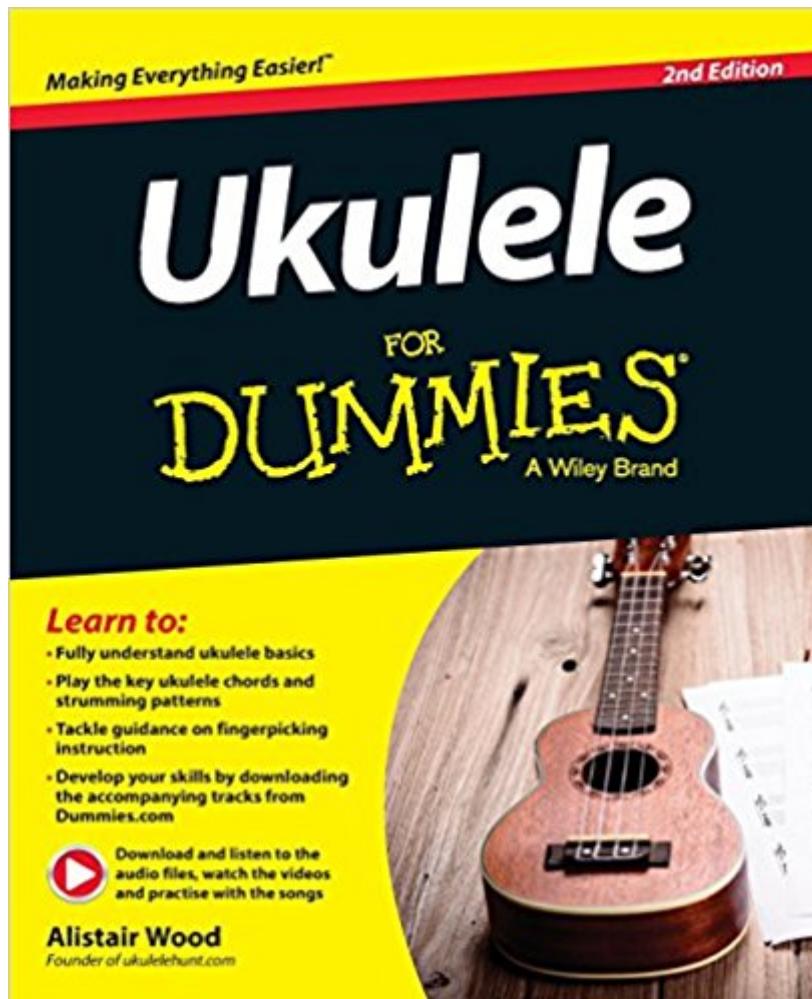


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# Ukulele For Dummies



## Synopsis

The fast and easy way to learn how to play the ukulele With the help of Ukulele For Dummies, learning to play this popular string instrument at a basic level has never been easier. Now in a fully updated second edition, this hands-on, friendly guide provides everything you need to know to pick up a uke and get playing—fast. From purchasing a ukulele and the necessary accessories to making sense of simple chord progressions and playing in a variety of styles—including pop, folk, Hawaiian, and holiday favourites—the second edition of Ukulele For Dummies will have you creating beautiful music in no time. For anyone wishing to learn to play this fun, surprisingly versatile instrument, Ukulele For Dummies covers all the basics, from chords and strumming patterns to guidance on finger picking—and everything in between. Plus, you'll find tips to make certain chord changes easier, chords and tabs for popular Christmas and New Year songs, apps for mobile devices, the ten best ukulele chords, and so much more. Audio tracks are available via online download at Dummies.com, creating a total musical instruction package. Features a ukulele buying guide for the novice. Offers instruction in a variety of musical styles. Provides finger-picking instruction and the chords and patterns you need to know. With its simple and clear instruction, and inspiration on every page, the second edition of Ukulele For Dummies will have fans and first-time musicians making a big splash with this tiny instrument in no time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Learn to: Fully understand ukulele basics Play the key ukulele chords and strumming patterns Tackle guidance on fingerpicking instruction Develop your skills by downloading the accompanying

tracks from Dummies.com. Pick up a uke and start playing – fast! Do you want to learn to play the ukulele? This friendly guide covers everything from chords and strumming patterns to finger picking and style variations. With clear instructions and musical inspiration on every page, it will have you making a big splash with this tiny instrument in no time. First things first – weigh your buying options, grab the essentials, check out the accessories, and master maintenance. Start strumming – get to know the ukulele chords and their families, play your first songs and create more strumming patterns for great results. Play your heart out – rock or jazz, Hawaiian or classical, find the groove that fits your mood. Pick a winner – discover fingerpicking patterns, get to grips with tabs and notation, plus solo techniques with melody/chord combos. Open the book and find: How to hold a ukulele and position yourself to play. Guidance on developing your strumming. The ‘three-chord trick’ that’ll help your playing. What to do if things don’t sound right. How to diagnose and solve uke problems. Unbeatable tips for improving your playing. Ten ways to get involved in the ukulele scene. Chord charts and guidance on reading standard musical notation.

