



## MUSIC TECHNIQUES

**RIFF:** A short, repeated phrase in popular music and jazz, typically used as an introduction or refrain in a song. A riff can also be known as a 'hook' in rock music.

**SOLO:** A piece or passage of vocal or instrumental music for one performer typically played on guitar in rock music that is often accompanied by the rest of the band although the solo will be the main feature of the section and usually occurs around the middle or near the end of a song.

**HAMMER ON:** A playing technique performed on a stringed instrument especially with frets, by sharply bringing a fretting-hand finger down on to a string against the fingerboard behind a fret, causing a note to sound.

**PULL OFF:** A stringed instrument playing and articulation technique performed by plucking or "pulling" the finger that is grasping the sounding part of a string off the fingerboard.

**BEND:** String bending is a technique used a lot in blues and rock music but can be found in many other styles (except classical). The idea is to "bend" (push a string across or over the fingerboard with your fretting hand fingers) so that the string gets tighter and the pitch goes up.

**SLIDE:** String sliding is a technique used to get swiftly from one note to another on the same string to a higher or a lower note depending on whether the pitch is sliding up or down. You can also slide entire chord shapes.

**VIBRATO:** The word vibrato comes from the Latin word 'vibrāre', which literally means "to shake." Just like when a singer holds a note and makes it waver back and forth, vibrato on ukulele involves bending and releasing or pushing and pulling the fretted string in repeated pulses.

**DAMPENING:** On ukulele, damping or dampening (also referred to as choking) is a technique where, shortly after playing the strings, the sound is reduced by stopping them from ringing out. This can be achieved by gently placing by either releasing the pressure on the strings or cutting off the sound by gently placing any unused fretting fingers over the strings.

**ARPEGGIO:** An arpeggio is when we separate the notes of a chord out rather than playing them all in one strum. To play a basic arpeggio, simply pick a chord (preferably an ordinary open position chord) and try separating the notes out. You can do them in order at first, but as you get more adventurous, you might want to try mixing the order of the notes about a bit.

**FINGER PICKING:** Instead of strumming chords you can finger-pick, by plucking the ukulele strings using your fingers instead of strumming. Fingerpicking usually combines your thumb, index and middle finger with the thumb alternating between the G and C string. Classical players tend to use one finger per string therefore would use the thumb for the G string, the index on the C string, the middle on the E string and the ring finger on the A string.

**ALTERNATIVE CHORD VOICINGS:** A voicing is an expression of a given chord, based on the order in which the tones are stacked in a range of shapes across the fretboard. There are 32 ways to play a C Major chord on the ukulele but having at least 4 of them in your rep will work wonders.