

by Holly Rudin-Braschi Master of Music, Manhattan School of Music, NYC



Holly's Ukulele Method"

Perfect for group or private study, **Holly's Ukulele Method™** is a comprehensive, step-by-step, information-packed manual that transforms your ukulele into a tool to teach you the basics of musicianship.

YOU WILL LEARN TO...

- Read music and tablature in the key of C so you can pick up any piece of music and play it
 - Play melody lines
 - Play chords to accompany yourself and others
 - Combine both melody and chords for dynamite solo playing
 - Fingerpick and strum for a professional sound

LESSONS INCLUDE

- · String-by-string music reading
 - Clear descriptions
 - · Easy-to-follow photos and drawings
 - Songs and chords
 - Strumming and fingerpicking
 - Finger exercises
 - Music writing

"Holly's energy and passion for teaching shine through in her complete ukulele method book. From cover to cover it is packed full of practical lessons and information to get you playing, growing as a musician and loving the ukulele!"

-MIKE UPTON, FOUNDER, KALA BRAND MUSIC CO.

"Holly's enthusiasm, focus, and personalized lesson plans make her music lessons exciting, informative, and inspiring."

— MELODY CASPARI, OWNER/DIRECTOR, PETALUMA SCHOOL OF MUSIC, PETALUMA, CA

"Whether you are a newbie ukulele player or simply want to continue your journey as an advanced student, you can't go wrong with Holly's exclusive teaching method."

-KENT SWISHER, STUDENT, SANTA ROSA, CA

"Holly Rudin-Braschi's group ukulele classes consistently have strong enrollments and she receives excellent student evaluations."

—BETSY ROBERTS, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY EDUCATION, SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, SANTA ROSA, CA

Includes 86 embedded music instruction mp3s

HollyUkulele.com



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by Holly Rudin-Braschi
Master of Music, Manhattan School of Music, NYC



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Start Playing from the Get-Go!

The 12-STEP JUMP-START GUIDE is an introductory chapter that provides you with the know-how to start playing chords so you can sing and play your favorite songs.

It includes:

- 1. Ukulele anatomy
- 2. How to set up your ukulele
- 3. How to properly hold your ukulele
- 4. Best place to strum and fingerpick
- 5. How to easily learn the names of the strings
- 6. Tuning techniques
- 7. Fretting technique
- 8. Strumming technique
- 9. How to read chord grids
- 10. How to recognize the difference between chords and notes
- 11. How to smoothly play your first 2 chords with chord roadmaps
- 12. How to read and play chords in your favorite ukulele books

Plus 5 introductory songs to put it all together!

Introduction

OMG! You just got your first ukulele and are sooooo excited. But, you don't exactly know how to play and you want to start NOW. Perhaps you were inspired to purchase your ukulele because:

- · a friend invited you to their uke group
- one of your favorite musicians plays a song on the uke that you want to learn
- you used to play as a child and want to resume
- you impulsively purchased a uke you saw beckoning you in a shop window

...However you got connected to your ukulele, I have solutions to help get your musical mojo started.

My name is Holly Rudin-Braschi and I have taught hundreds of beginners to successfully make music on their ukuleles with professional-style techniques. I am a master ukulele instructor who has also taught hundreds of people how to play through group and private ukulele classes at Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, CA and at the Petaluma School of Music in Petaluma, CA and master classes around the US.



I hold a BA from Vassar College, NY in musicology and a Master's Degree in Music from the Manhattan School of Music, NYC. Trained as a guitarist and singer, little did I know that I would be hooked on an instrument that my husband purchased for me as an anniversary gift!

My ukulele is more than just a "cute" instrument. It is serious fun! Any devoted ukulele student who puts in the time can learn to play any genre of music that "floats their boat"... from folk, to classical, rock, reggae, blues, jazz... you name it, you can play it! Since I am a maverick who couldn't find a text that suited my needs as a musician and teacher, I wrote this book to help students learn to read music, play chords and play solos on this 4-stringed dynamo.

