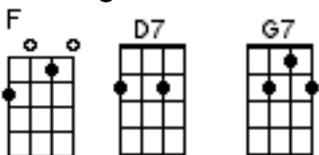
You may notice that it is actually quite easy to change some of the chords, once you notice the 'resident finger' used on many of them ie the same finger position is used on consecutive chords, so LEAVE IT THERE! Only move the fingers that NEED to be moved! eg going from G7 to E7 LOOKS difficult, but it is actually only **changing the one finger!!** Move the No 1 (Pointer) finger from the 2nd string across to the 4th string easy peasy! So, the difficult 'E7' chord becomes easy! Another easy change is from Am to D7 by using your 2nd finger on the 2nd fret for the Am and then add the ring finger for D7, then it is easy to move those two fingers across & add your Pointer for G7! ☺



Also, remember to **just slide one finger down or up the fret when changing rather than removing the finger totally** ie from C to G7 - **just slide the No 3 'Ring' finger down one fret & add the other 2 fingers simultaneously** - so you aren't looking for all 3 new positions, only 2 – then to go to F – remove the Middle & Ring Fingers (**keeping the Pointer Finger on the first Fret**) and add the Middle finger to the outside G string, 2nd fret.



Moving from F to D7 to G7 (below) – just remove the Pointer Finger (**leaving the Middle Finger on the outside string**) & put your Ring Finger on the E string, 2nd fret for the D7, then move BOTH these fingers across to the OTHER two strings (C & A) & add your Pointer Finger to make up the G7. This sequence of chords occurs in a lot of songs – and you begin to recognize them & use the differing fingering to make a smoother change! ☺



Do NOT keep your fingers FLAT when forming the chords as they will hit the other strings! They should be 'arched' (a bit like a Spider ready to pounce.) If your knuckles are pointing to the ceiling, this will help with your chord formations, as the fingers are less likely to touch 'empty strings' (which causes Buzzing or a dull sound!) Strumming each string individually will show which one is 'wrong'! Check the chord shape and pressure – and try again!

You will gradually 'spot' the opportunities where the 'slide & glide' principle works – and as you recognize more chords, you will 'sort it out' in advance, for a smooth chord change! What I suggest to newbies is to just hold the uke & 'finger the chords' without actually strumming whilst watching TV - just press the fingers onto the strings (pressure on, off, on, off), changing to a different one now & then - this will begin to toughen up the finger tips!! Some people dip the fingertips into metho to help toughen up as well - but just playing with the strings will do that. Then during the adverts, turn the sound off & maybe strum them with your thumb, playing each string slowly to listen to each as you strum (like I do with my thumb.) If any string sounds 'muted' - you either need to press it down harder (if it is one of the strings being held) OR the pad of your finger may be resting on an 'empty' string. Just pick the finger tip upright (like spider's legs) and that should fix it!

I recommend you practise at least once a day, maybe twice, just do 10-15 mins a day initially. Your fingers may hurt a bit – so just give them a rest **Most of all, just do it for FUN!**

If you really like any of the other songs in our books – and I recommend the 'easy ones with 2 or 3 chords first), just give it a go - **playing any of them slowly til you are familiar with the chords & only speeding up when the chords come easily!**

Always try & keep the rhythm going, **particularly** when going slowly – **tapping your toes will help in this** - you MAY just need to reduce the number of strums to give yourself time to make the chord change – so maybe miss out the 'last strum' before the chord change, to facilitate getting the chord ready to play 'in time'. **It is better to come IN on the right beat, than to try & play 'catch up' by coming in 'late'!**

Faster & fancier strumming will come with practise - **it is better to do a single strum per beat & get the timing right**, than fast strumming & stumble with each chord change! 😊

Take it slowly! No Rush, No pressure!! DRAW ANY CHORDS IN WHERE NEEDED!

Most of the Song Introductions have been 'underlined' so that you can see 'where they are from' just sing to yourself as you do the Intro with EVERY SONG as you practise, so that you always do it! (For an example, See Blowing in the Wind The Introduction is the 2 lines of the Chorus.)

**Altho considered 'easy' to play, there are no shortcuts in learning how to play the Uke!
The more you put IN TO it, the more you will get OUT OF IT!**

**Your fingers WILL hurt to start off with (even after you've been playing for a while!)
Get together with your buddies and play – and you will reap the rewards!**

Remember all the P's:

PRACTISE – will get you there

PRESSURE – you must maintain firm pressure on the strings for CLEAR NOTES!

