

C SCALE ON UKULELE

Learning our *C* Scale opens up so many possibilities for us to play our ukulele in a more interesting way. We can enhance our Chords very easily. We can play each of the notes in the scale in any order we want whilst others are playing songs in the key of *C*.

This is what you hear when a player is not just strumming but picking out melodies on the strings.

So what is the *C* Scale? What does it look like?

(DO NOT GET CONFUSED WITH THE *C* SCALE AND *C* CHORD, WHEN PLAYING THE SCALE YOU ARE PLAYING INDIVIDUAL NOTES ON CERTAIN STRINGS). IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT THE NAMES OF THE STRINGS ARE - FROM THE ONE CLOSEST TO YOU, THIS IS YOUR *G STRING*, NEXT IS THE *C STRING*, THEN THE *E STRING* AND FINALLY THE *A STRING*. EACH OF THESE STRINGS WHEN PLUCKED ON THEIR OWN MAKE THE NOTE OF THE STRING.

I have added a diagram for you to follow below.

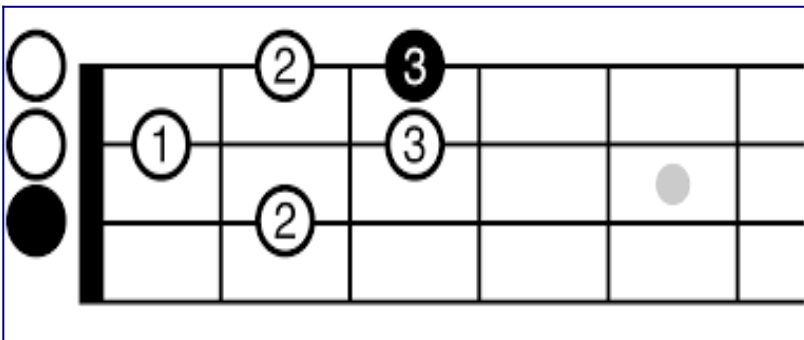
Let me explain that this diagram represents your fretboard looking down to the floor.

To play the *C* Scale at what is known as First Position Open we will be using individual strings and fingers to help us.

Looking down at your Ukulele as you hold it, our 1st string is a *G* (we are not going to use this string as we start out). The 2nd string is the *C* String, because we are learning the *C Scale*, this is the string we will start on. Our 3rd string is the *E* string and 4th string is the *A* string.

So look at the diagram now, you will see that we need to read this from the bottom to the top so that it mimics your fretboard (I know it can be confusing initially)

The numbers tell us which Finger to use as we play each of the notes.



Lets learn the first two notes:- Pluck your C string Open, that is with NO fingers on the string. (The C String is the 2nd one down as you look from your head!)

Now with your second (2) finger pluck the 2nd fret of the C string. Now just learn to play these two notes, Just the C String and 2nd fret of the C String. Take your time.

Now we are going to add the next 3 Notes in the Scale:- Pluck your E String (you don't need to put any fingers down).

Next put your First Finger on the 1st fret of the E string and Pluck this. Now we are going to put our Third Finger on the 3rd Fret of the E String and Pluck this.

Practice just playing these three notes until you can play them consistently.

Once you can, go back to the start and play from the Open C String through to the 3rd note on the E String. Play this through until it becomes something you can do consistently.

Finally we are going to add the notes on the A String:- Pluck the Open A String (again, no fingers down). Next we put our second finger on the 2nd Fret of the A String and Pluck the A String. Finally, we put our third finger on the 3rd Fret of the A String and Pluck the A String.

Take your time to learn these three notes and when you can play them consistently go back to the beginning (that's your Open C String) and slowly play all the way through.

ONLY SPEED UP WHEN YOU ARE ABLE TO PLAY ALL THE WAY THROUGH WITHOUT MISTAKES!

NOW TRY PLAYING IT BACKWARDS FROM THE C NOTE ON YOUR A STRING, ENDING UP ON THE OPEN C STRING. TAKE IT SLOWLY! MAKE USE OF THE CHART.

Well done, you have learned the C Scale and can start to use it. The first way we can use it is to enhance our Chords in the key of C.

That will be the next Lesson.