

Lesson 4



The Ukulele School

Playing the note high C



When we play the open strings on our Ukulele we get the note GCE or A. However there are many more notes we can play on the Ukulele.



We are going to try and play a higher C note which we will call high C. This is the same sort of note as our C string plays but a higher sounding version.



This note is played on the A string, we need to press our finger down on the string to make the note higher.



The note high C is played in exactly the same way as our C Major chord, (with our finger on the third fret of the A string) the difference is that we only pick the A string instead of strumming all four.



Try taking your finger on and off the string and picking to change the note from A to high C and back again.

Reading Ukulele Tab



There are different ways of writing down music, the most common way is a system we will call standard notation. This allows you to read music on any instrument you want.



We are going to start reading however using a simpler system designed just for Ukulele.



It is called Tab (short for Tablature) there are versions of Tab for all sorts of different guitar and ukulele type instruments.



Unlike standard notation (which had five lines) Tab only has four lines, each of these lines represents one string on your ukulele. (Can you work out how many lines guitar Tab is written on?)



The really confusing thing about Ukulele Tab is that the lines appear to be upside down. Whilst we would think about G being at the top we read Tab with G at the bottom. The lines going from bottom to top therefore represent the G C E and A strings.



Instead of normal looking notes we use numbers instead of the dots. These numbers tell you what fret to press down on.



So if we had a number three on the top line we would count up the lines (remembering our goats) to get to the A string and then press in the third fret. Which gives us our new note high C. If we write a 0 it tells us to play an open string so a 0 in the same place would be an A



For chords we write numbers on every string telling you which fret to hold, so C Major would have a 0 on every string except A which would have a 3.

Uke can C it.



In this lesson we are going to play a piece of music called 'Uke can C it'. The song uses both the chord C and the single note C. Remember a chord is when we play all the strings and single notes are one string at a time.



We can play this piece as two parts first we'll play the chord part. Listen to the song and try and pick out the rhythm played in the first and third bar (the strummed parts). Ta Ta Te-Te



First clap this rhythm along with the track. Did you notice the third bar didn't sound the same, this is our second Rhythm Ta Ta Ta-oo. Clap this rhythm.



Now lets play both rhythms on our strummed C chord, remember to play a C we put our third finger on the third fret of the A string. Remember Goats Can Eat Anything. Now play each rhythm a few times.



Now lets look at the music you can see our first rhythm is played on bars 1,3 and 7 and our second rhythm is on bar 5 and 8.



Now we can play along with the track.



Now its time to tackle the single notes. The single note part uses the note C and then the open A and E string.



Now listen to the track paying close attention to the single note part. Again the song uses repetition we like to hear the pattern. Think of your favourite songs or nursery rhymes the melodies often repeat.



Now play the melody a few times to practice.



As with the pieces we have played in the past you can choose which part to play single notes , chords or both for the brave. Play along with the track.