

# PLAY UKULELE!

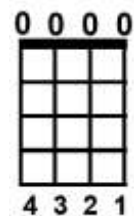
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In isolation? Now's your chance to learn a new skill. Why not borrow or steal a ukulele and have a go? This is just a brief introduction to show how easy it is to start.



Rest the ukulele on your knee or thigh - supported by the crook of arm. Notice that the left hand held well forward so that the fingers can press down vertically on the strings just behind the

metal 'frets' shown as horizontal lines. The strings are numbered 1-4 with string 4 nearest your nose.



is  
← Frets

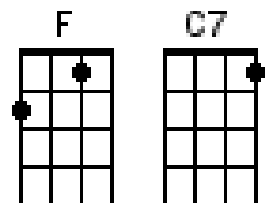
↑ Strings

**Start** by lightly brushing **downward** across all four 'open' strings with the right thumb (no left hand involved!). Count a regular 1,2,3,4 and make the first stroke of each group slightly stronger.

You're playing a real chord called "C6". Repeat until it comes easily and naturally. Make sure you're sounding all 4 strings.  
Count: 1 2 3 4

**Your first two chord shapes** are called 'F' & 'C7'.

Put your left hand fingers on the fingerboard where the dots are and press to get a clear sound then, as before, strum lightly across all four strings. As a general rule 1<sup>st</sup> finger goes on fret 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> finger on fret 2. If you want to sound really 'cool' relax between chords and play the 'free' C6 we started with.



Here are some songs using just these two chords. You sing the tune, the ukulele provides an accompaniment.

**NB: Keep playing the same chord until a change is indicated.**

### **'SINGING IN THE RAIN'**

*First note to sing is on string 1 fret 3*



[F] Singing in the rain  
Just singing in the rain  
What a glorious feeling I'm  
[C7] Happy again

Let the [F] stormy clouds chase  
Every one from the place  
Come on with the rain I've a  
[C7] Smile on my face

I'm laughing at clouds  
So dark up above  
The sun's in my hearts and I'm  
[F] Ready for love

I'll walk down the lane with a  
Happy refrain I'm  
Singing and dancing in the [F] rain.

### **'JAMBALAYA'**

*The first note to sing is string 2 open.*



Goodbye [F] Joe, me gotta go, me oh [C7]  
Me gotta go pole the progue down the [F] Bayou  
My Yvonne the sweetest one, me oh [C7] my oh  
Son of a gun we'll have big fun down the [F] Bayou

[F] Jumaaya and a crawfish pie and fillet [C7] gumbo  
'Cause tonight I'm gonna meet ma cher [F] amio  
Pick guitar fill fruit jar and be gay [C7] oh  
Son of a gun we'll have big fun down the [F] Bayou

You could experiment with different "brushing patterns"

This next song has 3-beats to the bar (waltz) time. Count 1,2,3 and start playing on the word "valley",



### 'DOWN IN THE VALLEY

*First note to sing is on string 1 fret 3*

Down in the valley [F] valley, the valley so [C7] low  
Hang your head over hear the wind [F] blow  
Hear the wind blow love hear the wind [C7] blow  
Late in the evening hear the wind [F] blow

[F] Roses love sunshine violets love [C7] dew  
Angels in Heaven know I love [F] you  
Know I love you dear know I love [C7] you  
Angels in heaven know I love [F] you

### 'CLEMENTINE'

*First note to sing is on string 2 fret 1*



In a [F] cavern, in in canyon, excavating for a [C7] mine,  
Dwelt a miner, forty-[F]-niner and his [C7] daughter Clemen-[F]-tine.

Oh my darling, oh my darling, oh my darling Clemen-tine  
Thou are lost and gone for-ever dreadful sorry, Clemen-tine

*There are literally thousands of songs that you can sing accompanied with just two chords. For information about this and the Aughton & Ormskirk U3A 'Ukuleers', go to the website at: <https://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk/groups/ukulele/>*