

**AN INTRODUCTION  
TO PLAYING  
CHORD MELODY SOLOS  
ON THE UKULELE**



# An Introduction to Playing Chord Melody Solos

This workshop uses a three-way approach to playing melody and chords together as solo pieces. You will:

1. Sing and strum the song and its chords.
2. Pick the tune.
3. Pick and strum the chord melodies.

You could also play the songs as ensemble pieces with other players and/or singers. Any combination of 1, 2 and 3 (above) will blend together nicely.

The arrangements are for regular ukulele tuning (G C E A) and work equally well with a low or high G.

## Prior Learning

To get the most out of this workshop you will already be able to:

1. Read ukulele tablature (TAB). (Some rudimentary guidance is included in the following pages.)
2. Play simple melodies written in TAB.
3. Sing and strum well known songs with confidence.
4. Play confidently (and move fluently between) the chords of F and C7.

## Chords and Melody Notes

The chords are played with a downward thumb strum. The final, bottom-most note (indicated in **red**) is the melody note and is always the last (and most prominent) note to sound. The other, single, melody notes in the arrangements are picked with the thumb.

In a chord where the melody note is on the bottom (A) string, the thumb will strum all the way through the four strings. In chords where the melody note is on the C or E strings, the thumb will come to rest on the string immediately below the note. For example: If the melody note is on the C string, the thumb will come to rest on the E string. If the melody note is on the E string, the thumb will come to rest on the A string. This is called the Thumb Rest Stroke.

## Chord Menu

The box above the title contains the chords to be used in the song. Chords marked with an \* indicate an incomplete chord.

# HOW TO READ UKULELE TABLATURE

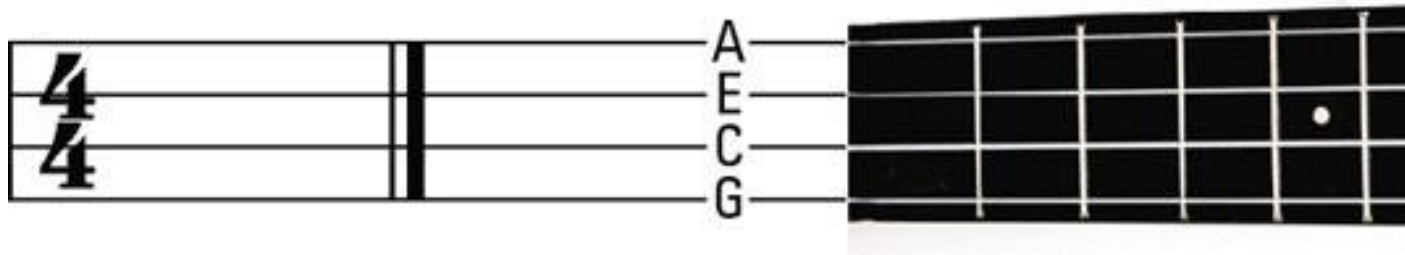
Standard notation is useful because it's universal and remains the same for every instrument, including the ukulele.

However, notation is quite tricky to read, and for instruments where you can play the same note on different strings - such as the ukulele - it leaves out valuable information.

*Tablature* (or *tab*) was developed to overcome these problems. Tab is designed specifically for fretted instruments, and it shows - among other details - which string to play and which fret to use.

In the horizontal lines of tab, each line represents a string on the ukulele; however, they're upside down from what you may expect, and may take some getting used to:

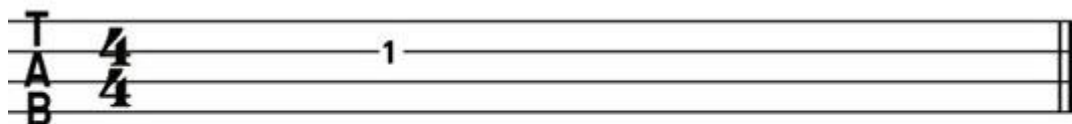
- The top line of the tab is the A-string (the one closest to the floor when you're playing).
- The line below that is the E-string.
- The line below that is the C-string.
- The bottom line of the tab is the G-string (the one closest to your face).



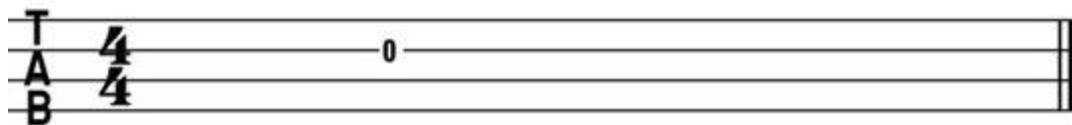
How tab refers to uke strings.

## Fretting ukulele notes in tab

The numbers that appear on the tab indicate which string to play and what fret to play it at (the stacked 4s indicate the time signature). In this diagram, the note is on the second line down, representing the E-string. The number 1 indicates that you play the string at the first fret. Playing the E-string at the first fret gives an F note.

