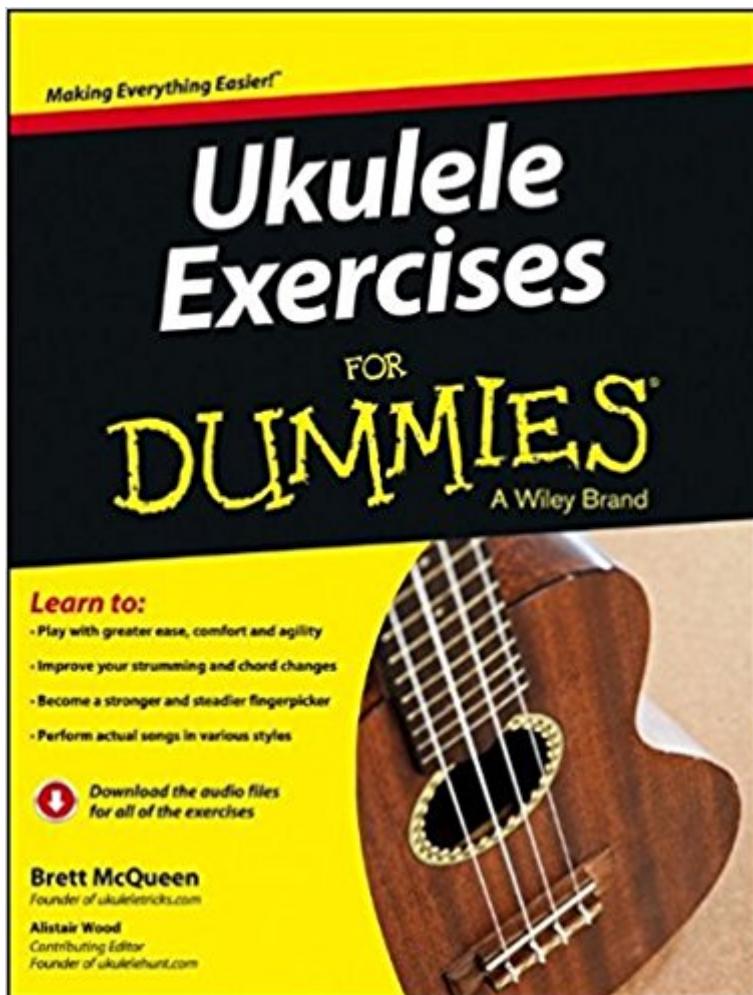


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# Ukulele Exercises For Dummies



## Synopsis

Take your ukulele playing to the next level - fast! - with hundreds of fun exercises, drills and practice tunes. You have a ukulele, you know just enough to be dangerous, and now you're ready to do something with it. You're in luck: *Ukulele Exercises For Dummies* helps you become a better player. This lay-flat, practice-based book focuses on the skills that entry-level players often find challenging and provides tips, tricks and plenty of cool exercises that will have you creating music in no time that include: Creating rock-steady strumming patterns and rhythms; Becoming a better fingerpicker with patterns, arpeggio exercises, and solo fingerpicking pieces; Expanding your fretboard knowledge and crafting your own rock, blues and jazz riffs and solos; Playing actual songs on the ukulele - everything from the classic ukulele tunes to the 12 bar blues! Downloadable audio files of the exercises found in the book, providing you with a self-contained practice package. No matter if you're a beginning ukulele player or you're wanting to stretch and improve your chops, *Ukulele Exercises For Dummies* puts you on your way to becoming a ukulele extraordinaire!

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: For Dummies; 1 edition (May 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1118506855

ISBN-13: 978-1118506851

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.6 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 131 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #215,681 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Ukuleles #130 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Exercises #451 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Guitar

## Customer Reviews

Improve your ukulele playing - fast! - with hundreds of fun exercises, drills and practice tunes. You got yourself a ukulele and taught yourself to play a passable 'Happy Birthday,' but now you're ready to take it to the next level. You've come to the right place. This exercise book is your ticket to becoming a bona fide ukulele hero. It supplies expert tips, tricks and plenty of jammin' exercises that will have you strumming and picking your way through everything from the

classic ukulele tunes to cool jazz progressions, intricate instrumental pieces and blues riffs like a pro in no time. And if you're brand-new to the uke, you'll find a lot to like here as well. Brush up on the fundamentals • discover how to hold your ukulele; play common chords; read ukulele notation and tab, chord diagrams, neck diagrams, and rhythm charts Start practising on the right foot • shorten your learning curve with pre-practice warm-ups, including finger- and hand-stretches, breathing exercises, and strength-building exercises Do some serious strumming • strengthen your rhythm, timing and ability to find the right pattern for any song, or even transform simple strumming patterns into sweet improvs Become a power-picker • master rhythmic fingerpicking songs and solo fingerstyle pieces with exercises that quickly improve speed, flexibility, and fluidity Master the fretboard • learn to build major and minor scales across the neck of the ukulele, build chords in different positions up, and down the fretboard and craft slick solos in rock, blues and jazz styles Audio download includes Over an hour and a half of audio featuring the exercises and songs from the book • so you can hear exactly how they should sound Open the book and find: Hundreds of exercises in various keys, tempos and styles Strumming exercises from common chord changes to advanced techniques Scales and scale sequences Picking patterns and exercises that build speed and confidence Ways to apply the techniques and tricks you learn to play actual songs Warm up exercises that make learning faster and easier Tips on performing before an audience

Brett McQueen is a musician, songwriter and the founder of [ukuleletricks.com](http://ukuleletricks.com), one of the most popular ukulele sites in the world, where he provides audio, video, and written instructional material (along with personalised feedback) to freshly minted ukulele fans everywhere. Alistair Wood is the man (the myth and the legend) behind [ukulelehunt.com](http://ukulelehunt.com) and the author of *Ukulele For Dummies*.

