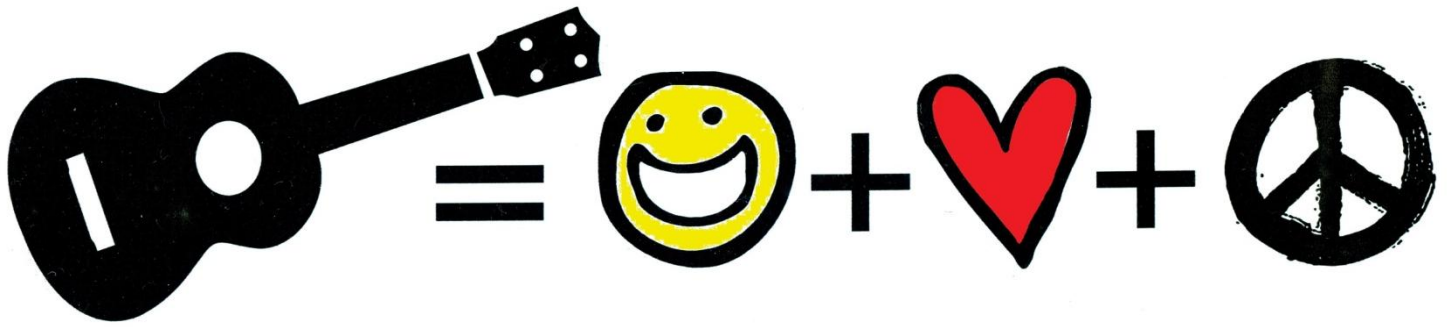


# UKELEAR POWER



## What you can expect from Ukelear Power

- A fun, low stress environment – you come here to relax, play and learn music together
- To play and sing songs selected both because they are fun and because they help develop skills
- A session which is varied and tries to cater to different skill levels
- Instruction in ukulele techniques and some music theory (with a light touch)
- You will be encouraged to find your own level of playing. You will be pushed that little bit further to get more enjoyment from playing (if that's what you want)
- A facilitator who actively assesses your needs and flexibly tries to tailor what we do accordingly
- Reasonably expert knowledge. Bruce knows a lot, but he WILL make mistakes. Sometimes the best teachers are other group members!
- If Bruce doesn't know the answer to your question, he will attempt to get back with a more informed response next session
- Time for socialising after each session. Feel free to connect with others outside these sessions and through the Facebook group — it's up to you. Bruce will not share contact details with other members without your consent

## What is expected of you

- Play (and sing)! And do it sensitively enough so that you blend with the group, but strongly enough so that you and we can hear. Bruce can then help you improve
- Observe group etiquette & follow instructions (e.g. don't play when the facilitator is talking)
- Respect others' level of skill and ability, and respect them as people
- Listen – to Bruce as the facilitator, and to each other
- Help others where they welcome help, but be sensitive to when they do not want it
- Make mistakes
- Improve
- Leave your cares at the door and enjoy yourself

## Bruce Watson's 2 rules for how to learn the ukulele

1. When you get your ukulele home, take it out of its bag/case and leave it somewhere you will see it.
2. Play it for at least 5 minutes every day.

### SOME BASICS

• G: the 4th string  
 • C: the 3rd string  
 • E: the 2nd string  
 • A: the 1st string

**G**oats **C**an **E**at **A**nanything

My dog has fleas

T  
A  
B

0 0 0 0

Finger numbering

1 2 3 4

T

Chord name  
G

Sound open string

Nut

Fret

Fretted Note

Fretting hand fingering

4th string

1st string

Fret number

Note

String number

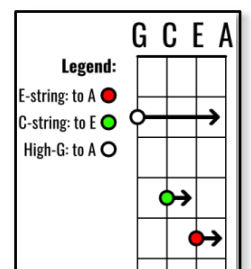
## TUNING THE UKULELE

Tune the strings by turning the pegs on the headstock.