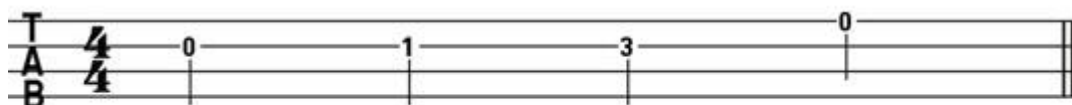


A 0 indicates an *open string* — one you play without fretting a note at all. This diagram shows an open E-string.



## Sequencing ukulele notes in tab

When notes appear one after the other horizontally in the tab, you play them in sequence. You let the first note ring until you reach the next note. In this sequence, you play the E-string open, then the same string at the first fret, and then at the third fret and, for the final note, play the A-string open.



2F
3F
14C7\*

T	1	0	3
A	0	1	2
B	2	2	3

# HOT CROSS BUNS

V = VOICE U M = UKULELE MELODY U C M = UKULELE CHORD MELODY

TRADITIONAL ARR. STUART BUTTERWORTH

**Moderato**

F
C<sup>7</sup>
F
C<sup>7</sup>
F

V

Hot cross buns hot cross buns

U M

U C M

RED TYPE = MELODY NOTES

5
C<sup>7</sup>
F
C<sup>7</sup>
F

V

One a pen ny two a pen ny hot cross buns

U M

U C M

9
F
C<sup>7</sup>
F
C<sup>7</sup>
F

V

Hot cross buns hot cross buns

U M

U C M

13

C<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

V

If you have no daughters feed them to your sons

U M

U C M

The image shows a musical score for three parts: Voice (V), Ukulele (U), and Mandolin (M). The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 13/8. The lyrics are 'If you have no daughters feed them to your sons'. The ukulele and mandolin parts are shown with fret numbers for each string (T, A, B). The ukulele part uses a standard tuning (C4, E4, F4, C5) and the mandolin part uses a standard tuning (D4, F4, A4, D5). The fret numbers are as follows:

Measure	Ukulele (U)	Mandolin (M)
1	1, 1, 1, 1	1, 1, 1, 1
2	3, 3	3, 3
3	0, 0	0, 0
4	3, 3	3, 3
5	1	1

2F	3F	4F	14C7*
T A B	T A B	T A B	T A B
1 0 2	0 1 2	3 <sup>4</sup> 1 <sup>0</sup> 1 <sup>2</sup> 0 2	0 <sup>3</sup> 3 <sup>0</sup> 3 <sup>2</sup> 0 3

# GO TELL AUNT RHODY

V = VOICE U M = UKULELE MELODY U C M = UKULELE CHORD MELODY

TRADITIONAL ARR. STUART BUTTERWORTH

**Moderato**

Chords: F, C<sup>7</sup>, F

Voice: Go tell Aunt Rhody go tell Aunt Rhody

U M: 0 0 3 1 1 3 3 1 0 3 1

U C M: 0 1 3 1 1 3 3 1 0 3 1

RED TYPE = MELODY NOTES

5

Voice: go tell Aunt Rhody the old grey goose is dead The

U M: 3 3 1 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 1 1

U C M: 3 3 1 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 1 1

9

Voice: one we've been sav ing the one we've been sav ing the

U M: 0 0 3 1 1 1 3 3 1 0 3 1 1

U C M: 0 1 3 1 1 1 3 3 1 0 3 1 1



13

C<sup>7</sup> F

V

one we've been sav ing to make a feath er bed

U M

T 3 3 1 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 1 .

A

B

U C M

T 3 3 1 0 0 0 3 1 3 0 1 .

A 1 1 1 1 1 3 1 3 0 0 .

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 0 2 .

2 2 2 2 3 3 3 2

	2F	3F	4F	10C	11C7	14C7*	16C7
T	1	0	3 <sup>4</sup>	3	1	0	3
A	0	1	1 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	3 <sup>0</sup>	0 <sup>2</sup>
B	2	2	2	0	0	3	3

LIGHTLY ROW

V = VOICE U M = UKULELE MELODY U C M = UKULELE CHORD MELODY

TRADITIONAL ARR. STUART BUTTERWORTH

Moderato

F

C7

V

U M

U C M

4

4

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1

3

3

4

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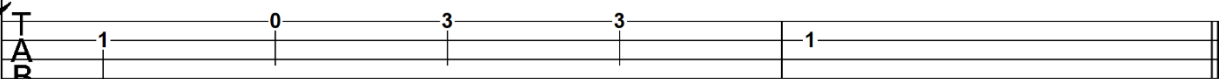
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7 F C<sup>7</sup> F

V 

on the si lent tide

U M 

U C M 