Ukulele 12-Step Jump-Start Guide

Book Organization

To learn basic playing techniques from the get-go, this books starts with a "12-Step Jump-Start Guide." This introductory chapter provides you with the know-how to learn and play chords so that you can start singing your favorite songs while playing your ukulele. Following this guide, we get down to the business of reading music, basic musicianship and playing technique. This book pertains to ukuleles tuned G, C, E, A. Have fun learning!

It's FUN For All Ages!

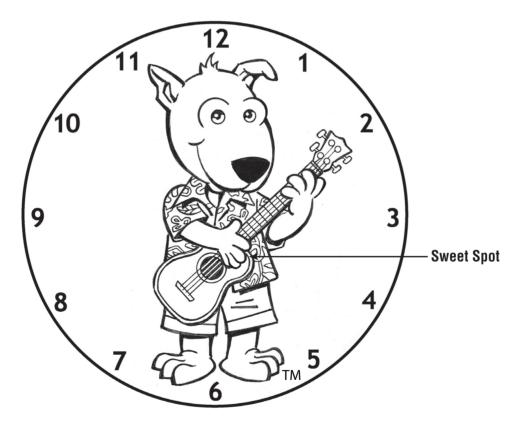
Our mascot, "Uke Dawg", helps make musical concepts and techniques fun to learn.

STEP 3. Clock into Your Playing Position

Even though the traditional ukulele looks like a mini guitar, it isn't held or played the same way. This is due to the physics of the sound.

Whether standing or sitting...

- **Uke position:** Imagine your head at the 12 o'clock position within a clock. Then rotate the head of your ukulele slightly below the 2 o'clock position... about a 40° angle.
- **Sit or stand tall:** Shoulders over hips. If sitting in a chair, sit forward, with a space between your back and the back of the chair back. Good spinal alignment is essential for:
 - positioning hands and arms to build the strength and agility required for accurate playing
 - providing unrestricted breathing for maximum vocal support when you sing
- Strumming arm position: Secure your uke against your body under your right forearm.
 Depending on the size of your uke, your height and arm length, you may want to rest the bottom of the uke in the crook of your right arm.



STEP 4. Finding the Strumming "Sweet Spot"

Next, position your strumming hand and arm. *Do not play over the sound hole.* The best sound from any ukulele is at a position called the "sweet spot," located just above the spot where the neck and body join. It is *not* located over the sound hole like a guitar. Sit in a quiet room and strum over both areas to hear the difference. Depending on the length of your arms and the size of your instrument, the elbow or forearm rests against the lower body of the uke, while the fingers tickle the sweet spot.

It's Ergonomic!

Holly's playing techniques enable players to gain strength and agility without putting strain on shoulders, wrists and finger joints.

Learn to Fingerpick Your Ukulele!

This is the only book on the market that offers the one finger/one string technique. Holly's classical fingerpicking training enables uke students to simultaneously play melody and chord accompaniment. With this training, students can easily play a wide variety of musical genres including Hawaiian, folk, rock, flamenco, classical, Reggae, blues, etc.

Right Hand Fingers: How to Position and Play

Right Hand Fingers Strings Low G **T** or Thumb plays the Low **G** string • **Position**: Thumb is always extended and points toward the head of the uke at all times. • **Motion**: Moves only from the joint nearest the palm in a circular, rotating, down-up motion toward the string and then away. • Pick with the left side of the fingernail. Do not pick the G string with a bent knuckle. C or Index finger plays the **C** string • Position: Fingertip points toward your wrist. Knuckle aligns with underside of Thumb knuckle joint. • Motion: Move from the knuckle down only. Pick toward the palm of the hand and away from the thumb. • Pick with the left side of the fingernail. Ε **M** or Middle finger plays the **E** string • Position: Fingertip points toward your wrist. Knuckle slightly behind Index finger knuckle. • Motion: Move from the knuckle down only. Pick toward the palm of the hand and away from the thumb. Pick with the left side of the fingernail. Α **R** or Ring finger plays the **A** string • **Position**: Fingertip points toward your wrist. Knuckle slightly behind Middle finger knuckle. • Motion: Move from the knuckle down only. Pick toward the palm of the hand and away from the thumb. • Pick with the left side of the fingernail.

