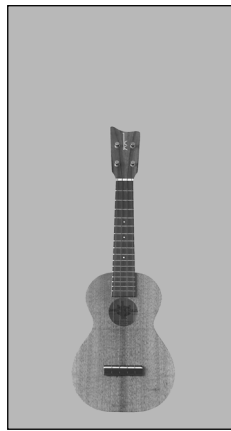




Soprano
20½ - 21½ in.



Concert
23 - 24 in.



Tenor
27 - 28 in.



Baritone
29½ - 30½ in.

How to use this method

Level 1 teaches 'ukulele fingerpicking on 'ukuleles that have a lo-G C E A tuning as heard on Track 3. A common and very popular stringing and tuning method is a hi-G C E A tuning as heard on Track 2.

If your 'ukulele sounds something like this:

Track 2 (my dog has fleas)

hi-G C E A

and if your 'ukulele is a *concert* or *tenor* model, then it is relatively easy to change the hi-G string number 4 to a lo-G string. (Look ahead to page 13 for the string numbering system.)

A number 4 "D" string from a classical guitar nylon string set will suffice for this. Many music shops sell this number 4 "D" string separately.

'Ukuleles that have the lo-G stringing will sound like Track 3:

Track 3

lo-G C E A

There is a CD track corresponding to most exercises and pieces in this book. All exercises and arrangements are graded and progress gradually.

- 1) **Listen to and read** the music as it is being played on the CD, then play along.
- 2) **Play along** with the two tracks. Work towards playing *smoothly* and *cleanly* for each exercise and piece before moving ahead to the next piece.

Note: Overall lengths of 'ukulele vary depending on whether the neck is joined to the body at the 12th or 14th fret.

The **first track** of an exercise or piece is played at a very *slow* tempo or speed. Make sure you can play along with this track before attempting the second track.

The **second track** is played at a *faster* tempo much closer to the normal speed of the piece and will often include an accompanying guitar and bass in the background.

Tracks 1st & 2nd (most pieces have 2 tracks)

Soprano ‘ukulele

Soprano ‘ukulele that have the common tuning of hi-G C E A as on Track 2 can still be used with this book to a certain degree.

The common strings on hi-G C E A and lo-G C E A ‘ukulele are the C E A strings, so



the CD can still be used. However, the difference is that whenever the 4th string is played on a soprano ‘ukulele, it will always sound an octave higher than what is played on the CD.

One option for these soprano ‘ukulele is to change the 4th string to a lo-G string, but you may need to have your instrument checked by a local guitar or instrument shop first.

‘Ukulele with A D F# B (D6) tuning

The **D6** tuning was very popular from the early 1900s and is still commonly used today.

The accompanying CD for this book is played in the lo-G CEA tuning, which is also known as **C6** tuning. Many ‘ukulele players prefer the D6 tuning, and this book will still work for learning fingerpicking on the ‘ukulele. An open string D6 tuning is tuned one whole step up from an open tuned C6 tuning, and sounds like this on Track 4.

All music and all TAB notation can still be played using the D6 tuning, but the CD tracks should only be used for listening to the rhythm of the piece.

One easy option for the D6 players is to re-tune your instrument to a C6 tuning, learn the pieces of songs and techniques you like, then re-tune your instrument back to D6 tuning.

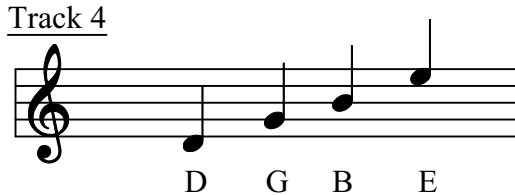
Six- or eight-string 'ukulele

Concert and tenor 'ukulele that have 6 or 8 strings can also be used to learn this fingerpicking method; however, fingerpicking on double strings is a little more challenging!

One easy option for a six- or eight-string 'ukulele is to remove some of the strings so that you'll have a 4-string lo-G C E A instrument.

Baritone 'ukulele

The tuning for the baritone 'ukulele is the same as strings 4, 3, 2, and 1 on a standard tuned guitar:



All rhythm and fingerpicking TAB notation will work for the standard tuned guitar or baritone 'ukulele, but the student will not be able to play along with the CD.

One way to play along with the CD on your baritone 'ukulele is to purchase an inexpensive *capo* from a music store. It should be a *flat* style (as opposed to a *curved* style) - a typical guitar *capo* will work. Place it on the 5th fret of your instrument as shown on Figure 3-1. With your *capo* on, you'll be able to play along with the CD.

