

Ukulele Beginner's Guide & 'Songlets'



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Aloha!

A warm welcome to the wonderful world of ukulele from 'The Ukulele Tutor' team. We hope that you enjoy strumming, singing and learning alongside us!

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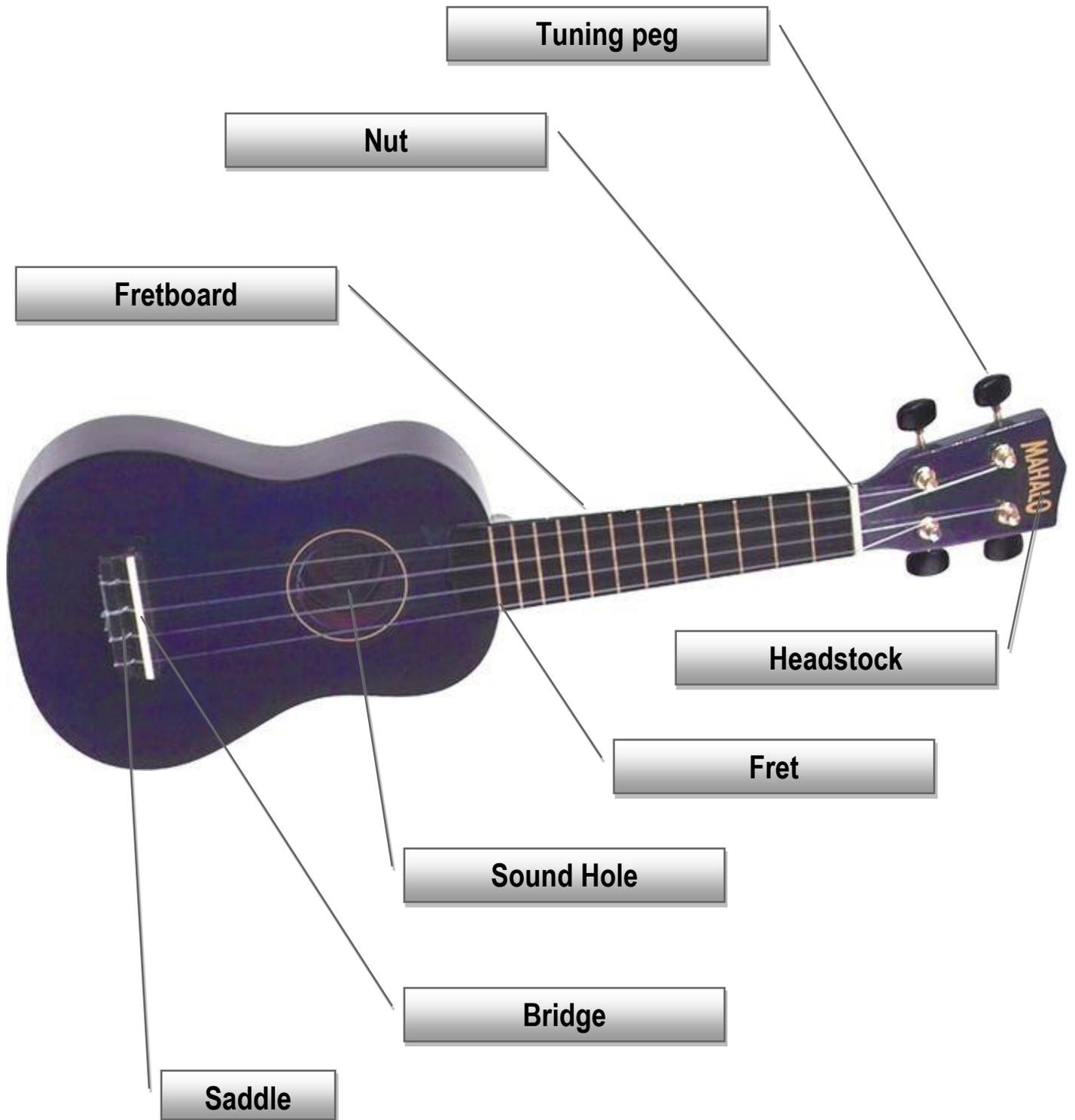
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BEGINNER'S GUIDE