It's Methodical!

Teaches beginners to read music in the key of C in the first 4 frets of the ukulele, string-by-string, and note-by-note.

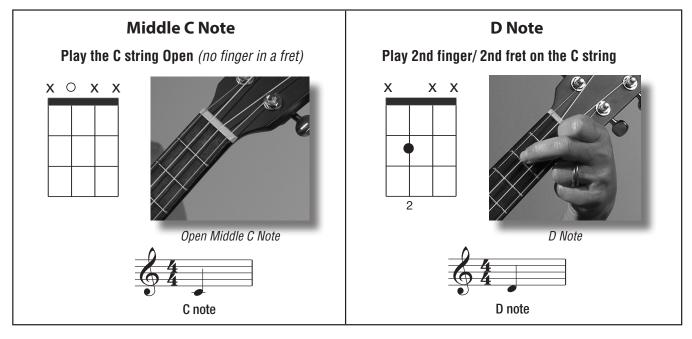
Introducing Notes on the C String

Middle C and D Notes

Note Diagram Key: o = play the string open, or no fingers on any frets

x = do not play the string

• = fret with a fingertip



Right hand fingerpicking for C and D notes:

Fingerpicking: I or Index finger plays the C String.

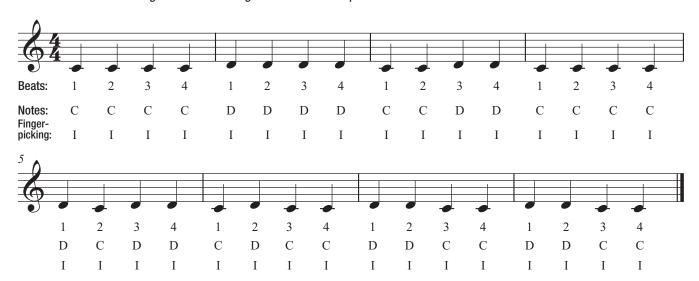
- Index fingertip points toward your wrist. Knuckle aligns with underside of Thumb knuckle joint.
- Play with the left side of index fingernail.



1. C and D Away We Go!

TRACK 6

- Before playing, count four for nothing: 1, 2, 3, Play or 1, 2, 3, 4.
- Continue counting out loud through the rest of the piece.



Offers Unique Techniques!

Holly's Ukulele Method™ is the most comprehensive training manual for beginners on the market offering playing techniques unavailable in other ukulele books. Techniques include:

- 1. Simultaneously playing melody and chords
- 2. Legato string-to-string playing
- 3. Playing melody through arpeggiated chords
- 4. Playing strategies

COMBINING MELODY AND CHORDS

You can make your uke playing sound professional by sprinkling a melody line with the chords to accompany it. Most of the melody notes are contained in the notes you are fretting for the chord. You'll get to explore this in more depth in a later lesson. Try this technique. Once you get the hang of it, you will see how natural it is to pick out a melody from the chords you are playing.

Step 1—Learn to fingerpick a block chord:

- All strings are plucked simultaneously with the Thumb, Index, Middle and Ring fingers.
- Block Chords are indicated with TIMR in this book.
- Position all right hand fingers on the strings:
 - Thumb is extended and points toward the head of the uke at all times.

Step 2—Fret the chord. The melody notes are usually found within:

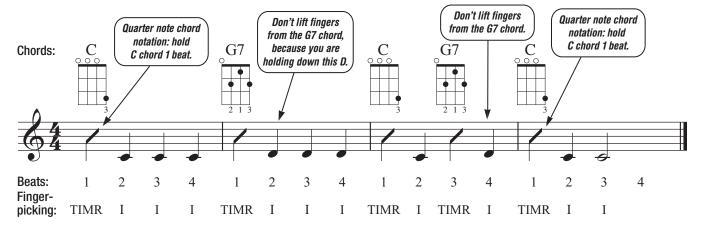
- Look ahead to see if a chord that follows a melody line includes the note of that melody. If so, fret the chord before playing it so you can play the note, then the chord. So that you understand what to look for when fretting a chord ahead, call-out bubbles give playing technique tips throughout the music. The callout bubbles are like a road map for playing, so make sure to read each one when learning to play the arrangements in this book.
- In the following music:
 - The **C chord** includes the **middle C** note you just learned.
 - The G7 chord includes the D note you just learned.