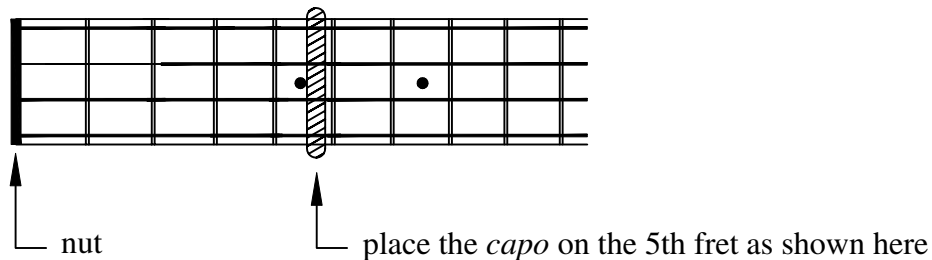


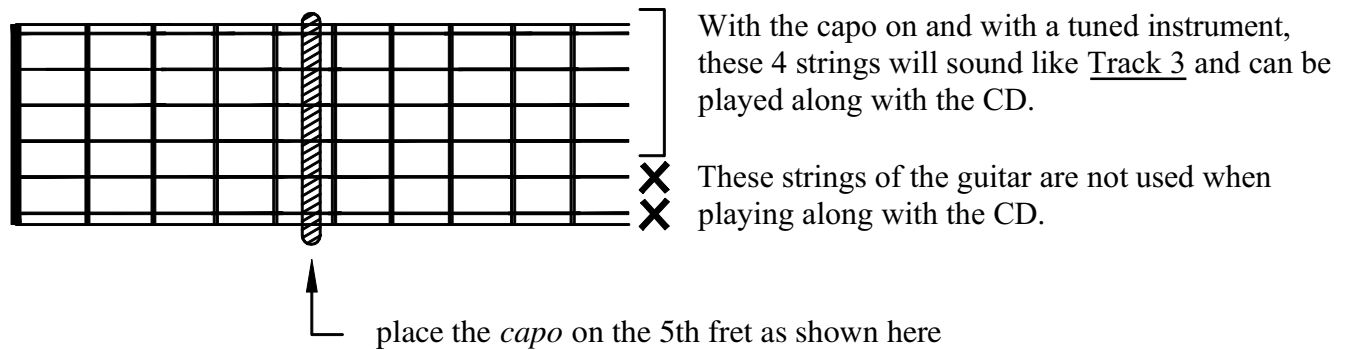
Figure 3-1

With your *capo* on the 5th fret, your tuned instrument will sound like [Track 3](#).

Guitars

Play along with the CD on your guitar by attaching a *capo*. Purchase a *capo* from a nearby instrument store and attach it to the guitar at the 5th fret as shown on Figure 4-1. Be sure to get the right one for your guitar - *capos* come in *flat* or *curved* types. When it's in tune, it will sound like Track 3, and you'll be ready to play along with the CD.

Playing along with a Guitar



It usually takes a longer time to become proficient at reading standard notation. However, no body of 'ukulele music developed like there is for the guitar (classical, blues, pop, jazz etc...). Tablature notation has been developed to learn and enjoy the guitar much faster. The emphasis on learning to read 'ukulele TAB notation makes learning and enjoying the 'ukulele much faster.

Music terminology and concepts are presented in an orderly step-by-step method with simple examples to follow. It should be emphasized here that *clarity* and *cleanness* of fingerpicking is most important at the slower speeds. It should be obvious that it is far too difficult to play *clearly* at a faster tempo if the same exercise cannot be played *clearly* at a slower tempo.

For children, a concert size 'ukulele is more suited to their smaller hands. Adults may prefer a tenor-sized instrument to learn fingerpicking.

If you are beginning your study of the 'ukulele with a teacher, he or she will allocate lessons and exercises at a time appropriate to your stage of learning. Your teacher will, if necessary, refer you back to a former lesson when he or she feels that points have been overlooked or insufficiently absorbed.

This is not a method for teaching 'ukulele chords, but chords are given for all songs to play on a guitar, 'ukulele or piano if desired.

This series is written and notated for 'ukulele players who are right-handed and hold the instrument in a right-handed way. Left-handed players have several options for playing, as shown on page 14.

I strongly suggest that the student first read or browse through the book in its entirety in order to become familiar with the subject material before starting the exercises.