1 How to Hold Your Ukulele

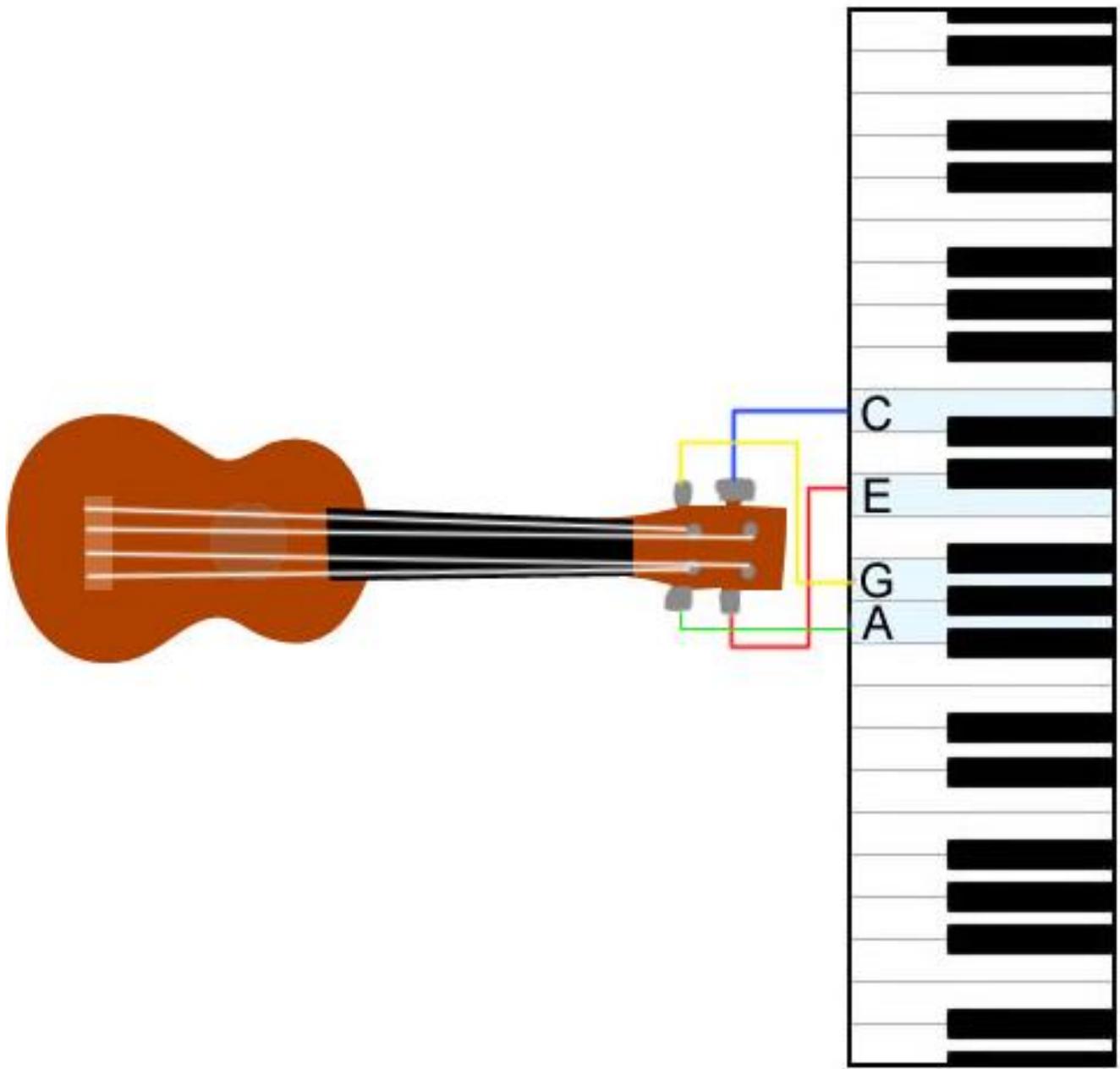


2 The Parts of a Ukulele



3 The Strings

The strings on your 'uke' are tuned to the notes **G C E A**



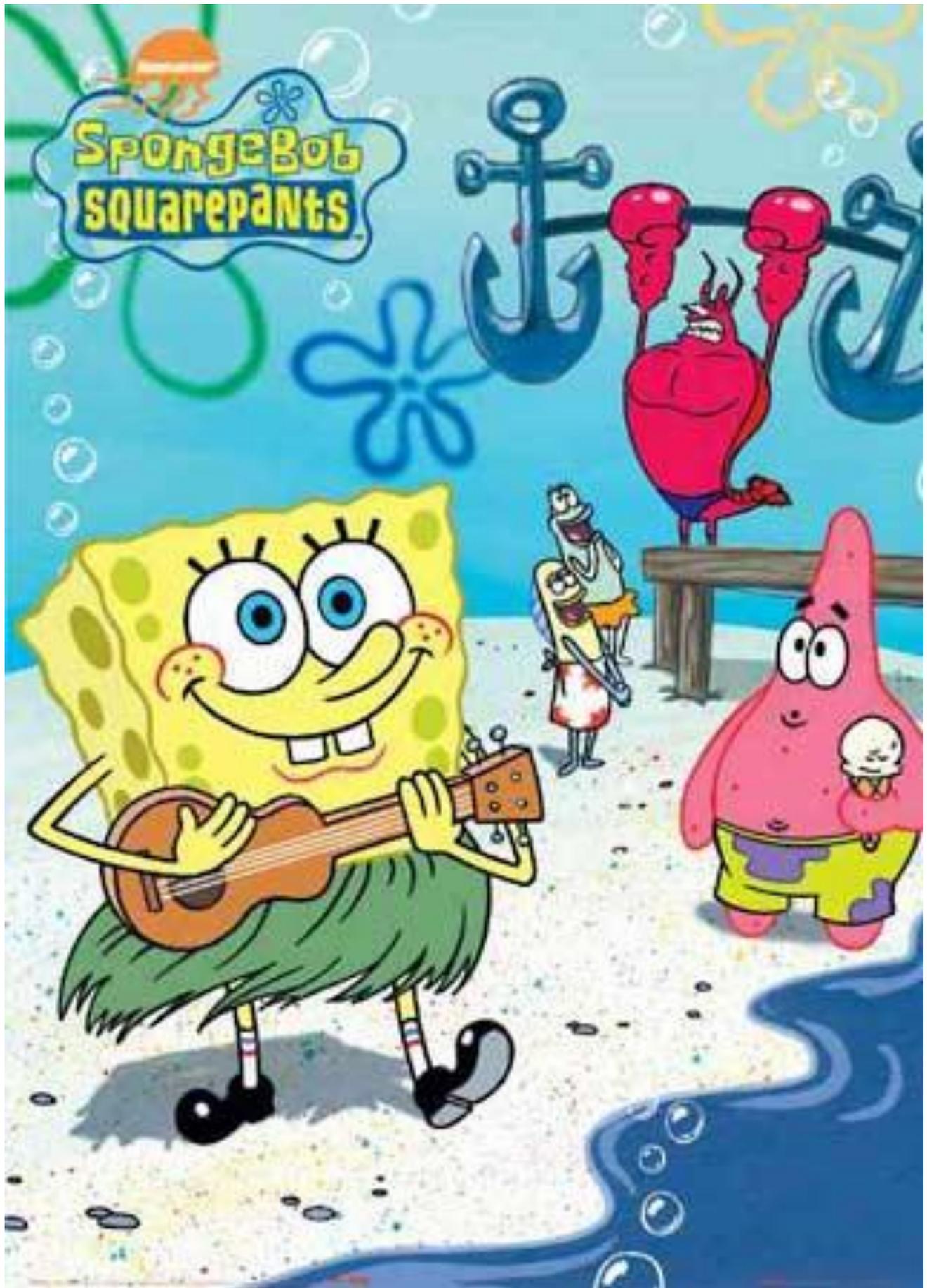
Starting with the string nearest your head:

GIRAFFES

CAN'T

EAT

ALLIGATORS



4 How to tune your ukulele using a clip-on tuner



Press and hold the 'On' button at the bottom of the clip-on tuner.

Briefly press (don't hold) the 'On' button until **'UKULELE-C'** appears at the bottom of the display **not** 'Ukulele D' or 'Chromatic'.

In **'UKULELE-C'** mode the clip-on tuner 'listens' **only** for the notes of the four strings – G, C, E and A.

Let's go through how you tune each string.



1



G Tuning Peg

G String



2

Tuning the G string

- Play the G string repeatedly whilst doing the following:
- If the needle points to the left [Picture 1] turn the G tuning peg **away from you** until the display turns green [Picture 2]
- If the needle points to the right [Picture 3] turn the G tuning peg **towards you** until the display turns green [Picture 4]



3



G Tuning Peg

G String



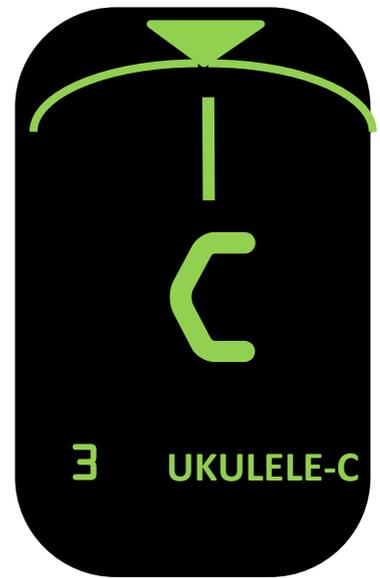
4



1

C Tuning Peg

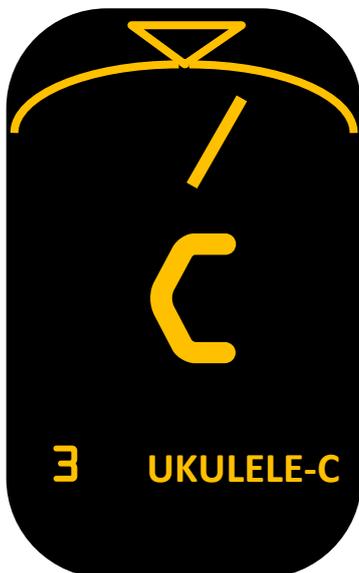
C String



2

Tuning the C string

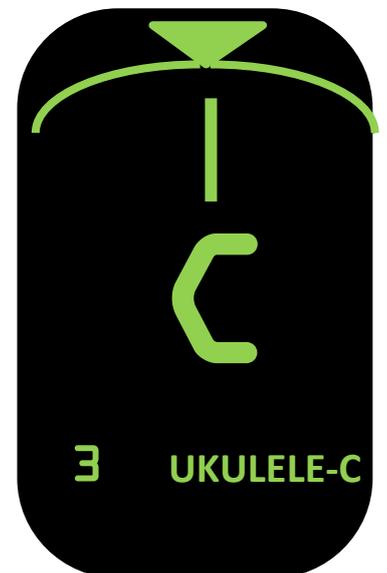
- Play the C string repeatedly whilst doing the following:
- If the needle points to the left [Picture 1] turn the C tuning peg **away from you** until the display turns green [Picture 2]
- If the needle points to the right [Picture 3] turn the C tuning peg **towards you** until the display turns green [Picture 4]