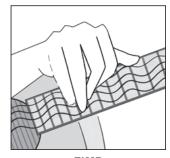
6. Find the Note in the Chord

TRACK 11

- Chord rhythmic notation—See page 38 for explanation.
- The chord to be played is directly above the slash or diamond. Play that chord until a new chord is indicated.
- Before playing, count four for nothing: 1, 2, 3, Play or 1, 2, 3, 4.
- Continue counting out loud through the rest of the piece.



Block Chord



TIMR
Thumb-Index-Middle-Ring
Pluck all strings simultaneously

Finger Exercises — Only book on the market!

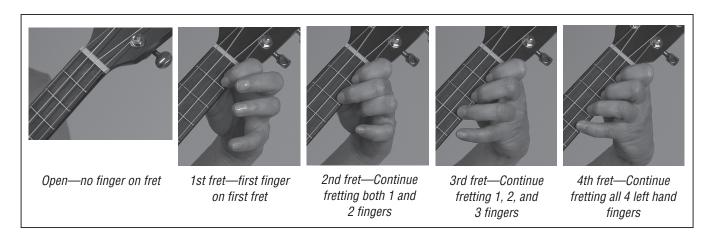
Strengthens and coordinates both left and right hands, improves speed, accuracy, and helps students learn to play in a movable, 4-fret range.

Left hand fretting technique – learning to play legato, or smoothly connected

The following diagrams teach how to smoothly take fingers on and off frets so one note flows into another as you fingerpick with your right hand. Use the patterns below for all four strings.

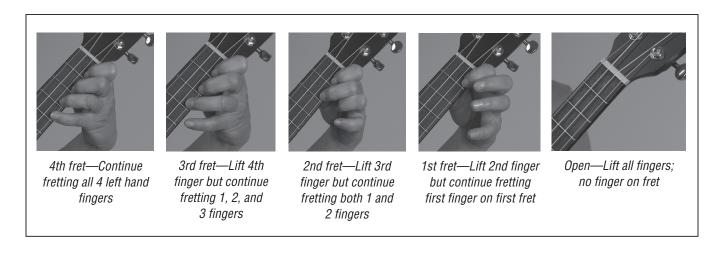
Ascending Chromatic Scale Finger Pattern on the A String

As you play each ascending note (going up the fretboard toward the uke body), continue fretting each note hard, leaving your finger down on a fret after you play it.



Descending Chromatic Scale Finger Pattern on the A String

As the scale descends (going down the fretboard toward the uke head), lift each finger and let it hover closely to the fret it just played. Continue to strongly fret the remaining fingers.



86 Musical Exercises, Familiar Songs and Instrumental Pieces To Help You Learn!

Holly's Ukulele Method™ offers the most music of any instructional ukulele book on the market.