PERSISTENCE – especially with the more difficult chords

PATIENCE – with your playing – don't go too fast!!

PERSEVERANCE – sticking with it will make you a Ukulele Player! 😊

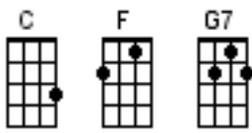
I always tell my guys – to Play the songs they know now & then but to really PRACTISE the ones that they 'DON'T KNOW' (especially for gigs) – cos it is the mastering of the more difficult chords (so you don't have to keep looking to see what it is) that will mark you as a bona fide Ukulele Player! 😊

ENJOY

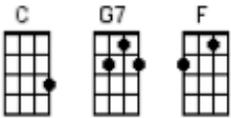
“MOST USED” CHORD SEQUENCES TO PRACTISE

CAN YOU NAME THE SONGS WHERE THESE CHORDS ARE USED?

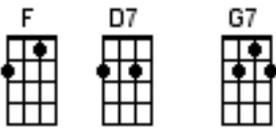
It is **VITAL** to plant the fingers ‘simultaneously’ when changing chords – and this takes practise! Be aware of ‘**Resident Fingers**’ that are used in the ‘**same spot**’ on 2 or more chords! **You want THESE chord changes to become 2nd nature, with practise:**



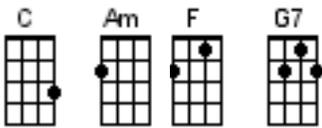
C F G7: Use your Ring Finger for ‘C’ on the 3rd fret of the ‘A’ String. For ‘F’, Remove it & put your Pointer Finger on the first fret, ‘E’ String and simultaneously put your Middle Finger on the outside ‘G’ string, 2nd fret. For G7 - **Keep your Pointer Finger where it is** & place your Middle & Ring fingers simultaneously either side of the Pointer Finger on the 2nd fret



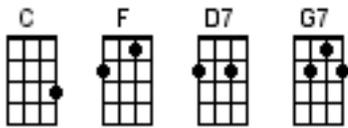
C G7 & F: Use your Ring Finger for ‘C’, slide it ‘up the neck’ one fret & simultaneously add your Pointer & Middle fingers either side of your Pointer Finger on 2nd fret to form ‘G7’. **Keep your Pointer finger where it is** & move your Middle Finger to the outside string, 2nd fret to form ‘F’.



F D7 G7: Use Pointer & Middle fingers for F. For D7 - **keep BOTH Fingers in place and add Ring Finger** on E string. To form G7 **leave Pointer Finger where it is** and just move both other fingers **across!**

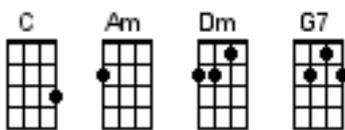


C Am F G7: “Let’s Twist Again” Chords Use your Ring Finger for ‘C’. Remove it and put your Middle Finger on the far opposite G string, 2nd fret for ‘Am’. **Add Pointer Finger** on the first fret, 2nd String for ‘F’ and then for ‘G7’, **Keep your Pointer Finger where it is** & place your Middle & Ring fingers either side of the Pointer finger, on the 2nd fret

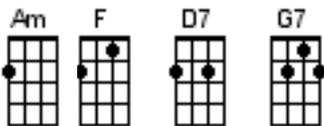


C F D7 G7: Use your Ring Finger for ‘C’ on the 3rd fret of the ‘A’ String. For ‘F’, Remove it & put your Pointer Finger on the 1st fret ‘E’ String and simultaneously put your Middle Finger on the outside ‘G’ string, 2nd fret.

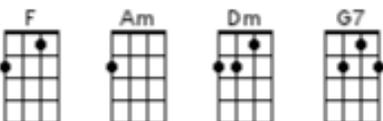
For ‘D7’, **Keep your Middle & Ring Fingers where they are** and add your **RING** finger to the 3rd fret below your Pointer finger! Then simultaneously **lifting BOTH your Middle & Ring Fingers ACROSS** either side of your Pointer Finger, 2nd fret (**leaving Pointer Finger in place**) for ‘G7’



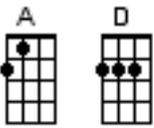
C Am Dm G7: Use your Ring Finger for ‘C’ on the 3rd fret of the ‘A’ String. For ‘Am’, Remove Ring finger & put your Middle Finger on the 2nd fret, ‘E’ String. For ‘Dm’ - simultaneously add your Pointer & Middle Finger on the inside strings (like an ‘F’ with the added ring finger, 2nd fret.) For ‘G7’, **Keep your Pointer Finger where it is** & place your Middle & Ring fingers simultaneously either side of the pointer finger on 2nd fret