3

C Tuning Peg

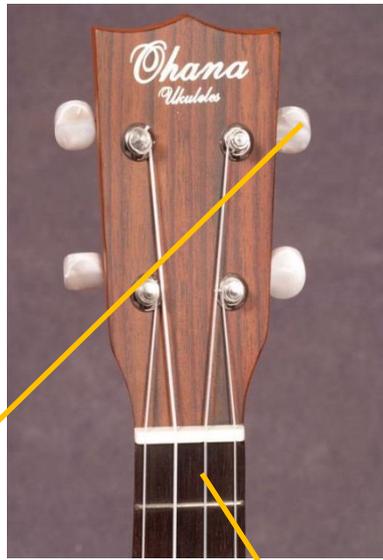
C String



4

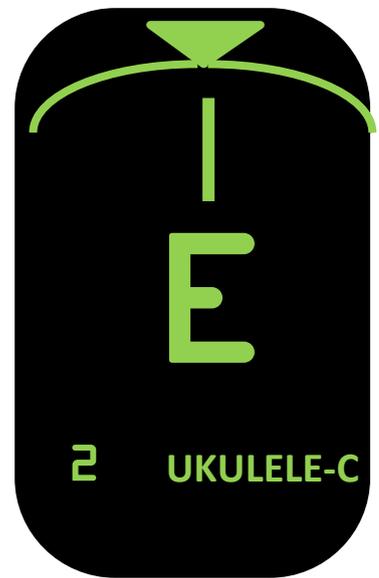


1



E Tuning Peg

E String



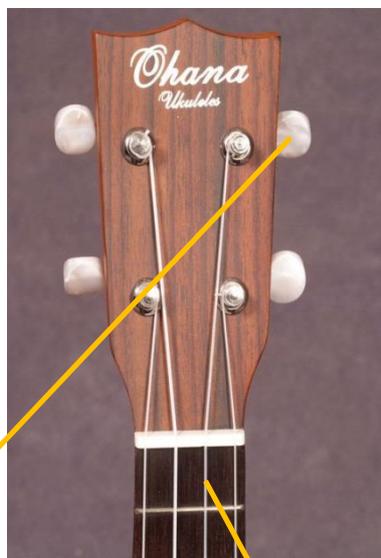
2

Tuning the E string

- Play the E string repeatedly whilst doing the following:
- If the needle points to the left [Picture 1] turn the E tuning peg **towards you** until the display turns green [Picture 2]
- If the needle points to the right [Picture 3] turn the E tuning peg **away from you** until the display turns green [Picture 4]



3

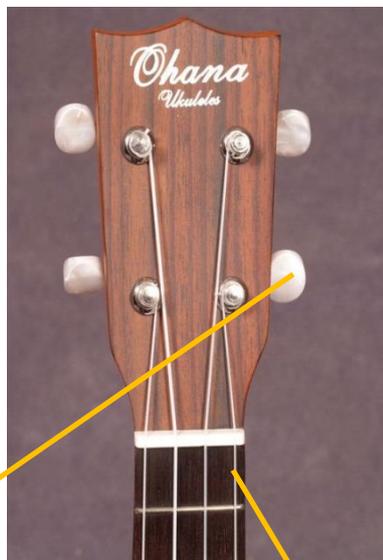


E Tuning Peg

E String



4



1

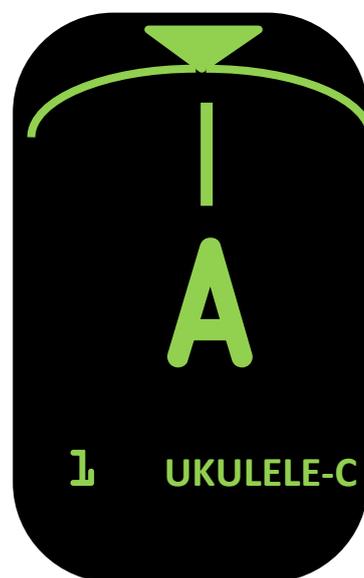
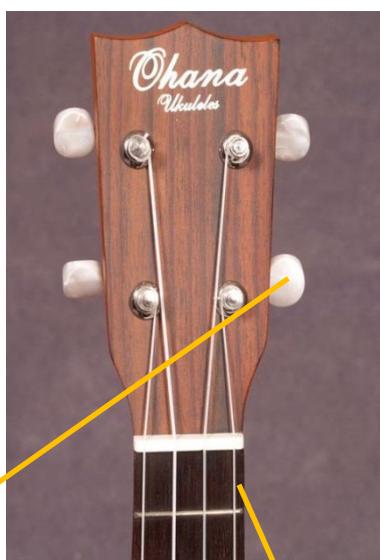
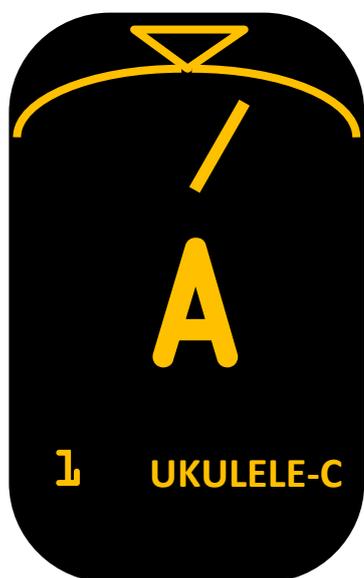
A Tuning Peg

A String

2

Tuning the A string

- Play the A string repeatedly whilst doing the following:
- If the needle points to the left [Picture 1] turn the A tuning peg **towards you** until the display turns green [Picture 2]
- If the needle points to the right [Picture 3] turn the A tuning peg **away from you** until the display turns green [Picture 4]