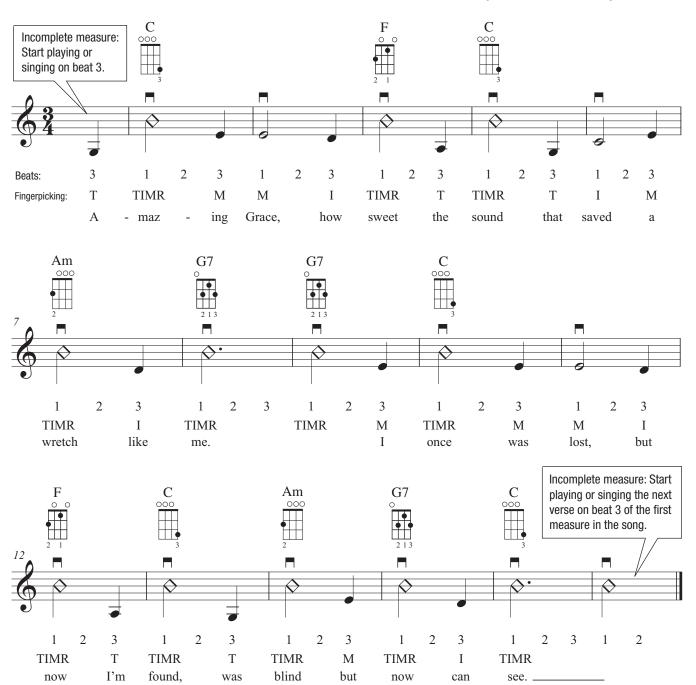
11. Amazing Grace

TRACK 59

Play this traditional song 3 ways:

- 1. **As an Instrumental**—Play the arrangement below that combines melody and chords.
- 2. **As a Song**—Play the chords to accompany your singing.
- 3. **As a Combination**—Sing the song through while accompanying yourself with chords, then play an instrumental version... or vice versa.

Lyrics written circa 1772 by John Newton



Annotated "Bubbles" — Only book on the market!

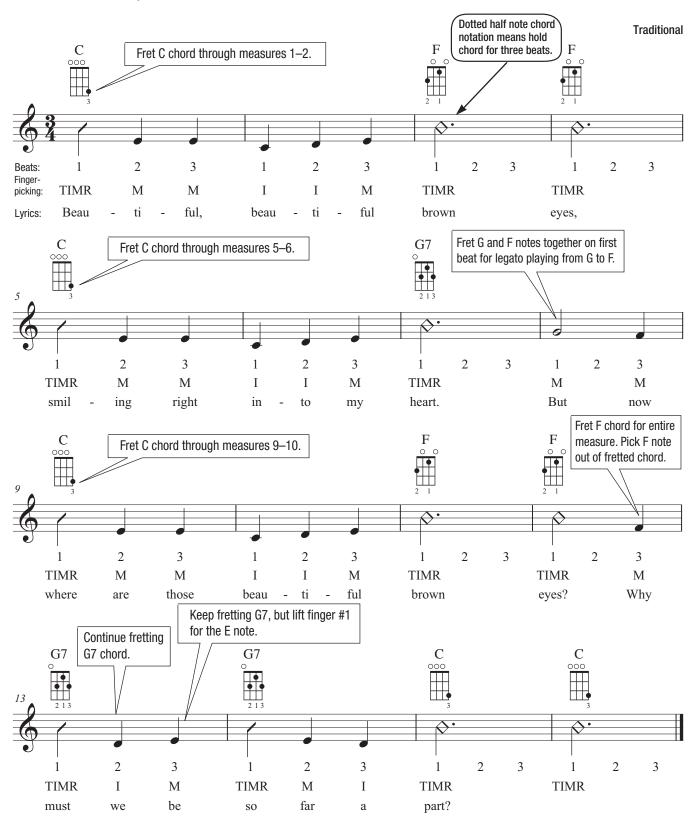
Other ukulele books simply offer music for students to learn with little or no explanation on how to play. Holly's Ukulele Method™ includes "cartoon bubbles" within each musical exercise and song that instruct students on playing techniques.



15. Beautiful Brown Eyes

TRACK 28

Accompany your singing with the chords, and then play an instrumental using my arrangement that combines melody and chords below.



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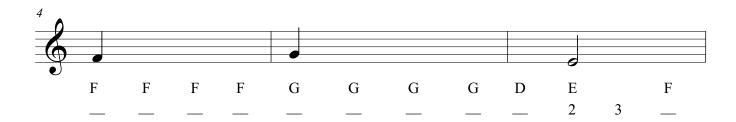
Music Writing Exercises — *Only book on the market!* If you can write it, you can play it. Holly's Ukulele Method™ offers note and chord exercises that improve sight reading.

