

The companion workbook for the
live workshops and online lessons

UKULELE WORKBOOK



Any songs contained in this workbook are intended for private study, research, or educational purposes only. This work was inspired by and based upon the recorded versions cited, but are not exact replications by any means. Be kind and 'uke on!

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If you have comments or find any errors in this book or have suggestions to improve it, please drop me a line at brian@ukulelesongbook.com. Thanks!

Have fun and 'Uke on!

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Welcome

You are only eight weeks away from becoming a GREAT ukulele player.

I ask that you give yourself at least eight weeks before giving up. While the ukulele is one of the easiest instruments to learn, you can't learn it in a day. This workbook was designed to make learning the ukulele as fun as possible.

Repetition is key! To learn a new skill, it must be regularly repeated, often. Each week builds on the prior one and you will improve your playing each week. You will see that I suggest you repeat prior week lessons. *Repetition is recommended.* I recommend practicing for at least 30 minutes a day, preferably at least an hour. The more you practice, the better you'll get. Your fingers will be tired at first, but give them time and they'll strengthen up.

Pro tip: Tap your fingers of your left hand on a hard surface. You will strengthen the tiny muscles at the tips of your fingers and be able to play longer.

Each lesson was designed to challenge you further and reinforce what you already know.

Playing with others is the fastest way to improve. In addition to joining any of the many monthly ukulele jams in your area, playing with one other person can dramatically impact how quickly you improve. Find a uke buddy!

UkuleleSongbook.com is the online companion to this workbook. You will find the songs to play along with and video tutorials. It's also where you can provide feedback and ask questions. **You will find the URLs to each tutorial throughout this workbook to every companion lesson online.**

As you complete each lesson, check it off to acknowledge your effort (this will make more sense once you get into the first lesson).

What follows are five key concepts to keep in mind. Consider them your key to continuous improvement.

#1 - Make time to practice

You don't *find* time to practice, you *make* time to practice!

If I want to know what's important to you, your calendar will likely tell me. We make time for what's important to us. Is there time scheduled for ukulele practice? If not, it's unlikely you'll *find* the time for it.

I included an 8-week tracker for you to log when (and what) you practice. It's based on a popular concept called *don't break the chain* which you can read more about online (Seinfeld uses it). It reinforces the importance of having a system to track progress.

#2 - You will improve when you play with others

Although I played guitar for most of my life, I rarely played with others. As a result, my skill plateaued early. Until you play with others, you'll be limited by your own ability.

The more frequently you play with others (if only on YouTube), the more likely you are to stick with it. You will continue to improve year after year. It's like any other sport... playing with others who are better than you are, will force you to improve.

#3 - Learn → Do → Teach (Repeat)



I consider this the most valuable idea I can share. Not just in ukulele, but in any area of life... when you teach others what you have learned, you improve your ability to do it.

Step 1: Learn a new skill.

Step 2: Practice until you become skilled at it. If you fail, try again, and again, and again. Do it until you've mastered it. Trial and error exists to teach you what you need to know.

Step 3: Teach your newly acquired skill to others. Teaching others requires you to fully assimilate what you've already learned. It's similar to having to explain an idea to someone. You may think you know it, but it's not until you have to explain it to someone else that you discover what you don't know.

#4 - The Four Power Questions

If you are not achieving the results you desire, these four questions may help you understand why.

Q1. Have I allocated the necessary space & time to complete the task?

If not, what can I eliminate to make space for it?

Q2. Do I possess all the necessary knowledge, prerequisites, or resources to complete the task?

If not, do I know enough to at least partially complete the lesson? Is it time to ask for help?

Q3. Are false beliefs, false fears, or misinformation leading me astray?

The work will teach you how. Trust the path and remember that the result you are getting is always the right result. Accomplishment often follows failure, so redefine failure as progress! Let go of any attachment to the outcome. Remember, expectation is the mother of frustration.

Q4. Have I let myself get distracted?

Have I let something, someone, or my own lack of discipline get in the way? Has my energy and attention been pulled to the latest 'bright shiny object'?

Be honest in your answers. Don't beat yourself up. Simply recognize where you have the power to pivot.

