

About the Authors

Mike and Diane Jackson have spent a large part of their life inspiring, encouraging and empowering music making in people of all ages.

A self-taught musician who plays 16 different instruments, including ukulele, Mike is perhaps best known for his hit version of *Bananas in Pyjamas*. He has sold over 250,000 albums, published many song-and-dance resources and performed extensively across Australia and internationally. Mike's inspirational concerts and workshops attest to his belief that learning to play music is an attainable goal for everyone and that it's never, ever too late — or too early — to begin!

Diane has a Graduate Diploma in Music Education and many years' experience teaching classroom music and running community music classes for young children.

Using the *Uke'n Play Ukulele* resources, many who previously thought themselves 'not musical' have fulfilled a lifelong dream of playing an instrument.



Published by Hinkler Books Pty Ltd
45–55 Fairchild Street
Heatherton Victoria 3202 Australia
www.hinkler.com.au

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Layout and design © Hinkler Books Pty Ltd 2013

All songs traditional with arrangement by Mike Jackson, apart from: The Ballad of Eensy Weensy – Traditional. This arrangement by Mike Jackson. Words: chorus traditional, verses Mike Jackson; Oh, Susanna – This arrangement by Mike Jackson. Words and music: Stephen Collins Foster; Five Little Monkeys – Traditional. This arrangement by Mike Jackson. Words verse 6: Mike Jackson and Ian Blake; Ukulele Lady – Words and music by Gus Khan and Richard A. Whiting

Authors: Mike and Diane Jackson
Cover design: Sam Grimmer
Typesetting: MPS Limited
Prepress: Graphic Print Group

Play-along CD created by ToeTapper Records
Lead vocals: Mike Jackson, Thom Jackson
Ukulele: Diane Jackson, Thom Jackson
Harmonies: Hugh McDonald, Thom Jackson, Ian Blake, Michelle Berner
Instrumentalists: Mike Jackson (ukulele, concertina, melodeon, harmonica), Hugh McDonald (bass, strings), Ian Blake (horns, keyboards, whistles, silly voices), Dave Folley (drums)
Recorded at Hugh McDonald Studios, Melbourne, Australia 2005–2010
Recorded, engineered and mixed by Hugh McDonald
Remixed and compiled 2013

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ISBN: 978 1 7435 2878 5

Printed and bound in China

Contents

Getting Started.....	4	Skip to My Lou, My Darling.....	35
Tuning the Ukulele.....	4	Alouette.....	36
Mike Jackson's Instant Play Method	5	'Twas the Night Before Christmas	37
Making Chords	5	Hail! Hail! The Gang's All Here	38
Chord Diagrams	6	Oh, Susanna.....	40
Ukulele Chords Used in this Book	6	Angel Band.....	41
Strumming	7	Banks of the Ohio.....	42
Chord Patterns.....	7	Home on the Range	43
Row, Row, Row Your Boat.....	8	Five Little Monkeys	44
Christmas Is Coming.....	9	Frog Went a Courtin'.....	46
Three Blind Mice.....	9	Jingle Bells.....	48
Frère Jacques/R2D2/Young Bart Simpson.....	10	Joy to the World	49
Polly Wolly Doodle	11	Auld Lang Syne.....	50
It Ain't Gonna Rain No More.....	12	Away in a Manger	51
Miss Mary Mac.....	13	The Bear Went over the Mountain.....	51
The Ballad of Eensy Weensy.....	14	O Little Town of Bethlehem.....	52
Oh, Dear! What Can the Matter Be?.....	15	Streets of Laredo	
Mary Had a Little Lamb	16	(Cowboy's Lament)	53
Hush Little Baby	17	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	54
Rock My Soul	18	Silent Night.....	55
The Farmer's in the Dell.....	19	This Train	56
Blow the Man Down.....	20	Michael Row the Boat Ashore.....	56
This Old Man	22	Go Tell it on the Mountain	57
London Bridge Is Falling Down.....	24	Morning Blues.....	58
Shortnin' Bread.....	26	Will the Circle Be Unbroken?.....	59
Li'l Liza Jane.....	27	Oh Come, All Ye Faithful	60
Buffalo Girls	28	Ukulele Lady.....	61
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands	29	Similarity between Ukulele and Guitar.....	62
Michael Finnigan.....	30	Useful Ukulele Chord Combinations	63
I Saw Three Ships	31	The Play-along CD	63
Clementine.....	32	CD Track Listing.....	64
O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum)	34	Index of Page Numbers	64

Getting Started

- Become familiar with the parts of your ukulele.
- Gently stretch your ukulele strings.
- Listen to track 1 to become familiar with the ukulele notes.
- Tune the strings carefully.

Tuning the Ukulele

There are several methods you can use to tune your ukulele. The open string names are G, C, E and A. 'Open' means no fingers pressing the strings to the fretboard.

Tuning Track (Track 1)

Play the open strings, starting from the string closest to your head. Turn the tuning peg a little to check which way makes the string higher or lower, then tune the string to the correct note. To remember the notes for tuning the uke, sing 'My Dog Has Fleas'. This classic uke tuning song is sung on the tuning track and uses the notes G, C, E and A.

