

Easy Ukulele Songs in D

Teacher's Guide

By Denise Gagné

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Themes & Variations

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Introduction

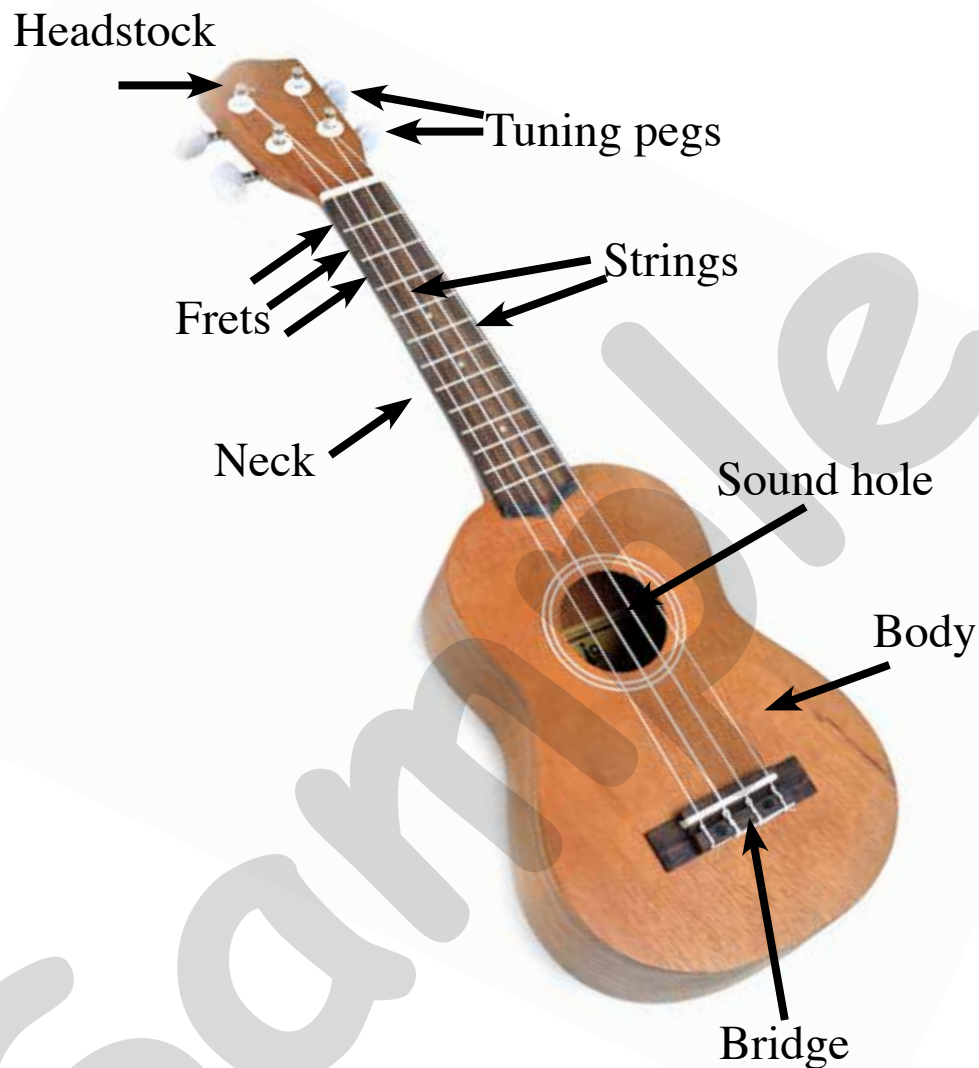
This collection of easy songs for ukulele is designed to get you singing and playing the ukulele in the very first lesson! The chords used in this collection are introduced through a series of 15 one chord songs. Mastering the chords before having to learn to change chords eliminates much of the frustration that young beginners face. After introducing the chords used, 15 easy two chord songs are given. If your students find it difficult to switch chords, divide the class into two groups and have one group play one chord and the other group play the other. Practice changing the chords slowly without looking at the fretboard. When students are able to “feel” where the fingers go, changing the chords will be easy. The last two songs in the collection use three chords. A CD with recordings of all the songs is included. If you don't have a CD drive on your computer email info@musicplay.ca to request a download.

Students will learn the chords and how to change chords using the folk songs that are given in the collection. In addition to the songs in the collection we've given links (in the projectable PDF included on the CD) to easy pop songs on YouTube that use the same chords. Students really enjoy playing along with pop songs. Where possible, links to the original artists' performance and to a video with the chords and lyrics are given. An inexpensive student book/CD is available so your students can play along with all the folk songs and easily access the same YouTube links at home. This collection does not address reading notes and playing melodies - the focus is on learning songs to sing and strum.