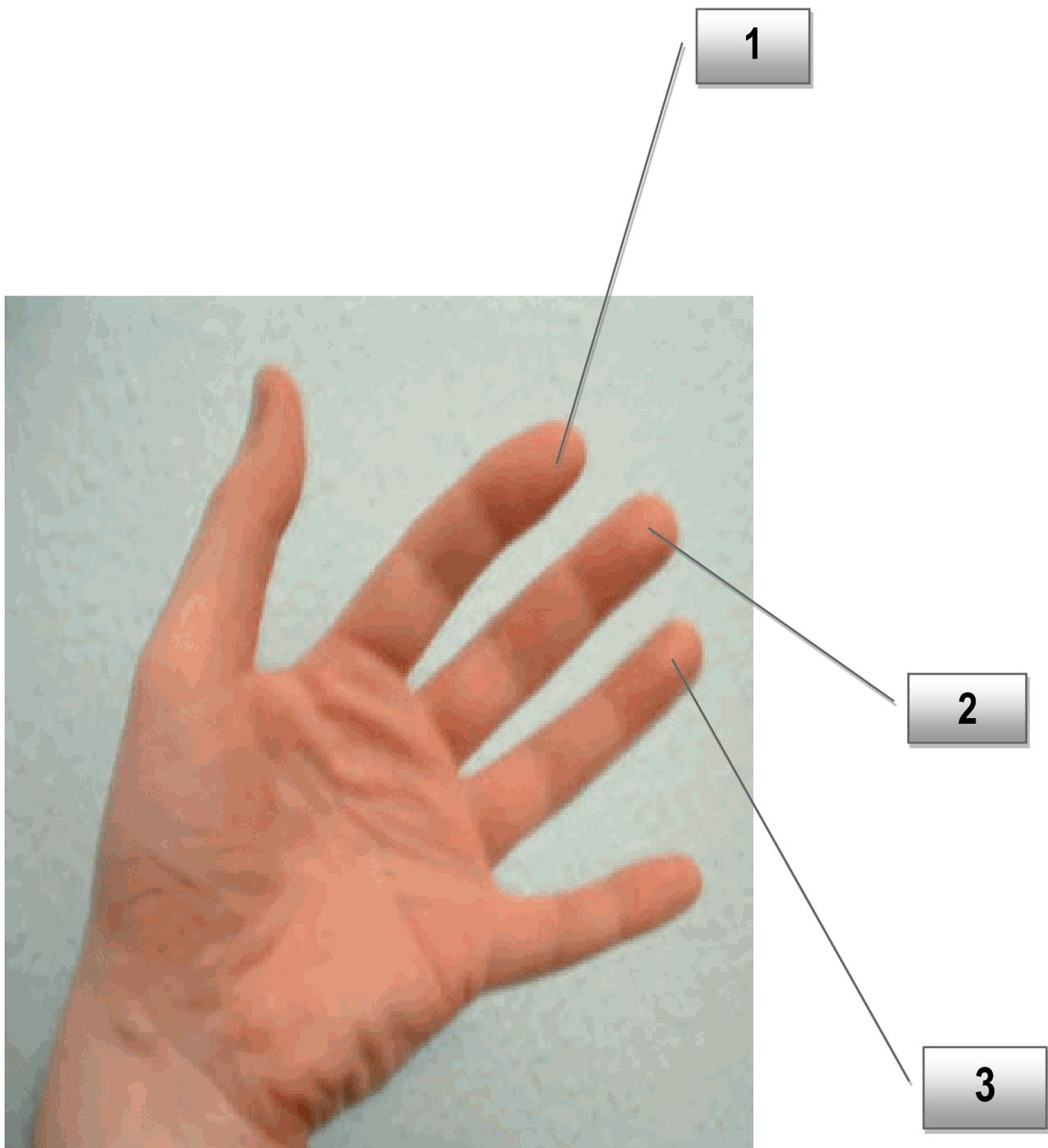
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A Tuning Peg

A String

4

5 Left hand finger numbers



Top Tip!

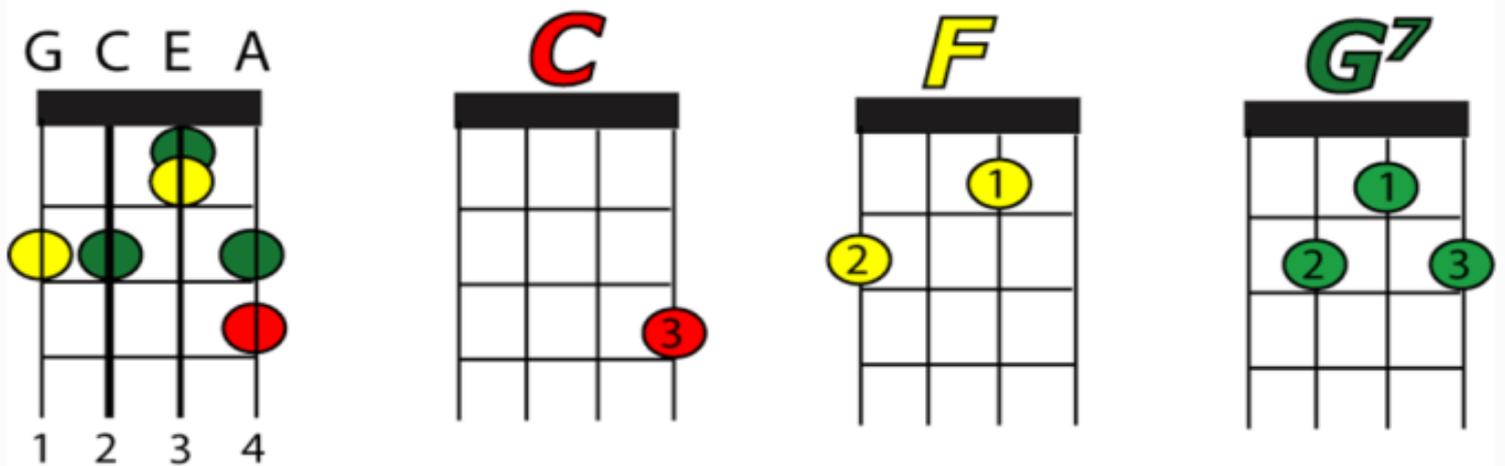
It's a good idea to keep the nails on your left hand nice and short.