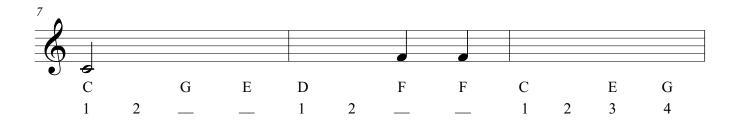
WRITTEN EXERCISE 2: Note Writing Middle C, D, E, F, G

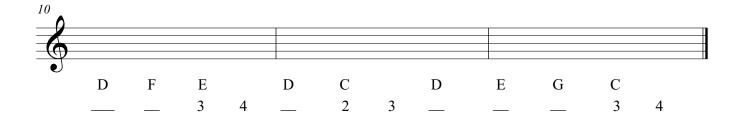
Instructions: Use pencil.

- 1. First write the G Clef at the beginning of each staff below.
- 2. Next write a 4/4 time signature on the first staff only.
- 3. Write a quarter or half note above the letter name indicated below the staff. Half notes rhythms are notated with a comma between beats.
- 4. Be sure to make the stem of each note 3 spaces long.
- 5. Add the beat number under each note.









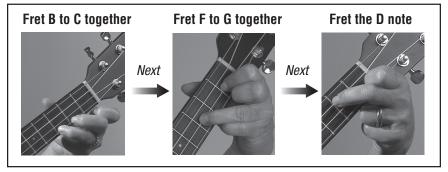
Focuses on the Key of C — Only book on market!

Competitive books introduce a variety of keys in their "beginner" book. Students who thoroughly learn to read and play in the key of C, tend to have excellent retention of musical concepts and easily learn to play in the other keys. Holly's Ukulele Method™ gives students a solid music background by concentrating each chapter on specific strings, notes, chords and techniques in the key of C through fun-to-play exercises and familiar songs.

Left Hand C Scale Fretting Exercise:

Do not play these notes with your right hand; fret with the left hand only. Do not look at your left hand.

With your eyes closed, practice simultaneously fretting all the notes firmly on each string as you move from the A string to the C string. Make sure your fingers are next to the fret bars and not on top of them. Then practice the reverse, by fretting notes from the C string to the A string.

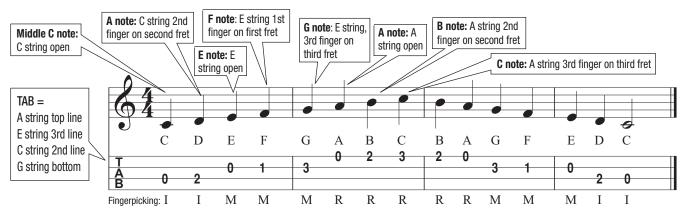


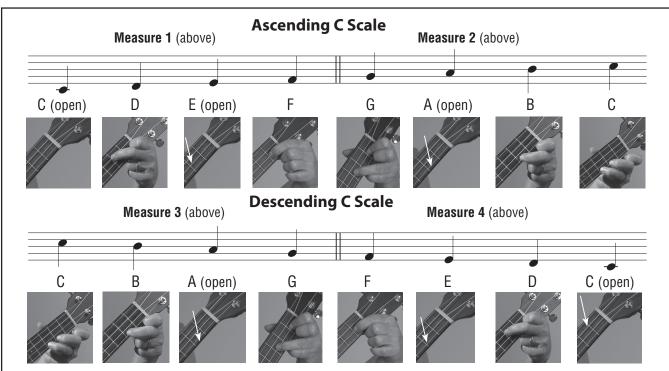


4. C Scale Exercise

TRACK 36

Practice reading both the notation and the tablature. Sing or say the note name as you play. Then, live dangerously! Close your eyes; play and sing the note names. If it sounds incorrect, take a peek, readjust your left hand fingers, then continue practicing without looking.

