

# Practical Music Lessons

# Ukulele

Ukuleles have become more and more popular over the last few years, and they are now very common in upper primary classrooms. They are even cheap enough for the students to buy their own for music class.

We have kept the scope of our this introductory course deliberately small - we have not gone beyond the three primary chords of C major: C, F and G7, and we've built that up over the weeks of the course.

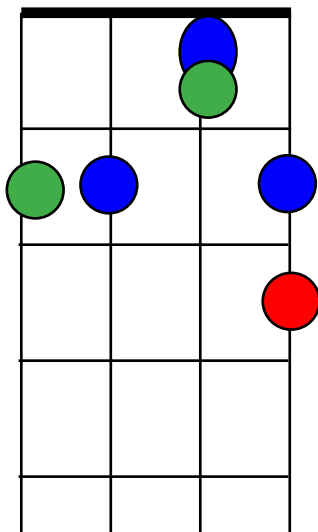
A teacher shouldn't feel worried or threatened if they have never even picked up a ukulele themselves. It is relatively simple to master those three chords, and pretty soon you'll be playing along with the class!

If you want to make it easier to remember, you can get small dot stickers from office supply stores, and label the frets on the ukulele with three different colours:

We suggest Blue, Red, and Green, but you can use whatever colours you wish.

Here is the pattern for the stickers:

Red = C Chord  
Blue = G7 Chord  
Green = F Chord



## Tuning the Ukulele

Tuning the Ukuleles is one of the biggest challenges when teaching Ukulele in the classroom.

The best way you can do it is teach the students to tune the Ukes themselves.

Electronic tuners are a very good idea if you have access to them.

If tuning by ear the best tip I have is to think of the phrase:

'My Dog has fleas' (G - C - E - A) and sing that to yourself in your head, and then quickly see if your strings match.

Pretty quickly you can develop the skills to tune a Ukulele in seconds!