6 Mike Jackson's 'Instant Play Ukulele Method'

This system is simple but it works! It helps you remember where to place your fingers and makes your chord changes much quicker.

Take a look at your ukulele

A set of sticky coloured paper dots has been placed on the fret board as shown in the diagram.



Place your third finger on the **red** dot - you have made the **C** chord.

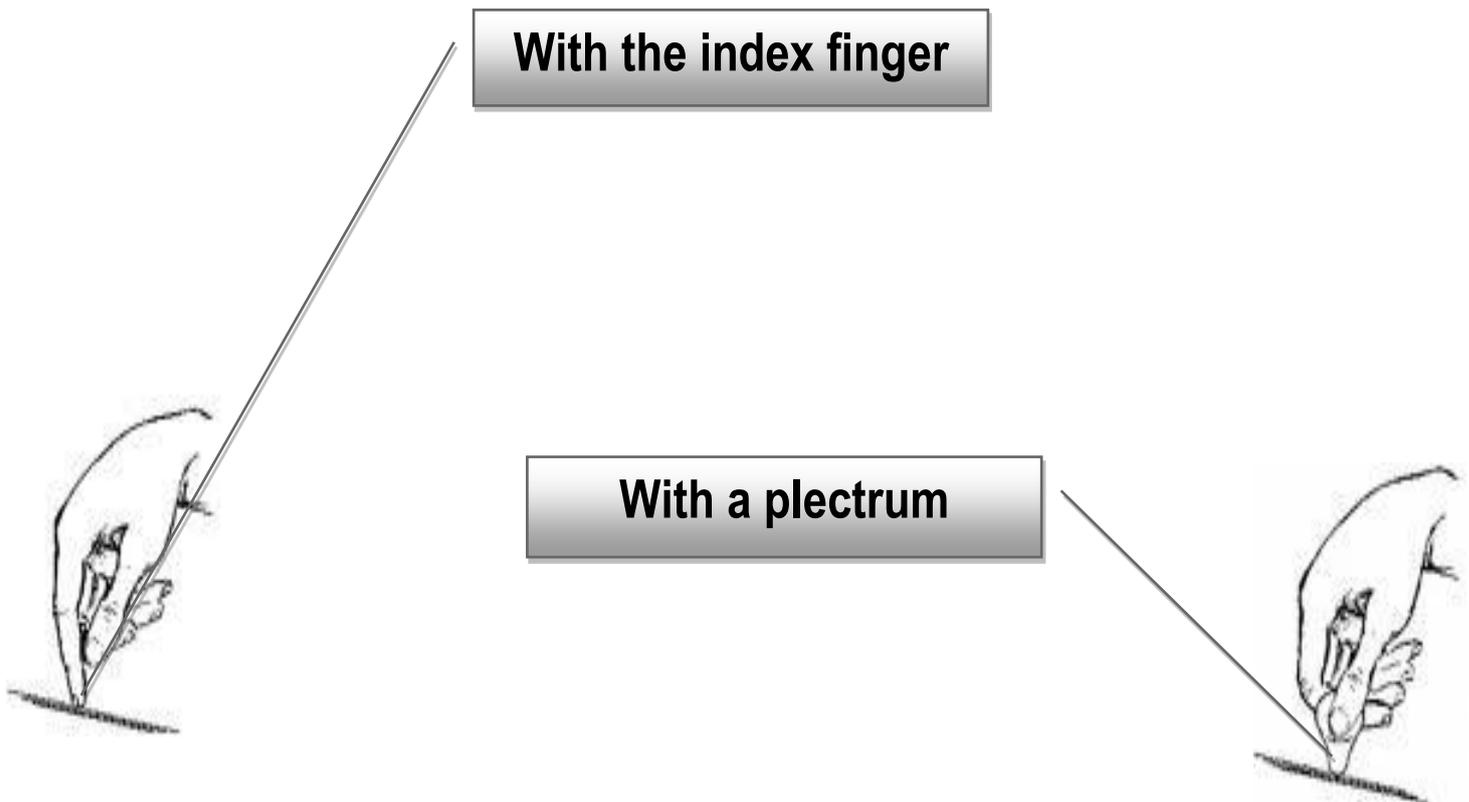
Place your first finger and second finger on the **yellow** dots - you now have the **F** chord.