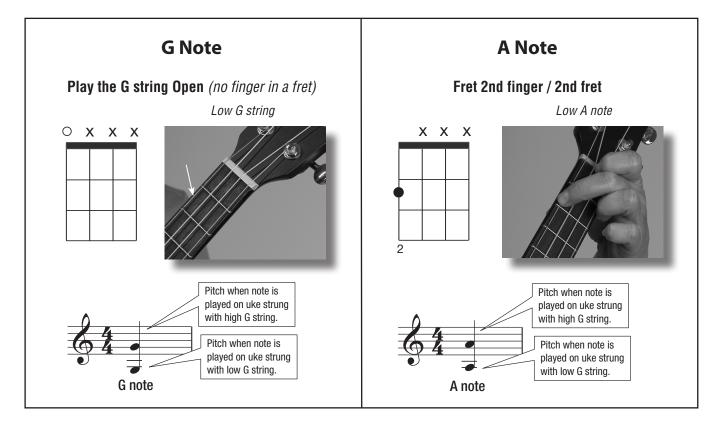


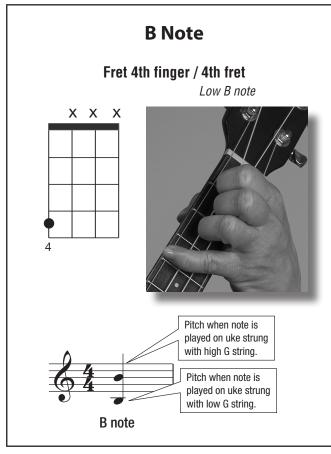


Teaches How To Read Notes on the Low G String — Only book on the market!

Learning to read and play a low G string gives uke players 3 extra low notes for playing a wider melody range in a variety of musical genres.

Introducing Notes on the G String: G, A, and B Notes

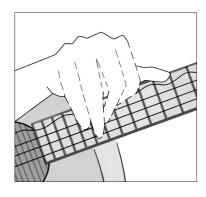




Right hand fingerpicking:

The G, A, and B notes on the G string are plucked with the **thumb**, notated **T**.

Fingerpicking Tip: Lightly rest your index finger on the C string, middle finger on the E string, and ring finger on the A string. The tip of the thumb continues to point toward the head of the uke. Keep the thumb straight and move it in a down, around and up arc from the joint above the knuckle.

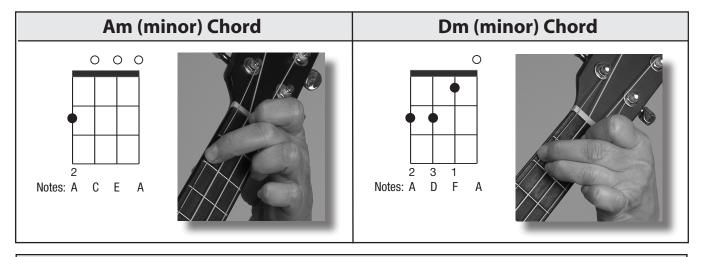


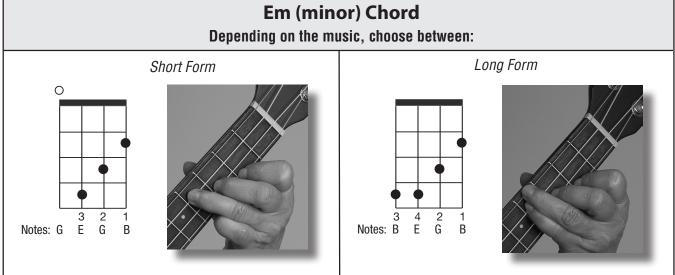
Photographs and Illustrations Help You Learn

Holly's Ukulele Method™ recognizes that everyone learns differently. To accommodate as many learning styles as possible, Holly offers a variety of ways to learn including written description, photographs, illustrations and aurally through MP3 downloads.

