

STRUMMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR UKULELE PLAYERS



Strumming is a technique used to play a musical instrument by running your fingers or a pick across the strings in a rhythmic motion to create a chord. The motion is usually up and down, and the rhythm and dynamics can be varied to create different sounds and musical styles.

In the case of a ukulele, strumming is a fundamental technique used to produce a rhythmic sound by running your fingers or a pick across the strings. Here are some basic instructions:

- *Ideally you want to start off strumming with just your index finger. Gently curl in your 3 other fingers but leave your index finger quite loose at a 90-degree angle.*
- *You should aim to connect with the strings somewhere between the 12th fret and the start of the sound hole. You should find a nice, sweet spot. Strumming heavily directly over the sound hole can often cause the sound to be slightly distorted or in technical terms provide muddiness.*
- *Play around with various positions until you find a spot where the tones all ring out clear and brightly.*
- *Strum from about 2 - 4 inches above the G string and slightly twist your wrist as you make a downward motion, striking the strings with the back of your fingernail.*
- *Aim to hit all strings as your hand moves downwards.*
- *When strumming back upwards, use the fleshy padded part of your index finger, keeping it nice and relaxed. If your finger is too rigid, chances are you may miss a few strings or even hurt your finger, so to avoid injury always keep your strumming hand really loose.*
- *Practice moving your strumming hand up or down across the strings to create a steady rhythm. The sound produced by strumming can be loud or soft, and the rhythm can be fast or slow, depending on the song or musical style being played. The faster you go; the more wrist twist you will need to apply.*

Strumming is an essential skill for playing the ukulele and other stringed instruments, as it allows you to accompany yourself or others in songs and create a wide range of musical styles and sounds. It takes practice to master strumming, but with regular practice and experimentation, you can develop your own unique strumming style and sound.