I am a total newbie to stringed instruments and it's been decades since I took piano as a kid. Though I'm taking weekly lessons at my local Folk School, I decided to buy this book, *Ukelele Exercises for Dummies*, because I remembered all those finger exercises I was forced to do by my piano teacher. We don't realized why we are made to do something until we grow up. Because of those piano exercises, I ended up with really great fine motor movement coordination. I figured that same concept could be applied to learning ukelele. So, when I'm not practicing my weekly chords/songs for the week, I work a few minutes from the book. I recommend this book for people like me who have the discipline to practice daily, even if just for 10-15 minutes. I LOVE this cute little instrument and find it very relaxing.

This book could potentially be a valuable way for advanced beginners and intermediate players to expand their skills. It's marred by a poor format, not terribly concise or logical presentation of the information, too much text (which I found hard to read). I have the paper edition and I wonder if it works better as a Kindle file on a larger tablet? Part of this is the fault of the ugly standard "Dummies" book format but some of it is also how the author presents the material. I would rather he had videos rather than just sound files, but the sound files are still useful if you get stuck. The other part of the book I did not find useful is his general practice/playing advice. Yes, again, this is part of the "Dummies" series, but it just struck me as filler. I wish there were more exercises, more basic practice pieces and some songs other than classical pieces or rusty nuggets like "Oh my darling clementine." The book's greatest strength is that it's one of the few intermediate level books for uke which are specifically about skill building and for that alone, I give it a lukewarm, qualified recommendation.

My friend can pick up almost any instrument and play it. When I asked him for his thoughts on an instrument I might be able to play he thoughtfully suggested the ukelele. When I asked why, he said, "it's only got 4 strings. Even you could play it. And, hardly anyone else plays one so nobody will know how awful you are." That said, I bought a Uke, bought a basic dummies book and commenced to amaze my wife ever evening with my strumming and singing (she would say, "torture her with my twanging' and croaking' "). After getting the basics down, that is, learning to strum, and memorizing the basic "must know" 15 chords you need, I bought this book. This is not a beginner book. Brett assumes some rudimentary knowledge but the lessons are well within the ability of a novice such as myself. There are a number of chapters covering, strums, chords, finger-picking (my favorite) and other more advanced techniques. The audio samples that come with the book (you have to download them) are great to play along with. If you are serious about improving your skills this is a great book.

Ok the exercises are good. Great catch up on method. You still have to go to a lot of trouble to listen to the exercises. It might work on a kindle device but on my fancy iPad, it does not and that is why I am being star stingy. So there. This is a pain. These links could at least be hyperlinked or something. If someone has a fix, please let me know. I am a bit peeved.

The book involves two downloads: the book itself via [http://www.learnuke.com](#) , and the mp3 files corresponding to the

exercises, via Wiley's online place. I have no problems at all with any of them; both downloaded quickly, and it was very easy to find Wiley's place. Also, I did not have any problem at all by dealing with the book, on the one hand, and the mp3 files, on the other one. Just by jumping from one to the other -a one click procedure- I was in business. Since I bought the book a few days ago, I don't have the possibility of judging completely its contents. However, by examining two or three chapters, and by looking at specific items on several more chapters, I think the book is both engaging and a really nice tool to drive deeper your playing skills. It is the kind of book you will be working with for a long time. However, If you are an absolute beginner, there are probably better options for you. The only thing I did not like at all was the fact that the songs that involve lyrics are not sung by the author (he sings really nice: check his online videos). It would be nice to have both versions of the song: the music only version and the sung one. Particularly important since many of the potential buyers are foreigners and do not know the songs (my own situation). Maybe an early addition since it involves just adding a few mp3's to the long list of 256 exercises? Not kidding, it would be a very welcome addition. In brief, if you play ukulele and want to improve your skills, just got this one!PS: one more thing: the book is completely readable and feels comfortable in any of my devices (my android smartphone of 4.5", as well as my android tablet of 10.1" and my MacBook Pro).

This is an excellent book and collection of audio files. As you work through it, you can improve your skill tremendously. It is written in a way that it is useful for the very beginner to the more experienced player. Brett has a good and understandable teaching style. I would be a lot further along if I used this book more. I like the overall style of the "Dummies" books and this is a very useful book. Contains a lot of expertise and guidance. A bargain at any price. Highly recommended.

This was my first ukulele lesson book. It helped me get into things very quickly, but the exercises also provide me a lot of depth and variation. From an instructional standpoint, it's much better than the "Ukulele for Dummies" book in this series.

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