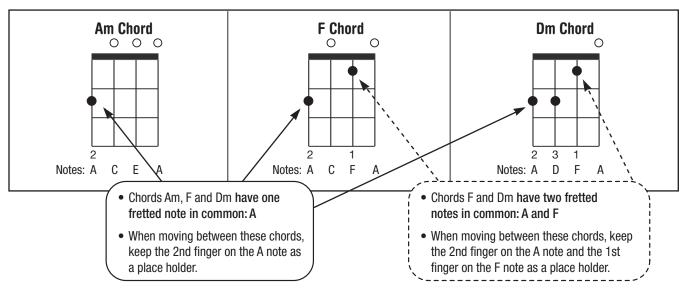
Introducing the Minor Chords: Am, Dm and Em

To play all chords below: Strum down with the thumb, index, or middle finger, or, **fingerpick** all strings simultaneously with the **Thumb**, **Index**, **Middle** and **Ring** fingers—T I M R





Roadmap for Moving Smoothly Between Am, F and Dm



Appendix Includes Extra Goodies For Both Students and Teachers!

Note, Rhythm and Rest Values

Reference Chart

Read across this chart to compare and learn the different notations for corresponding note, rest and chord rhythmic values.

Pitch Rhythm Notation	Rest Notation	Chord Rhythm Notation
Quarter Note = 1 Beat (Hold each note for 1 beat)	Quarter Note Rest = 1 Beat (Hold each rest for 1 beat)	Quarter Note = 1 Beat (Hold each chord for 1 beat)
	<u> </u>	
Half Note = 2 Beats (Hold each note for 2 beats)	Half Note Rest = 2 Beats (Hold each rest for 2 beats)	Half Note = 2 Beats (Hold each chord for 2 beats)
		•
Dotted Half Note = 3 Beats (Hold each note for 3 beats)	Dotted Note Rest = 3 Beats (Hold each rest for 3 beats)	Half Note = 3 Beats (Hold each chord for 3 beats)
O		
Whole Note = 4 Beats (Hold each note for 4 beats)	Whole Note Rest = 4 Beats (Hold each rest for 4 beats)	Whole Note = 4 Beats (Hold each chord for 4 beats)

Hawai'ian Musical Terms

If you play regularly with an ukulele group that plays Hawai'ian music, you need to know the following Hawai'ian words:

Hana hou—encore, do it again

Kani—to sound or strike; to play a musical instrument

Kani ka pila—play the stringed instrument. Today means musical jam session, or "let's play music." ("ka" means "the")

Mele—melodic song or chant. Ancient mele were chanted songs often accompanied by rhythm instruments and by hula dances. Traditionally, mele is how Hawai'ians preserve their legends, traditions, family, and social history. Today mele can also mean songs accompanied by instruments.

'Oli—Chant

Pa`ani—to play, "horse around," sport, amusement; also means joking, playful, amusing. Used by musicians for taking an instrumental break in a vocal piece.

Pane—*verb:* to answer, to reply; *noun:* an answer, a reply. Also used by musicians as a term for an instrumental break in between the vocal verses of a song, as the instrumental break is answering the vocal verses.

Pau—finished, ended, all done

Pila—a musical instrument, originally a fiddle; today means any stringed instrument.

Keep a Weekly Practice Log

Writing down your musical goals and the work you have done to achieve them helps you:

- Maintain a regular practice schedule—helps you make faster progress
- Set goals that are realistic yet challenging—songs, chords, chord progressions, and solo
 pieces you want to learn, but are not so far beyond your current capabilities that they are
 unattainable.
- Organize your practice session—this enables you to:
 - remember everything on your practice list
 - logically order the exercises and music you want to practice
 - break down your work into manageable amounts that can be spread out during the week.
- Determine how long it takes you to learn something new
- Write down questions for your teacher at your next lesson

Students: Use the following two sheets as an example for creating your own practice log.

Instructors: Use the following sheets as a template for creating a log that compliments your particular practice curriculum.

Name		Date
	Ukulele V	Neekly Practice Log
		uring the week to make maximum progress.
	WEEKDAY	PRACTICE TIME
	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
	Saturday	
	Sunday	
	Total time for the week	
WARM-U 1. Finger Ex 2. Scales:		
3. Chords /	Chord Progressions:	
PLAY MU	JSIC	
4. Uke Boo	k: Work on Lesson, p	pages
5. Songs:		