Am F Dm G7: Middle Finger for ‘Am’, add Pointer Finger for ‘F’. Add Ring Finger for ‘Dm’, **Keep Pointer Finger in place** & Move Middle & Ring finger across simultaneously for ‘G7’

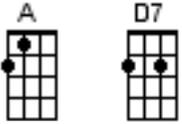


F Am Dm G7: Pointer & Middle fingers for ‘F’. **Leave Middle Finger** for both ‘Am’ and ‘Dm’ – then **add Middle finger back & add Ring Finger between the two to make ‘Dm’**. Leave **Pointer Finger in place**. Simultaneously move Middle & Ring fingers across for ‘G7’

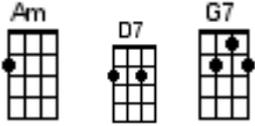


A D: 1) Hold down Pointer & Middle fingers for 'A' For 'D', Add Ring & Little fingers – **Keep Pointer & Middle fingers down** if chords are repeated.

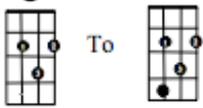
2) Flatten Middle Finger over 2nd Fret G & C strings, add Ring Finger 2nd Fret, E String.



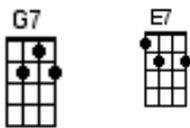
A D7: Use Pointer & Middle fingers for 'A', **Keep Middle finger down**, remove Pointer & add Ring finger to 2nd fret, E string for 'D7'



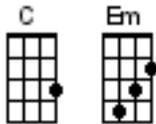
Am D7 G7: Use Middle Finger for 'Am' & add Ring Finger for 'D7', then move **BOTH** fingers across 1 fret & add Pointer Finger simultaneously for 'G7'



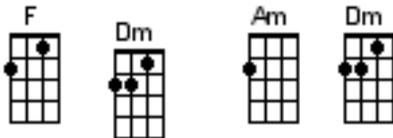
G Em: Form 'G' with Pointer & Middle Fingers on 2nd frets and Ring finger between them on 3rd Fret. To make 'Em' – **Keep Middle & Ring fingers**, then use your LITTLE FINGER on the 4th fret, C String



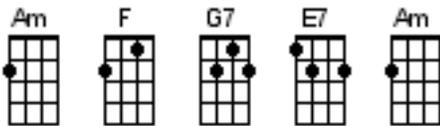
G E7: Form 'G7' with Pointer Finger 1st fret, E string, and Middle & Ring fingers on 2nd frets C & A Strings. To make 'E7' – **keep Middle & Ring Fingers in place** & just move Pointer Finger across to outside G String



C Em: Use Middle Finger for 'C' (3rd fret) with **Pointer Finger already on 2nd fret**, then move Middle finger to 3rd fret E String - simultaneously adding Ring Finger to the 4th fret, C string. **Practise this one OFTEN!! VIP Chord change!!**

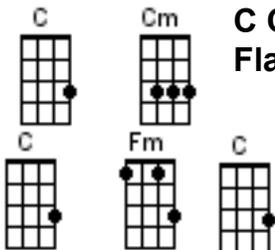


F Dm Am Dm: A neat little Riff Use Pointer & Middle fingers for 'F'. Add 'Ring Finger for 'Dm'. Remove Pointer & Ring Fingers for 'Am', add them back for 'Dm'



Am F G7 E7 Am: Hallelujah chords Use Middle Finger for 'Am', add Pointer for 'F'. **Keep Pointer**-to form 'G7', move Middle & Ring fingers either side of Pointer, 2nd fret. For E7, **Keep Middle & Ring fingers**, put Pointer finger on 'G' string. For Am, Remove Middle & Ring fingers & slide Pointer finger

down to 2nd fret on 'G' string.