#5 - One performance is equal to seven rehearsals

If you want to dramatically increase the speed of learning, perform! It really hit me when I thought back at the times I played for others. Since others are listening, you will be hyper-tuned to any mistakes you make. Even if you just play for a group of friends, you will see the difference.

8 Week Ukulele Practice Schedule

You don't find time to practice, you make it!

Give yourself time every week to practice. Don't break the chain!

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							
Week 7							
Week 8							

Practice suggestions:

- Play the chords progressions / play-along with the original versions
- Play the scales / noodle in a key
- Review the circle of 5ths and play different chord progressions
- Practice inversions and substitute with them in songs you already know
- Play with others & teach others

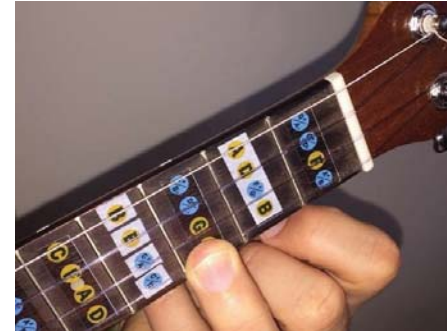
Week 1

www.ukulelesongbook.com/week1.md

- Watch beginner lesson (30 minutes) at the URL above
- Tuning your ukulele (tuner at URL above)
- How to read chord charts and understand chord numbers (video lesson)
- Filling in chord charts: www.ukulelesongbook.com/chords.md
- Slowing down the tempo of a song on YouTube
- Play *Melt with You* (C, F)
- Play *Pina Colada* (D, A)
- Play *Jambalaya* (C, G7)

How to read/write chord charts

Pro Tip: Your fingers should butt up against the forward fret wire.



Notice how the 3rd finger is butting up against the 3rd fret wire?
This will provide the best sound.

The first thing you need to learn is that the open notes from the top string (closest to you) are G, C, E, and A. An easy way to remember this is the phrase 'Good Children Eat Apples.'

To demonstrate how to read a chord chart, we are going to play a C chord. Place your 3rd finger on the 3rd fret on the A string and strum. We can refer to the number of this chord as '0003' because from the top of the ukulele down, the frets you place are 0 (open G string) + 0 (open C string) + 0 (open E string) + 3 (C)

<p>Frets: 0 0 0 3</p>	<p>The C chord</p>
-----------------------	--------------------

Let's try one more example. Below is an F chord. The numbering for the F chord is '2010' which refers to where you place your fingers on the fret board. Again, starting from the top string (G), you would have: 2 (A note) + 0 (C note) + 1 (F note) + 0 (A note).

<p>Frets: 2 0 1 0</p>	<p>F Chord</p>
-----------------------	----------------

Have the fingering on the uke but not sure what chord it is?
Check out: <http://ukebuddy.com/chord-namer>

A

<p>Frets: 2 1 0 0</p>	<p>Notes: A – C#/Db – E – A</p>
-----------------------	---------------------------------

'A' Chord Inversions

(I explain inversions in depth in week 5)

A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/D	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A
E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/D	D	D#/Eb	E
C	C#/D	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C
G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C	C#/D	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Related Chords (Circle of 5^{ths})

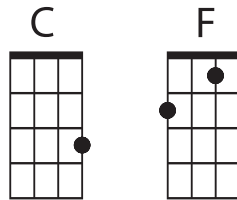
(I explain the circle of 5^{ths} in week 4)

Songs in the key of A

Tom Dooley	That's All Right	
Three Little Birds		

Melt with you

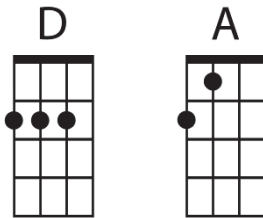
www.ukulelesongbook.com/melt.md



Melody:
C Maj Scale

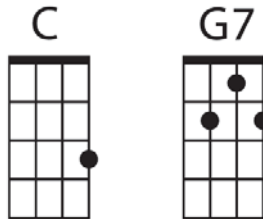
Pina Colada

www.ukulelesongbook.com/pina-colada.md



Jambalaya

www.ukulelesongbook.com/jambalaya.md



Week 2

www.ukulelesongbook.com/week2.md

Review

- Tune your ukulele
- Practice & write down the chords you learned (and will learn today)
- Play *Melt with You* (C, F)
- Play *Pina Colada* (D, A)
- Play *Jambalaya* (C, G7)

New Lessons

- Play *Tom Dooley* (A, E7)
- Play *Uptown Funk* (Dm, G7)
- Play *For What It's Worth* (G, C, F)

Write & review the chords you've learned (and will today) below.