The ukulele originated in the 19th century as a Hawaiian interpretation of the machete, a small guitar-like instrument taken to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants. Since then, the ukulele has been commonly associated with music from Hawaii, where the name roughly translates as “jumping flea,” perhaps because of the movement of the player's fingers. The ukulele gained great popularity elsewhere in the United States during the early 20th century, and from there spread internationally. It has been popular with performing musicians, and also in music education.



Parts of the Ukulele



Ukulele is sometimes abbreviated to uke. The ukulele is a member of the guitar family of instruments. It has four strings that are played by plucking or strumming. Ukuleles are generally made of wood, though variants have been composed partially or entirely of plastic or other materials. There are four main sizes of ukulele: soprano (standard), concert, tenor and baritone. The soprano, concert and tenor are good sizes for the young beginner.



Tenor Ukulele



Soprano Ukulele

Playing Position

Sitting

- Sit up straight with your feet flat on the floor and your shoulders relaxed
- If the ukulele is large enough, rest the ukulele on your right leg
- If the ukulele is too small to rest on your leg, hold it against your ribcage with your right forearm

Standing

- Press the ukulele against your ribcage with your right forearm to keep the uke in place

Use a strap

- Some players like to use a strap to keep the ukulele in place



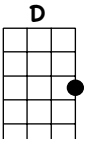
The Right Hand

- You can use either your thumb or your index (pointer) finger to strum
- Some players like to use a pick. Hold the pick between your thumb and the middle knuckle of your pointer finger, in the same way you would hold a key. Felt picks are used most often on ukulele.



1. Little Tommy Tinker

Intro 2 bars



D *1st time unison, 2nd and 3rd time as round*



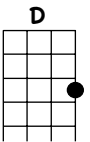
Lit - tle Tom - my Tin - ker sat up - on a clink - er. He be - gan to cry.



Ma! _____ Ma! _____ Poor lit - tle in - no - cent guy.

2. Johnny One Hammer

Intro 2 bars



D



John - ny plays with one ham - mer, one ham - mer, one ham - mer.

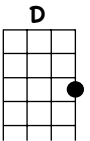


John - ny plays with one ham - mer, then he plays with two.

2. Johnny plays with two hammers...
 3. Johnny plays with three hammers...
 4. Johnny plays with four hammers...
 5. Johnny plays with five hammers...
- Then he takes a rest.

3. Funga Alafia

Intro 2 bars



D *Repeat 4 times*

Liberia



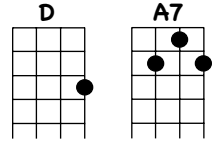
Fun - ga a - la - fia. Ah - shay, ah - shay. Fun - ga a - la - fia. Ah - shay, ah - shay.



Fun - ga a - la - fia. Ah - shay, ah - shay. Fun - ga a - la - fia. Ah - shay, ah - shay.

Intro 2 bars

20. This Old Man



D A7

This old man, he played one, he played knick-knack on my thumb. With a
 D A7 D
 knick-knack pat - ty whack, give a dog a bone, This old man came roll - ing home.

D
 2. This old man, he played two,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my shoe.

D
 With a knick-knack patty whack, give a dog a bone,
 A7 D
 This old man came rolling home.

D
 3. This old man, he played three,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my knee...

D
 4. This old man, he played four,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my door...

D
 5. This old man, he played five,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my hive...

D
 6. This old man, he played six,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my sticks...

D
 7. This old man, he played seven,
 A7
 He played knick-knack up in heaven...

D
 8. This old man, he played eight,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my gate...

D
 9. This old man, he played nine,
 A7
 He played knick-knack on my spine...

D
 10. This old man, he played ten,
 A7
 He played knick-knack once again...

Intro 2 bars

1. Little Tommy Tinker

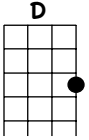
D

Little Tommy Tinker sat upon a clinker.

He began to cry.

Ma! Ma!

Poor little innocent guy.



Intro 2 bars

2. Johnny One Hammer

D

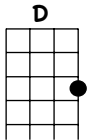
1. Johnny plays with one hammer,
One hammer, one hammer.
Johnny plays with one hammer,
Then he plays with two.

2. Johnny plays with two hammers...

3. Johnny plays with three hammers...

4. Johnny plays with four hammers...

5. Johnny plays with five hammers...
Then he takes a rest.



Intro 2 bars

3. Funga Alafia

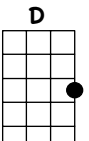
D

Funga alafia. Ahshay, ahshay.

Funga alafia. Ahshay, ahshay.

Funga alafia. Ahshay, ahshay.

Funga alafia. Ahshay, ahshay.



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