Piano

G — First G above middle C

C — Middle C

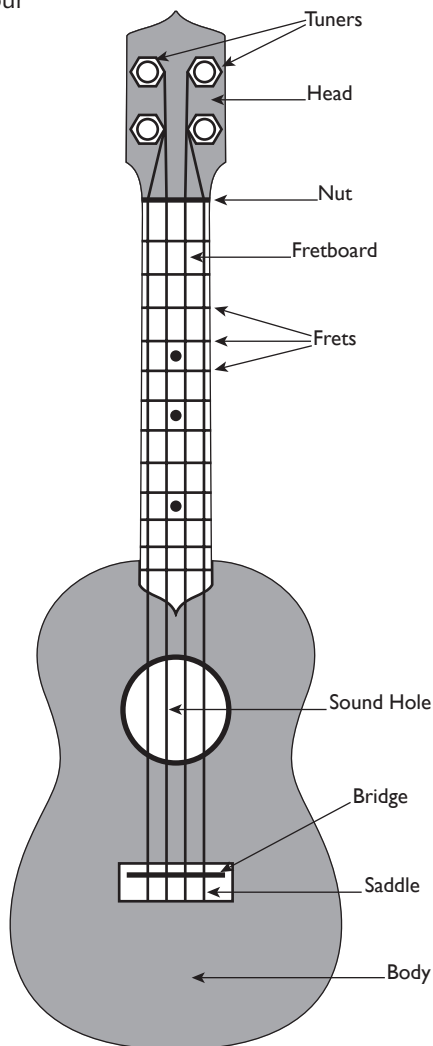
E — First E above middle C

A — First A above middle C

G	C	E	A
4	3	2	1

Electronic Tuner

A clip-on tuner is the best option as it is unaffected by noise in the immediate area and takes only the note from the ukulele. Tuners are also available for computers or smartphones. Software and applications for a chromatic tuner or specific ukulele tuner work best in a quiet room.

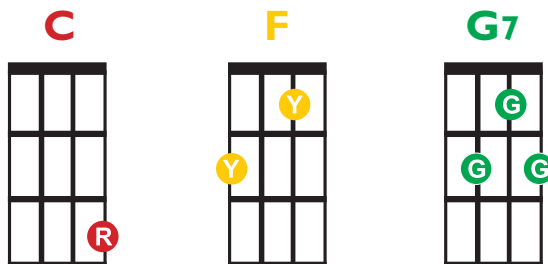


Mike Jackson's Instant Play Method

This system is simple, but it works!

The Ukulele

The coloured dots on your ukulele fretboard help you remember where to place your fingers and will make your chord changes much quicker.



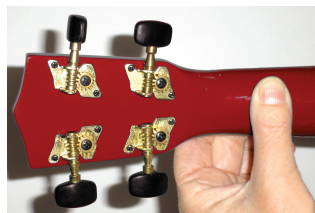
The Song Book

The chord names in the song pages have been coloured to match the dots: **C** = red, **F** = yellow, **G7** = green.

F **C** **G7**
Oh! Susanna, don't you cry for me.

Making Chords

Rest the body of the ukulele in your lap with its neck pointing upwards at about 45° and with the strings away from you (see page 6). Use your right forearm to hold the instrument against your body. Using your left hand, gently place your thumb (facing up) on the dot at the back of the fretboard.



Use the tips of your fingers to gently press the strings onto the correct dots for the chord you are going to play. Make sure you use the correct finger for each dot and that your finger only touches the string that you are pressing down.

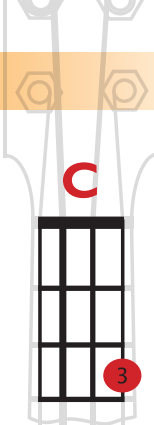
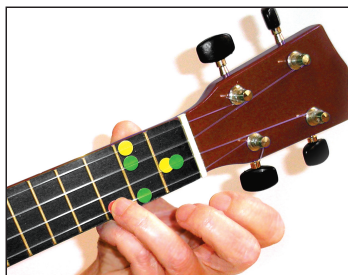
Finger numbering:
1 – index finger
2 – middle finger
3 – ring finger



Chord Diagrams

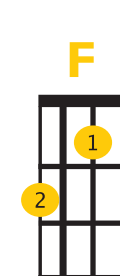
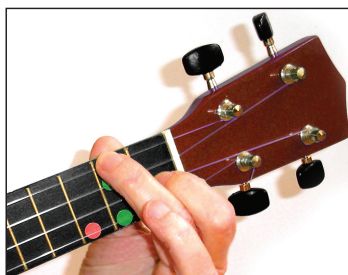
C Chord

Place your ring finger (3) on the red dot.



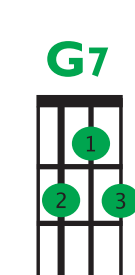
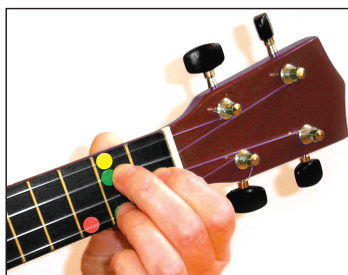
F Chord

Place your pointer and middle finger (1 and 2) on the yellow dots.