C, F, D, A, E7, Dm, G7, Bb

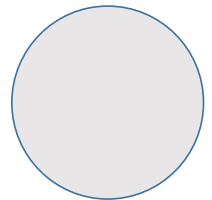
I've written the chord #'s to guide you. Need help? Visit ukulelesongbook.com/chords.md

<p>G C E A</p> <p>0003</p>	<p>G C E A</p> <p>2010</p>	<p>G C E A</p> <p>2220</p>
<p>G C E A</p> <p>2100</p>	<p>G C E A</p> <p>1202</p>	<p>G C E A</p> <p>2210</p>
<p>G C E A</p> <p>0212</p>	<p>G C E A</p> <p>4322</p>	

Tom Dooley

www.ukulelesongbook.com/tom.md

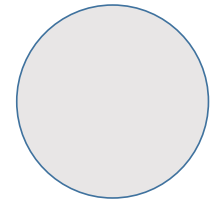
A E7



Uptown Funk

www.ukulelesongbook.com/uptown.md

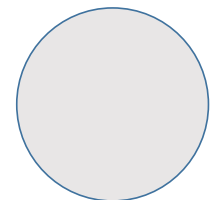
Dm G7



For What It's Worth

www.ukulelesongbook.com/worth.md

G C F



Greensleeves

Ukulele $\text{♩} = 80$ Dm C Dm

Uk. TAB

Uk. 7 A Dm C Dm

Uk. TAB

Uk. 14 A Dm F C Dm

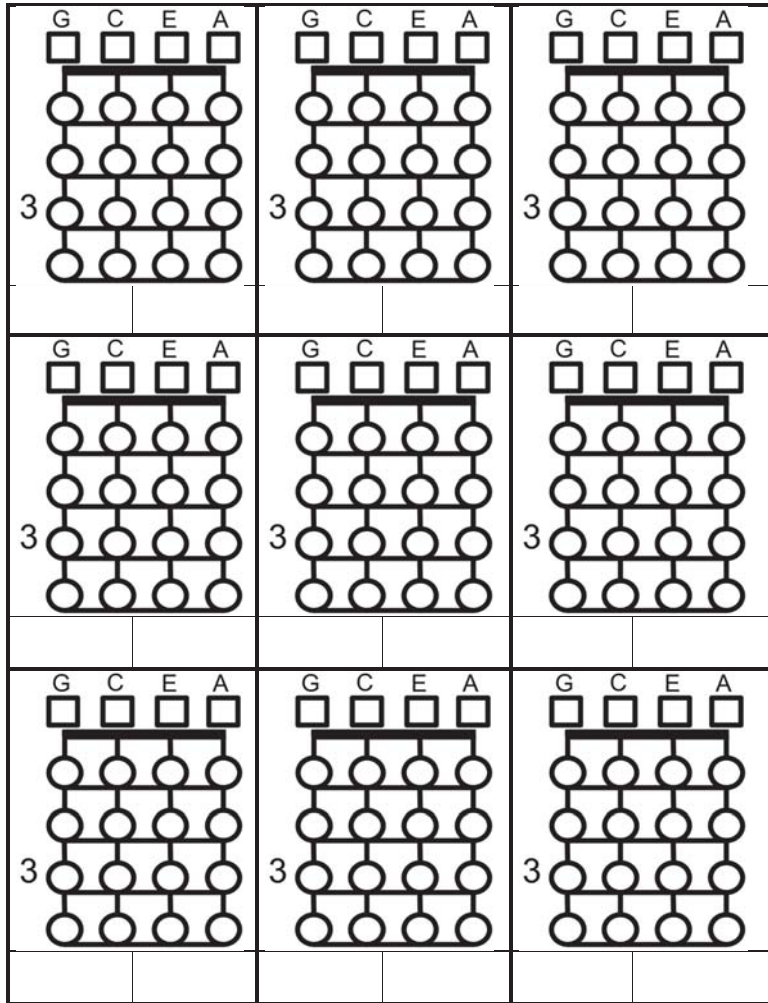
Uk. TAB

Uk. 22 A F C

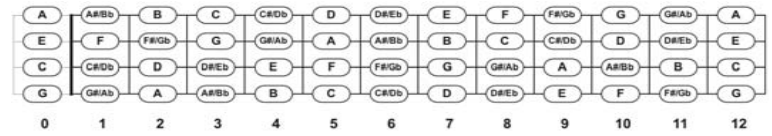
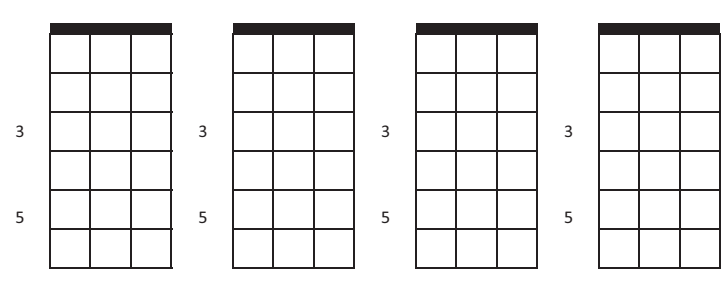
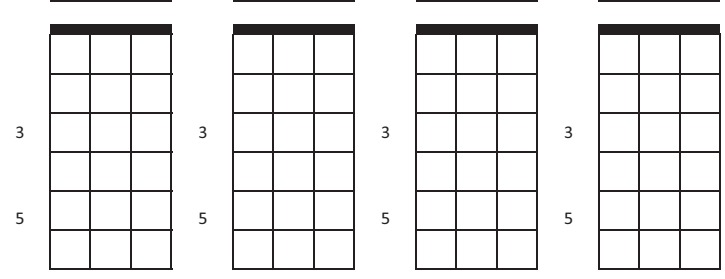
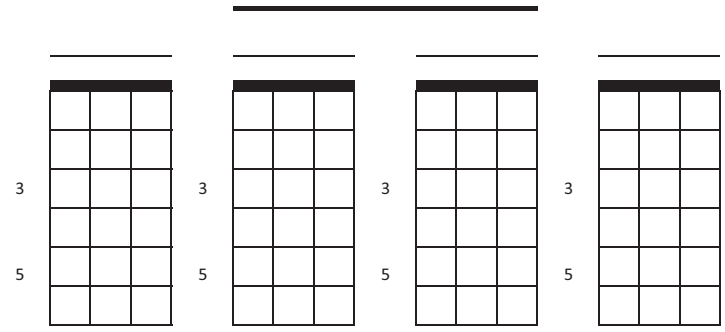
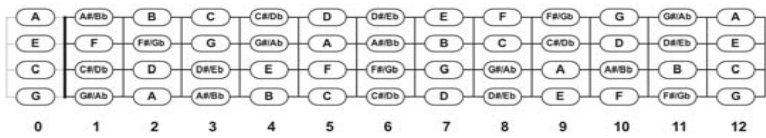
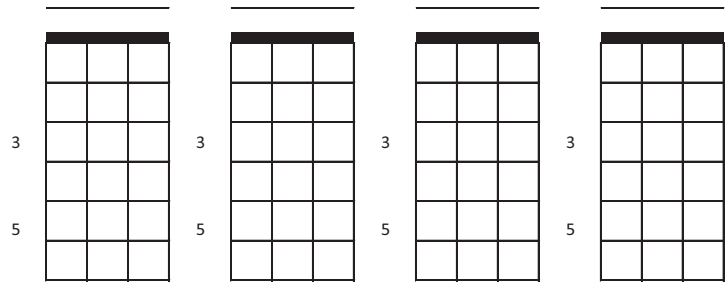
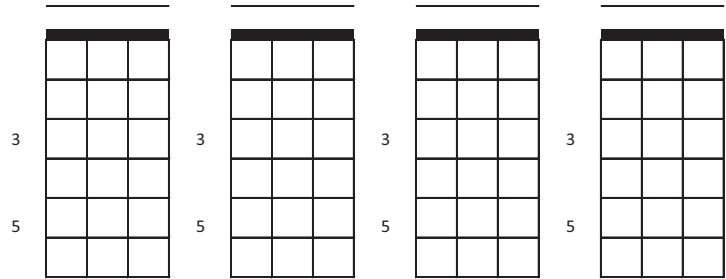
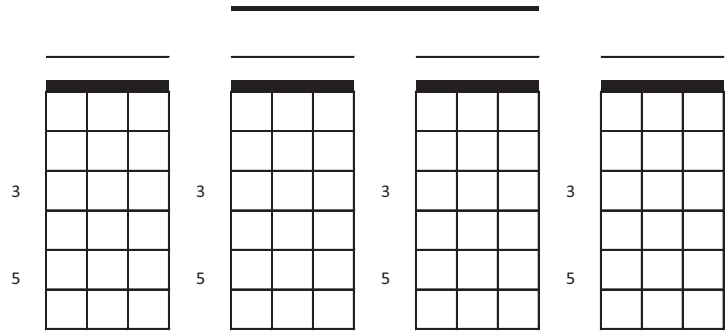
Uk. TAB