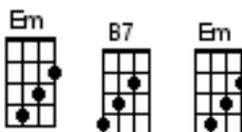


C Cm: Use Ring Finger for 'C'. For the 'Cm' Chord – **keep Ring Finger & Flatten the pad of your Middle Finger onto the 2 C & E strings, 3rd fret.**

C Fm C: Use your LITTLE FINGER for 'C'. **Keep Little finger**, then use Pointer & Middle Fingers to form the 2 notes for 'Fm'. Remove Pointer & Middle fingers to return to 'C'



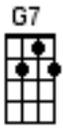
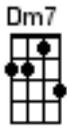
F Fm: Use Pointer & Middle Fingers for 'F', then SWAP THEM to do 'Fm' whilst simultaneously adding the little finger to the 3rd fret, A String**or.... Do 'F' as normal, then add your little finger (as above) I use my THUMB on the G String, 1st fret and find it easier to do. Your choice!**



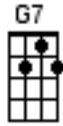
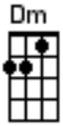
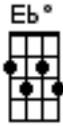
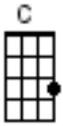
Em B7 Em: Pointer Finger, Middle & Ring Fingers one below each other across the 3 frets for 'Em' ... then pick the 3 fingers up simultaneously and move them across one fret to form 'B7', then back again to form 'Em'. **This requires practise to do it smoothly!**

PLAY EACH CHORD 4 TIMES, THEN 3 TIMES, THEN 2, THEN 1 AT A SPEED YOU CAN MAINTAIN, playing each chord/string CLEARLY!

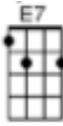
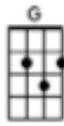
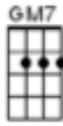
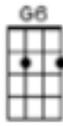
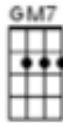
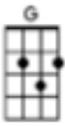
SOME LESSER USED CHORD SEQUENCES, BUT GOOD TO PRACTISE & KNOW



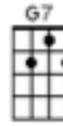
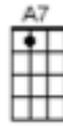
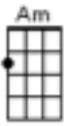
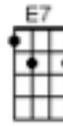
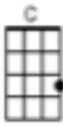
Dm7 G7: Use 'Dm' fingering & add Little Finger to 3rd fret A string. To form 'G7' Remove Middle Finger & slide Little finger back to 2nd fret, A string. **OR** For 'Dm7' - Do the normal 'G7' shape, but add Little Finger to 3rd Fret A string & Thumb to 2nd fret G String. Remove Thumb and Little Finger to do 'G7'



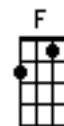
C Eb° Dm G7: Bye Bye Blackbird riff Looks horrible but not so! Normal 'C' chord with Ring Finger. For EbDim, **Leave Ring finger, do 'G7' shape and use THUMB for 'G String' 2nd fret!** For 'Dm', **slide Pointer finger 'up' the neck 1 fret**, move Middle & Ring Fingers across to form 'Dm', then **Keep pointer Finger & move Middle & Ring fingers across for 'G7'**.



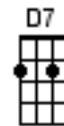
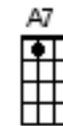
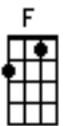
'Que Sera Sera' Chords: Just use your **Ring Finger to slide from 'G' to 'GM7' and remove it for 'G6', replace it for 'GM7' & slide to 'G'**. Normal 'E7', slide Pointer Finger **DOWN** to 2nd Fret for 'Am'. For 'D7', Add Middle Finger 2nd Fret, A String



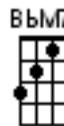
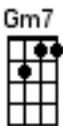
'Only You' Chords: Ring Finger for 'C', for E7 – Slide Ring Finger 'up the neck' to 2nd fret, A string and simultaneously add Pointer Finger & Middle Finger. For 'Am' use Middle Finger. Use Pointer Finger for 'A7', then Middle & Ring Fingers either side of 'A7' 2nd fret for 'D7'. **Move BOTH fingers ACROSS one fret and add Pointer finger to form 'G7'**



C Dm F G7: "Love is All Around" chords: Ring Finger for 'C'. For 'Dm' use Pointer, Middle & Ring Fingers, then for 'F', **keep Pointer & Middle fingers** and remove the Ring Finger. For 'G7', **Keep Pointer Finger & move Middle Finger across** whilst simultaneously placing Ring Finger either side of Pointer Finger, 2nd Fret.



F A7 D7 G7: "Let me Call You Sweetheart" chords: Pointer & Middle fingers for 'F', then move Pointer finger across to C Sting, 1st fret. For 'D7', remove the Pointer Finger & place Middle & Ring fingers either side of where it was, 2nd fret. For 'G7' move both Middle & Ring fingers **ACROSS** one fret & add Pointer finger!