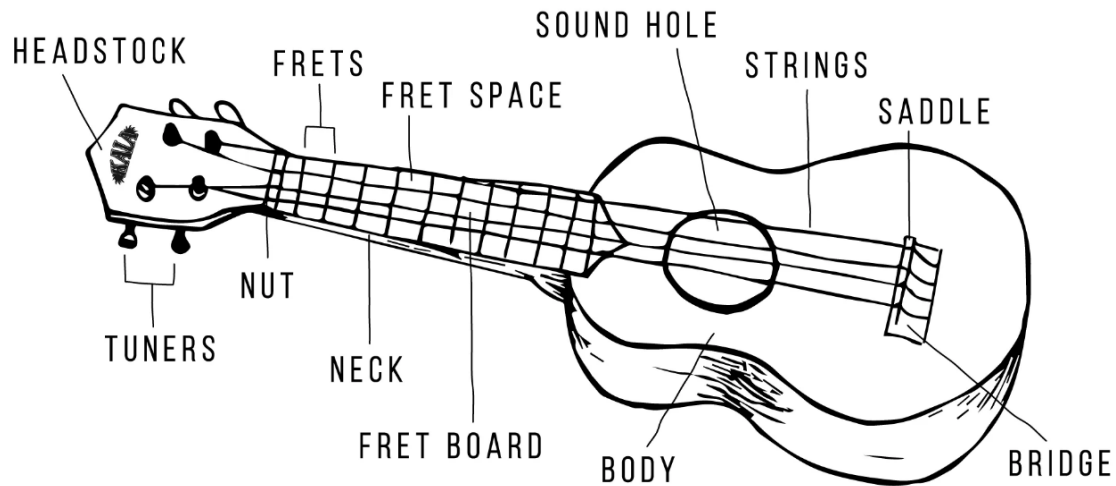
1. Clip-on tuner. This is the best option: quick & easy and doesn't pick up ambient sound. If your tuner has settings for different instruments and Chromatic, the Chromatic setting is best.
2. Tuner app (free) for your phone (a good back up)
3. Tune by ear against another instrument (piano, etc)
4. Tune the uke to itself by matching the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret of the hi G string to the open A string, the 4<sup>th</sup> fret of the C string to the open E string, and the 5<sup>th</sup> fret of the E string to the open A string.

Tuners from music shops cost \$30+. You can get them online far cheaper (less fancy graphics, but they work as well). Bruce has some he bought on line available for \$10.

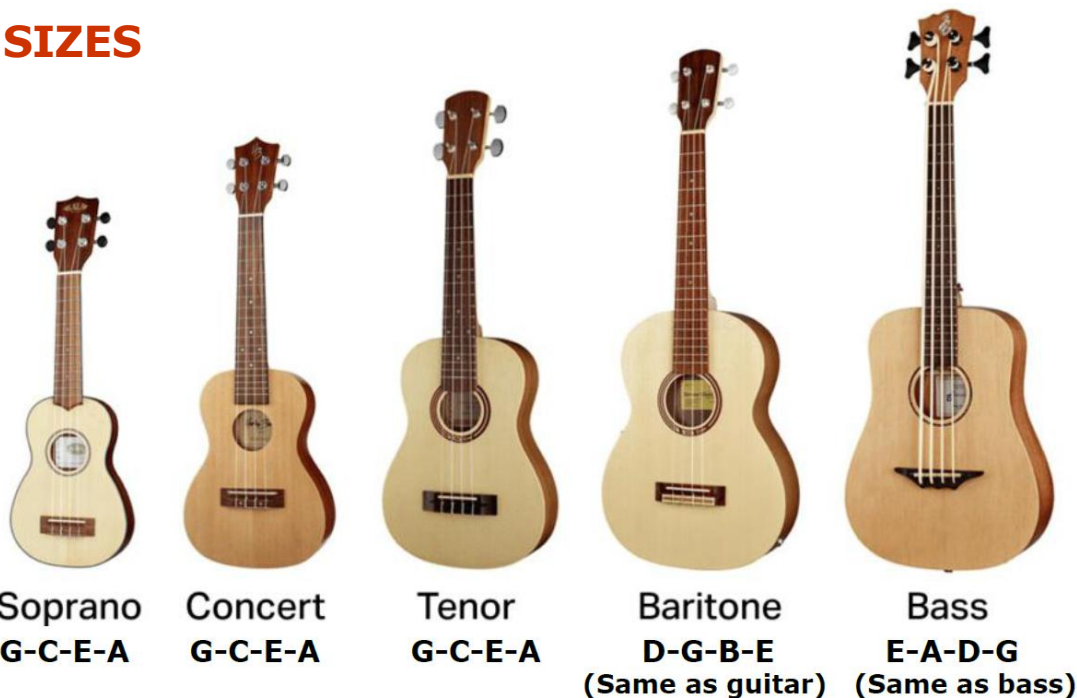
Here's a good step-by-step guide: <https://liveukulele.com/lessons/tuning-your-ukulele/>



## PARTS OF THE UKULELE



## UKULELE SIZES



Choosing a size depends on what sound you want, how big your hands/fingers are, whether you are a guitarist or bass player already, and lots of other factors.