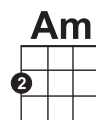
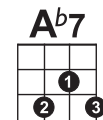
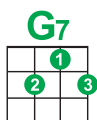
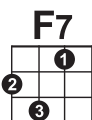
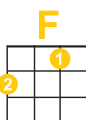
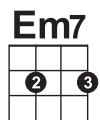
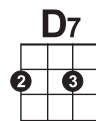
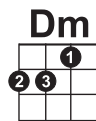
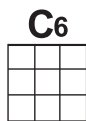
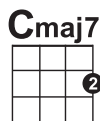
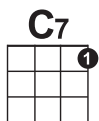
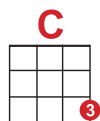


G7 Chord

Place your pointer finger (1) on the green dot nearest the nut and place your middle finger (2) and ring finger (3) on the other green dots.





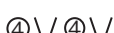
Ukulele Chords Used in this Book



Strumming





Like a drummer, the ukulele player must keep the beat, so keep your strumming constant through the whole song. Begin by using either 'down' or 'down-up-down-up' strums and play with the back/s of your fingernail/s, the side of your thumb, or a felt or soft rubber pick, which can be purchased from music stores.

Strumming Styles (Track 52)

- 1  'down' strums
- 2  'down/up' strums
- 3  pick the 'G' or 4th string with the back of your index finger (the nail) then play a 'down' strum with your fingernail/s

Chord Patterns (Track 53)

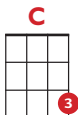
Once you can play the C, F and G7 chords, try repeating these chord patterns with 4 strums on each chord. If a particular chord change is giving you trouble, slow down (or play 8 strums on each chord) and practise only that change until you are comfortable with it.

- 1 
- 2 
- 3 
- 4 

Hints

- Be patient! Give your hands plenty of time to learn new tricks and above all, relax when you're learning them. The more tense you are, the harder it is to learn and the more likely you are to make your hands sore.
- The skin on your fingertips will gradually become harder, so play for short periods when you first begin.
- Strings only have to touch the fret to change a note, so you don't need to press hard.
- You can practise chord changes silently while watching TV! Just do the chord changes without strumming.

1. Row, Row, Row Your Boat



C

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily

Life is but a dream

(× 3)



C

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream

Putt putt, splutter splutter

Out of gasoline!

C

Row, row, row your boat, underneath the stream

Ha! Ha! fooled you

I'm a submarine!

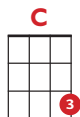
C

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

Don't forget to scream (Aaahhh!)

2. Christmas Is Coming



C

Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat

Please put a penny in the old man's hat

If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny well Lord bless you!

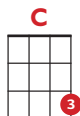
REPEAT × 1

INSTRUMENTAL

REPEAT × 1



3. Three Blind Mice



C

Three blind mice, three blind mice

C

See how they run, see how they run

C

They all ran after the farmer's wife

C

Who cut off their tails with a carving knife

C

Did ever you see such a thing in your life

C

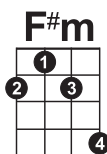
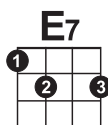
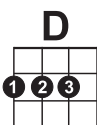
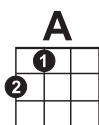
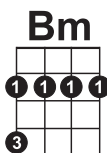
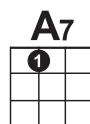
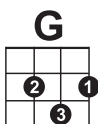
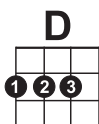
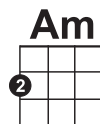
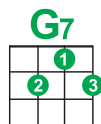
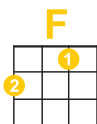
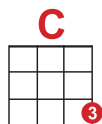
As three blind mice?

REPEAT



Useful Ukulele Chord Combinations

All the songs in this book are in the key of C or F. If you find these keys difficult to sing, try the chord combinations below for a key that better suits your voice.



The Play-along CD

The play-along CD has samples of all the songs in the book (with some full versions). It provides an easy way to learn the songs while giving you a vocal and ukulele to follow and a band of musicians to back you. The tempo of the songs is lively and they are played at their normal speed so the CD is fun to listen to.

Using the CD

Without the ukulele:

1. Listen to the CD as often as you can to learn the lyrics and tunes.
2. Using the book and CD, sing the chord names to the tune of the song you are learning.
e.g. Polly Wolly Doodle would go like this:

F
Yellow yellow yellow, yellow yellow yellow
C
Yellow yellow yellow, yellow red
Red red red, red red red
F
Red red red, red yellow

With the ukulele:

1. Without strumming, sing the chord names with the CD while fingering the chord shapes and getting used to changing between chords.
2. Strum the song while singing. If you find the tempo too fast, switch the CD off, slow everything down and practise until you are comfortable.
3. Slowly bring the song up to speed as your skill improves.
4. Play along with the CD at full speed and, when you can, sing the song lyrics.