Alistair Wood is a ukulele player, transcriber and arranger who owns the most popular ukulele site on the Internet, ukulelehunt.com. His expertise and the continuing ukulele boom has led to media hits that include The New York Times, The Guardian and BBC News.

This book is very helpful to me when used in combination with video tutorials on a popular video site. It's easy to follow. I wish they would have posted pictures of the chords you've just learned on the song page so flipping back and forth isn't needed. I forget new chords quickly and having them on the same page would be better. They do that later on the book when songs are more complicated, though. I guess it's just me...haha. Good resource for me.

The chords needed for the songs (there are not many songs at all) should be pictured next to the sheet music for an easier learning experience.

Great book! A really great introduction to the different styles of ukulele. I had actually bought *Ukulele Exercises for Dummies* first, but this book was so strongly recommended in the beginning that I stopped and bought the Kindle version for my iPad and went through it on there. I'm so glad I did! It was a much better introduction and prepared for the more advance stuff in the *Ukulele Exercises*. I had to enlarge the pages for the songs but they were very playable, though it was a little tedious to

change pages for the few multi-page songs. I liked it so much that I'm considering buying a print version for my library. Get this book!

I almost never buy "...for Dummies" or "Idiot's Guide to..." books. Not that I have anything against them. They are generally well-written, well-organized books that are perfect for someone seeking a simple, straight-forward introduction to a new topic. The problem is, because they are inevitably over-simplified I either get bored with them quickly or find them frustratingly short of key details. Fortunately, *Ukulele For Dummies* is a rare exception to the rule. Granted, this is far short of a master's degree in fine arts, nonetheless for the player seeking to buy their first ukulele or for someone who picked one up because the local music store was having a sale on old stock this book contains absolutely everything a person needs to know to get started. It is divided into seven sections (including the appendices) and ranges from how to choose a new ukulele, to tuning, to playing basic chords, to a small selection of strumming and fingerpicking techniques, and it even covers several of the key personalities in the transformation of the ukulele from an odd little chordophone played by Hawaiians into a modern instrument suitable for orchestras and contemporary pop music. There is a woefully brief introduction to music theory, but the vast majority of people picking up a ukulele for the first time are either accomplished musicians looking for a fun instrument or newcomers more interested in playing a few songs than understanding how those songs are created. *Ukulele For Dummies* and *Alfred's Basic Ukulele Method* are hands down the two best introductory books I have found for this delightful and whimsical little instrument.

This is by far the best ukulele instructional book that I have come across. It gives you options to explore the styles you want to play. It covers finger-picking, strumming, melody, reading music and tab, etc.. and you can skip around the topics without getting lost... I am a fairly accomplished guitar player, and was surprised that it wasn't as easy to pick up a uke and start rippin' right away. This book has helped in the transition to ukulele better than any other book I have used. The areas it needs improvement are: The included audio tracks are not separated. One audio track can cover three or four pages of written music. This wouldn't be so bad, but in the Kindle app for iPad that I use there is no scroll button for the audio, so I have to listen to the whole track to practice a piece (if the particular phrase is not at the beginning of the track). The longer music pieces should have their own page. Since it is the electronic edition that I am reviewing/using, a little extra effort should have been exerted to make sure that you can read a whole piece on a page, instead of starting with the first four bars on pg.59, and the next eight bars on pg.60 preceded and followed by information.

There is no reason for this in the electronic version, as there is no reason to save virtual paper. What is great about it: Very informative. Builds on skills. Gives you options for what you want to learn. Teaches good foundations for various styles. Teaches you musical theory without getting too complicated. Tab and traditional notation are included and both are explained for the ultra-novices. Helpful video segments are included. Spend the extra few dollars and get this book as opposed to others. I have read the other popular ones, and while they were all good, this one was best by far.

If you are just starting with ukulele and don't know a lot about music you might want to wait a bit before getting this book. It might have a little too much info if you just want to learn a few cords and play some simple songs. I have been playing for about six months and I enjoy the simple way this book explains how cords fit together. How minor cords can sound sad and major more up beat. The alternative tunings of the ukulele and why you might want to try them. This is a beginner book and I do recommend it. Also add a simple ukulele song book if you're just starting out.

I was disappointed with this book. I was able to learn more from YouTube and investing in a actual teacher. I play the piano, read and understand music and I still felt this book was inadequate for a true uke beginner. The chords are not next to the songs and I felt like the author/publishers skipped a few steps in really teaching ukulele playing. Book attempted to be funny and had moments, but overall not a clear enough book to be very useful.

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