Leave your first finger on its **green** / **yellow** dot and place your second and third fingers on the **green** dots as shown - this is the **G7** chord

You have an extra **blue** dot on **your** ukulele. Place your second finger on the blue dot - This is how you play the **Am** (A minor) chord

7 Strumming

- Strum with the nail of the index finger between the sound hole and fret board. You can also strum the strings with your thumb or a *felt* plectrum.
- The movement is entirely from the wrist, **very** loose and relaxed. Imagine you are shaking drops of water from your hand!
- Only the hand (not the arm) moves up and down in what has been described as a 'whippy' or 'flicky' motion.



Top Tip!

Longer nails on the right hand can improve and help to add variety to your strumming.

'SONGLETS'

1 Achy Breaky Heart [F]

1st note A = open A string

[F] You can tell the world you never was my girl

You can burn my clothes when I'm [C] gone

You can tell your friends just what a fool I've been

And laugh and joke about me on the [F] phone

But [F] don't tell my heart my achy breaky heart

I just don't think he'll under [C] stand

And if you tell my heart my achy breaky heart

He might blow up and kill this [F] man

2 Achy Breaky Heart [C] 1st note E = open E string

[C] You can tell the world you never was my girl

You can burn my clothes when I'm [G7] gone

You can tell your friends just what a fool I've been

And laugh and joke about me on the [C] phone

But [C] don't tell my heart my achy breaky heart

I just don't think he'll under [G7] stand

And if you tell my heart my achy breaky heart

He might blow up and kill this [C] man

3 A Pizza Hut [F]

1st note C = open C string

[F] A Pizza Hut a Pizza Hut

Ken [C] tucky Fried Chicken and a [F] Pizza Hut

McDonald's McDonalds

Ken [C] tucky Fried Chicken and a [F] Pizza Hut

[F] Have five a day have five a day

Eat [C] fruit and veg have [F] five a day

Be healthy be healthy

Eat [C] fruit and veg have [F] five a day

4 A Pizza Hut [C]

1st note G = open G string

[C] A Pizza Hut a Pizza Hut

Ken [G7] tucky Fried Chicken and a [C] Pizza Hut

McDonald's McDonalds

Ken [G7] tucky Fried Chicken and a [C] Pizza Hut

[C] Have five a day have five a day

Eat [G7] fruit and veg have [C] five a day

Be healthy be healthy

Eat [G7] fruit and veg have [C] five a day

5 Eleanor Rigby

1st note A = open A string

[F] Ah look at all the lonely [Am] people x2

[Am] Eleanor Rigby

Picks up the rice in the church

Where a wedding has [F] been lives in a dream

[Am] Waits at the window wearing the face

That she keeps in a jar by the [F] door

Who is it for? [Am] All the lonely people

Where [F] do they all come [Am] from?

All the lonely people

Where [F] do they all be [Am] long?

6 Five Hundred Miles

1st note E = open E string

[C] When I wake up yeah I know I'm gonna be

I'm gonna [F] be the man who [G7] wakes up next to [C] you

[C] When I go out yeah I know I'm gonna be

I'm gonna [F] be the man who [G7] goes along with [C] you

[C] But I would walk 500 miles

And [F] I would walk five [G7] hundred more

Just to [C] be the man who walked a thousand

[F] Miles to fall down [G7] at your door

7 Go Tell Aunt Rhody [F]
1st note A = open A string

[F] Go tell Aunt Rhody

[C] Go tell Aunt [F] Rhody

Go tell Aunt Rhody

The [C] old grey goose is [F] dead

The [F] one that she's been saving

The [C] one that she's been [F] saving

The one that she's been saving

To [C] make a feather [F] bed

8 Go Tell Aunt Rhody [C]

1st note E = open E string

[C] Go tell Aunt Rhody

[G7] Go tell Aunt [C] Rhody

Go tell Aunt Rhody

The [G7] old grey goose is [C] dead

The [C] one that she's been saving

The [G7] one that she's been [C] saving

The one that she's been saving

To [G7] make a feather [C] bed

9 He's Got the Whole World [F]

1st note C = open C string

[F] He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the [C] whole world in his hands

He's got the [F] whole world in his hands

He's got the [C] whole world in his [F] hands

[F] He's got you and me brother in his hands

He's got [C] you and me brother in his hands

He's got [F] you and me brother in his hands

He's got the [C] whole world in his [F] hands

10 He's Got the Whole World [C]

1st note G = open G string

[C] He's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the [G7] whole world in his hands