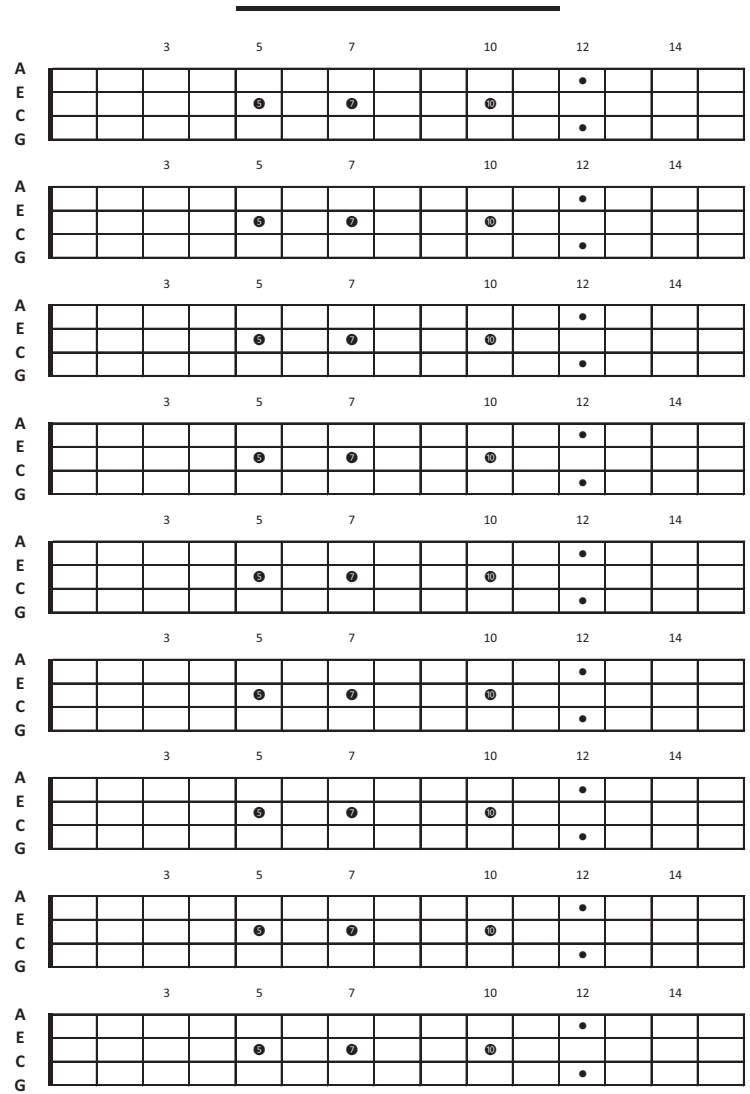
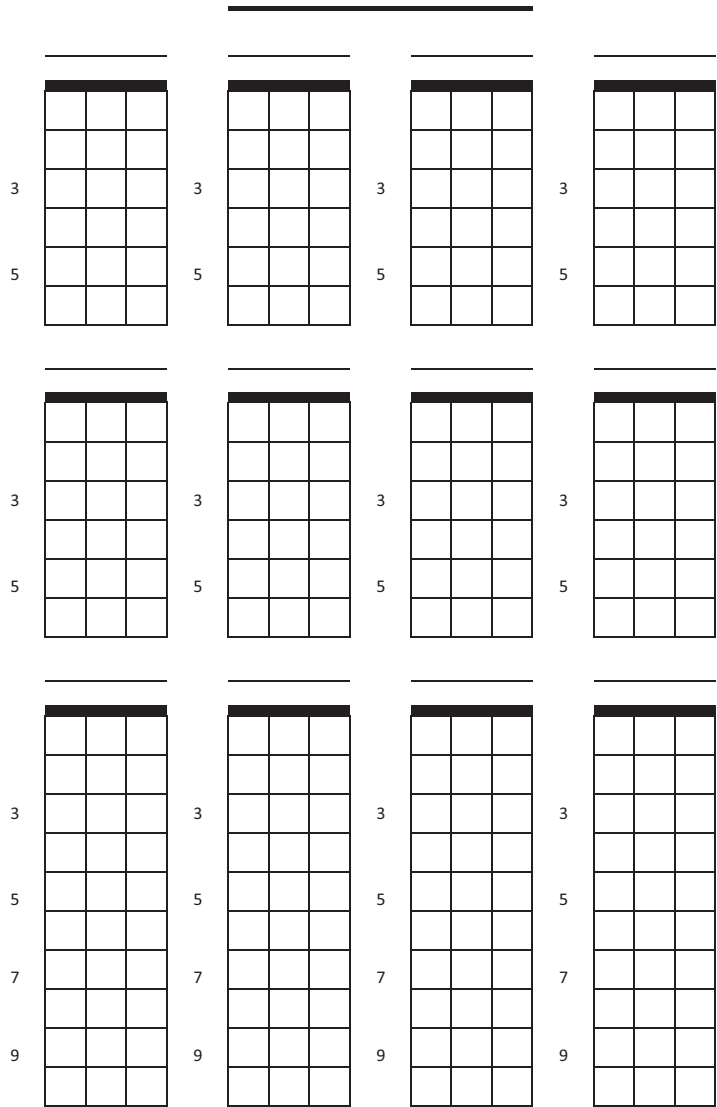
Uk. 29 Dm A Dm

Uk. TAB

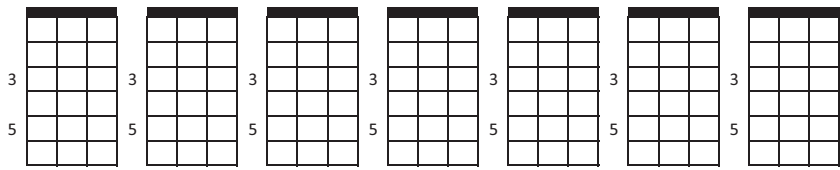


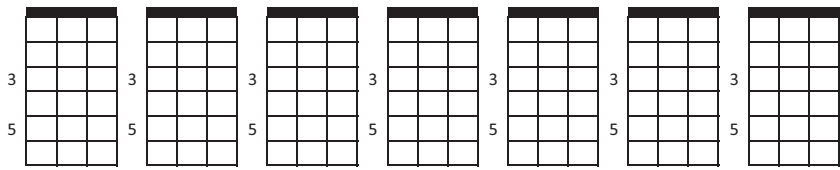
BLANK TABS AND SONGWRITING WORKSHEETS





Song





Song