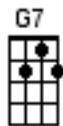
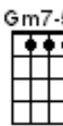
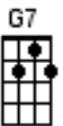


Gm7 Gm Bbm7: "Kind of Hush" chords: For 'Gm7' Use Pointer Finger to cover BOTH 1st fret strings and Middle Finger for C string, 2nd fret. **Keep those fingers in place and for 'Gm' add Ring Finger to E string, 3rd fret.** For 'Bbm7' – just lift the Pointer Finger 'up a bit' to free up the A String (**keeping Pointer Finger on the E String and keeping Middle Finger where it is**) then move the **Ring Finger across to outside string, 3rd Fret.**



Slide G =

We use the '**Slide G**' in quite a few songs - you just do the 'normal G' chord (usually for 3 strums) then **SLIDE the whole chord 'UP the neck'** for 1 strum, then back to normal position for 1 strum.



'G7 slide' can be played the same, but **keep the Pointer Finger in place** and only slide the Middle & Ring Fingers up to 1st Fret and back to 2nd Fret!

10 TIPS FOR BEGINNERS <http://www.gotaukulele.com>

1. Try to 'Try Before You Buy'.

If you really can, do try to at least visit some kind of music store to have a feel for the ukulele. Play the different scales and listen to their differing tones. Listen to their volume and clarity of tone. Trust your own ears in what you buy! For some though, stores are just too far away, and that is where impartial review sites are just for you! This video will probably help you too.

<http://www.gotaukulele.com/p/ukulele-reviews.html>

2. Keep it simple to start with

When you get home with your first ukulele you will probably find the urge to print off a song sheet for your favourite song is hard to resist. The fact that song may have many chords and some complex ones at that is really not going to help you on your way. Keep it simple with some two or three chord songs that you already know well (Nursery Rhymes, simple well known tunes like 'Happy Birthday') and get to grips with them. Learn the basic chord forms and focus some of your practice on repetitive moving from one chord to another. That action will build muscle memory of the most common chord shapes and will pay dividends down the line.

3. Be comfortable.

Work out how you like to hold the ukulele the best. Whether that is sitting or standing is up to you. If you are not comfortable with it, it is going to work against your development as a player. If you really struggle, ignore those who say a strap is the work of the devil - if you play better using a strap, then use a strap! This may help you too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeziTrZ7QV0>

4. Start to take care of those nails

Fingertips are what it's all about with the ukulele whether strumming or fretting. On the fretting hand, keep the nails short and neat to allow clean fretting on the strings. For the strumming or picking hand don't be afraid to let the nails grow out if you can - they make a great sound. You really only need to grow nails a little on the thumb, first, middle and ring fingers. Don't be shocked that as you practice the nails may wear or get sore. It's normal, and they do improve. If you do have really weak nails, try a false nail that can be fitted at a nail bar for very little money.

5. Learn how the ukulele works

The ukulele is a tool to make music and certain parts of it are designed to be adjusted. The main one that surprises me people don't learn from the start is how to change strings. Changing strings is part of ukulele ownership and you shouldn't be afraid to do it. I hear horror stories of people who have had their strings on for 18 months! NO! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfONxF00clU>

6. Play with other people

One of the great things about the ukulele is how sociable it is. The advantage to playing with others is not just the fun that can be had but that it REALLY will help you develop your playing skills. Find a local club nearby and get over to them. No local clubs? Think about starting one!

7. Be careful with strumming patterns. Rhythm is key

Some people seem unable to even contemplate learning even the most simple songs without a strumming pattern telling them exactly how to strum up and down and when. That really isn't making music. Worse still, if you focus your efforts on that without learning basic rhythm patterns, timing and the ability to change chords in line with those timings, you are not going to progress particularly well. Again, keep it simple, and worry about complex patterns when you are sure you can keep a beat and change between most chords at ease and in time with the beat.

8. A light touch

One of the most common complaints from beginners is the sore fingers they develop on the fretting hand. To a point this is perfectly natural and is a pain you have to go through as you build strength and callouses. But some of the strain comes from a natural tendency when learning to grip the neck of the ukulele like your life depends on it. It really isn't needed. All you need is enough pressure on the strings to engage them cleanly to the frets and nothing more. A lighter touch is hard to get your head around at first, but DO be conscious of it. Playing with a lighter fretting touch is not only easier on finger strain, but allows for faster chord and note changes too.

9. Don't be afraid to record yourself

I know that it's one of those things that many people hate. I mean, some people hate the sound of their own recorded voice, but recording yourself in practice is a great way to review what you did, spot mistakes and give you something to 'better' next time. You don't need a full on TV studio to do it, most laptops have webcams now, or even your mobile phone. Try it, it's fun!

10. Fun

The best way to end. The ukulele is supposed to be enjoyable. Make sure you do. If it doesn't move you in some way positive then you are doing it wrong. If you are enjoying it then that will show through in your practice. Enjoy!