He's got the [C] whole world in his hands

He's got the [G7] whole world in his [C] hands

[C] He's got you and me brother in his hands

He's got [G7] you and me brother in his hands

He's got [C] you and me brother in his hands

He's got the [G7] whole world in his [C] hands

11 Jamaica Farewell

1st note G = open G string

[C] Down the way where the [F] nights are gay

And the [G7] sun shines daily on the [C] mountain top

I took a trip on a [F] sailing ship

And when I [G7] reached Jamaica I [C] made a stop

[C] But I'm sad to say I'm [F] on my way

[G7] Won't be back for [C] many a day

Me heart is down me head is [F] turning around

I had to [G7] leave a little girl in [C] Kingston town

12 King of the Road

1st note C = open C string

[C] Trailers for [F] sale or rent

[G7] Rooms to let [C] fifty cents

No phone no [F] pool no pets

[G7] I ain't got no cigarettes ah but

[C] Two hours of [F] pushing broom buys an

[G7] Eight-by-twelve [C] four-bit room

I'm a man of [F] means by no means

[G7] King of the [C] road

13 Little Liza Jane [F]
1st note A = open A string

[F] I got a house in Baltimore

Little Liza [C] Jane

[F] Street cars running by my door

[C] Little Liza [F] Jane

[F] Oh Eliza

Little Liza [C] Jane

[F] Oh Eliza

[C] Little Liza [F] Jane

14 Little Liza Jane [C]

1st note E = open E string

[C] I got a house in Baltimore

Little Liza [G7] Jane

[C] Street cars running by my door

[G7] Little Liza [C] Jane

[C] Oh Eliza

Little Liza [G7] Jane

[C] Oh Eliza

[G7] Little Liza [C] Jane

15 Paperback Writer [F]

1st note G = open G string

[C] Dear Sir or Madam will you read my book?

It took me years to write will you take a look?

It's based on a novel by a man named Lear

And I need a job so I want to be a

Paperback [F] writer - paperback [C] writer

16 Paperback Writer [C]

1st note C = open C string

[G7] Dear Sir or Madam will you read my book?

It took me years to write will you take a look?

It's based on a novel by a man named Lear

And I need a job so I want to be a

Paperback [C] writer - paperback [G7] writer

17 Please Mister Postman

1st note G = open G string

[C] Mister postman look and see

[Am] Is there a letter in your bag for me?

[F] I've been waiting such a long time

[G7] Since I heard from that friend of mine

[C] There must be some word today

[Am] From my friend who's so far away

[F] Please Mr Postman look and see

[G7] If there's a letter a letter for me

18 Polly Wolly Doodle [F]
1st note F = E string 1st fret

[F] Oh I went down south for to see my gal

Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the **[C]** day

My Sal she is a saucy gal

Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the **[F]** day

[F] Fare thee well fare thee well

Fare thee well my fairy **[C]** fay

For I'm going to Lou'siana

For to see my Susy-anna

Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the **[F]** day

19 Polly Wolly Doodle [C]

1st note C = open C string

[C] Oh I went down South for to see my gal

Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the [G7] day

My Sal she is a saucy gal

Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the [C] day

[C] Fare thee well fare thee well

Fare thee well my fairy [G7] fay

For I'm going to Lou'siana

For to see my Susy-anna

Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the [C] day

20 Rock-a My Soul [F]

1st note A = open A string

[F] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[C] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[F] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[C] O rock-a my [F] soul!

[F] So high can't get over it

[C] So low can't get under it

[F] So wide can't get 'round it

[C] O rock-a my [F] soul!

21 Rock-a My Soul [C] 1st note E = open E string

[C] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[G7] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[C] Rock-a my soul in the bosom of Abraham

[G7] O rock-a my [C] soul!

[C] So high can't get over it

[G7] So low can't get under it

[C] So wide can't get 'round it

[G7] O rock-a my [C] soul!

22 Row Row Row Your Boat [F]

1st note F = E string 1st fret

[F] Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily merrily merrily

[C] Life is but a [F] dream

[F] Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

[C] Don't forget to [F] scream

23 Row Row Row Your Boat [C]

1st note C = open C string

[C] Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily merrily merrily

[G7] Life is but a [C] dream

[C] Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

[G7] Don't forget to [C] scream

24 Skip to My Lou [F]

1st note A = open A string

[F] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[C] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[F] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[C] Skip to my lou my [F] darling

[F] Lou lou skip to my lou

[C] Lou lou skip to my lou

[F] Lou lou skip to my lou

[C] Skip to my lou my [F] darling

25 Skip to My Lou [C]
1st note E = open E string

[C] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[G7] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[C] Flies in the buttermilk shoo fly shoo

[G7] Skip to my lou my [C] darling

[C] Lou lou skip to my lou

[G7] Lou lou skip to my lou

[C] Lou lou skip to my lou

[G7] Skip to my lou my [C] darling

26 Twist and Shout

1st note F = E string 1st fret

[G7] Well shake it up [C] baby now [F] shake it up [G7] baby

Twist and [C] shout [F] twist and [G7] shout

C'mon c'mon c'mon c'mon [C] baby now [F] come on [G7] baby

Come on and work it on [C] out [F] work it on [G7] out

Well work it on [C] out honey [F] work it on [G7] out

You know you look so [C] good [F] look so [G7] good

You know you got me [C] goin' now [F] got me [G7] goin'

Just like I knew you [C] would like I [F] knew you [G7] would

27 YMCA

1st note G = open G string

[C] Young man there's no need to feel down

I said [Am] young man pick yourself off the ground

I said [F] young man cause you're in a new town

There's no [G7] need to be unhappy

[G7] 1 2 3 4 1 It's fun to stay at the [C] YMCA

It's fun to stay at the [Am] YMCA

They have [F] everything for young men to enjoy

You can [G7] hang out with all the boys

It's fun to stay at the [C] YMCA

It's fun to stay at the [Am] YMCA

You can [F] get yourself cleaned

You can have a good meal

You can [G7] do whatever you feel