There are also banjo ukuleles and 8-string ukuleles (2 courses of each string)

You can get a cheap uke for \$25-\$30. You can get a GOOD uke for ~\$100

## OPTIONAL UKULELE ACCESSORIES

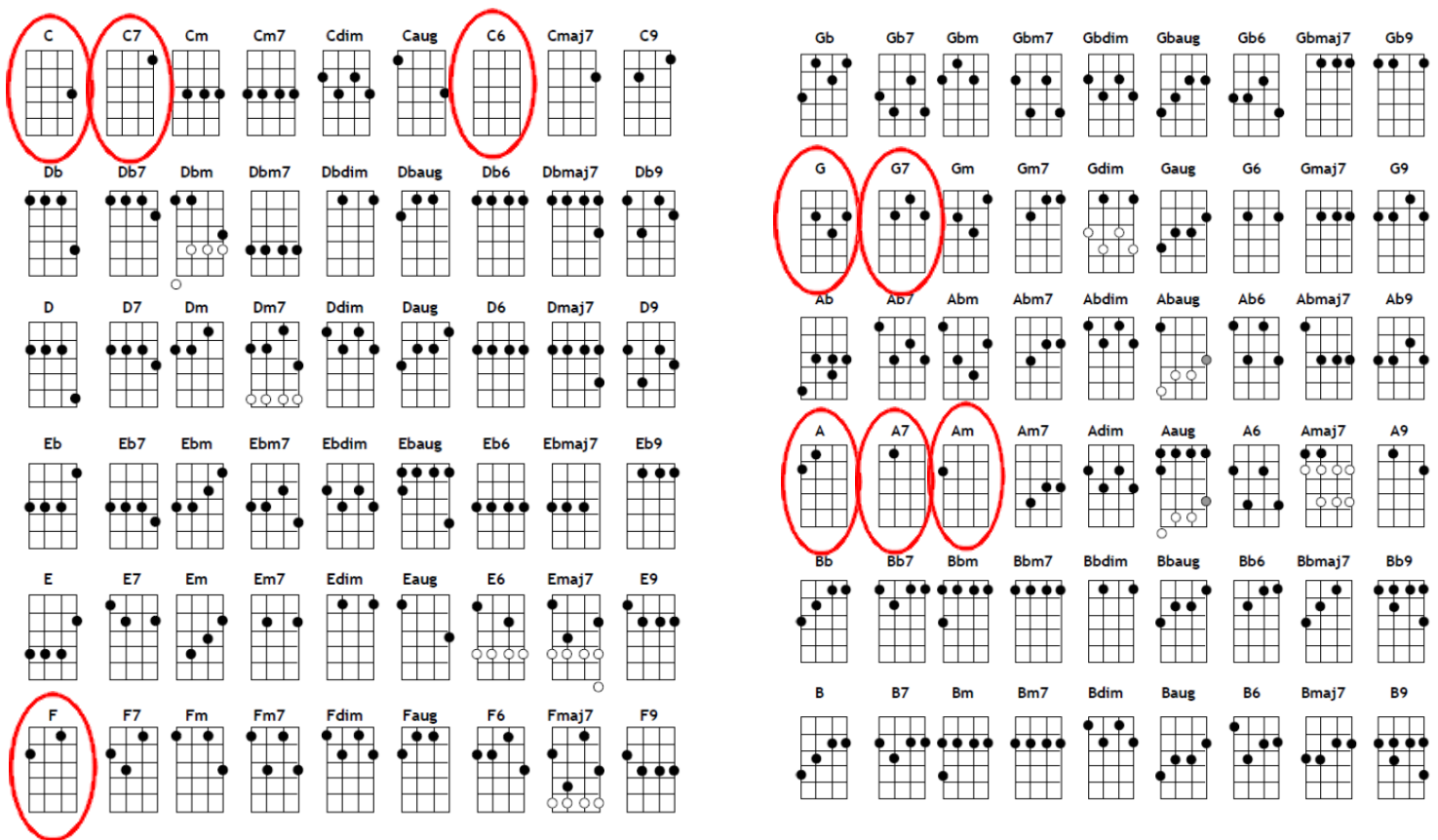
- **Tuner:** Very handy, but can use phone app (see previous page)
- **Music stand** (useful in group sessions and practicing at home) ~\$20+
- **Pick/plectrum.** Few uke players use these, but if you do, don't use a guitar pick – they sound too harsh. Ukulele picks are made of felt, not plastic, and work better on the nylon strings. \$2-8
- **Strap:** Not essential, but can help you have a relaxed strumming/picking hand, and especially good when standing. Cost \$20+. If your uke doesn't have a strap button, a music shop can install one for a few dollars. Or if you are handy, you can buy one and do it yourself.



# CHORD CHART

Don't be intimidated — we start with easy chords! And each song sheet will have chord diagrams for the chords in the song

Some of the first chords you will learn are circled.



## WHERE DOES THE UKULELE COME FROM?

- The ukulele originated in the 19th century as an adaptation of the machete, *braguinha*, *rajão* and *cavaquinho*, small guitar-like instruments, which were introduced to Hawaii by the Portuguese. It gained great popularity throughout the United States in the early 20th century and from there spread internationally.
- It is often said that ukulele means “jumping flea” in Hawaiian. However, the last queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii, Liliuokalani, translated ukulele as “gift from afar”. It’s also worth noting that, as well as ‘flea’, ‘uku means, “small, tiny.”

ZITS

by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

