

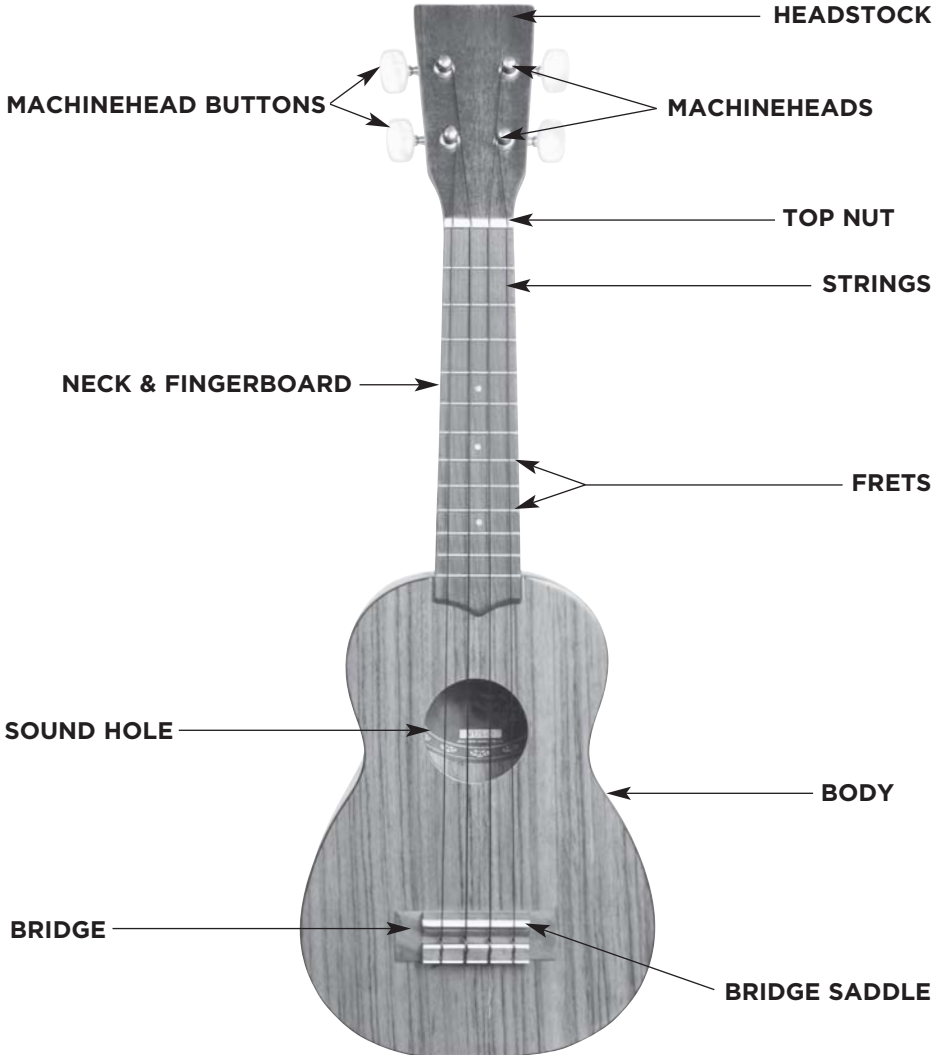
# john hornby skewes & co. ltd.

## EVERY SUCCESS WITH YOUR NEW UKULELE...

We wish you every success with your new ukulele. This leaflet is intended as a simple guide to understanding, tuning and taking care of your instrument and playing your first basic chords. Once you have mastered the first steps we recommend the use of a good tutor book, or tutor DVD.

### 1. TYPES AND NAME OF UKULELE PARTS

Ukulele's are strung with nylon strings, and are played either fingerstyle, or with a plectrum. The nylon strings help to give the delicate and sweet tone associated with these instruments.



## 2. CARE OF YOUR UKULELE

Your ukulele is the result of generations of skill and craftsmanship by instruments makers, so please give it the care and treatment it deserves. It is a delicate instrument and when not in use, should be kept in a safe dry place. We would recommend that you keep it in a ukulele carrying bag. Do not leave it lying around on a chair or leaning against a wall. Do not store it close to a heated radiator.

When you pick it up, hold it at the neck, and when playing allow yourself plenty of room. This way you will be able to put the instrument down safely when you stop playing.

Having finished playing, clean your ukulele carefully using a soft cloth, and clean the strings with a cloth (top and underneath). The degree of acidity in perspiration varies with different people, and this can reduce the effective life of strings, so by cleaning after use you will prolong the efficiency of the strings. You are advised to change your strings regularly.

Always keep a spare set of strings. Many players prefer to change a whole set of strings when any string change becomes necessary.

## 3. TUNING YOUR UKULELE

The standard tuning for a ukulele is as follows:

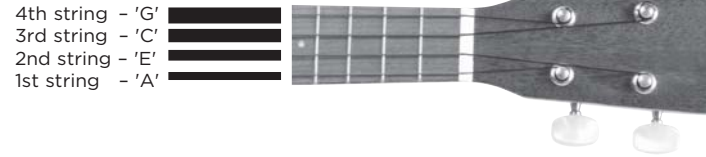
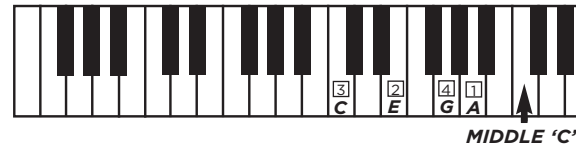


Fig. 1



## IMPORTANT

Never overtighten ukulele strings. Serious damage can occur to the bridge and sound board of the instrument. Strings under excessive and incorrect tension may also cause the bridge to be wrenched from the top of the ukulele, possibly resulting in physical hurt to the player. It is very important that you tune a ukulele sensibly and with care.

If you have a piano or electronic keyboard follow the instructions in Fig.1. However, for easy tuning we suggest you purchase a set of ukulele tuning pitch pipes or a electronic tuner.

After tuning you will find the strings continue to stretch for a few days and it is necessary to retune the instrument each time you play it.

Strings will break in the normal course of events and they will need replacing. Should you require individual replacement ukulele strings, they can be purchased at any musical instrument shop.

## 4. STRING REPLACEMENT

**All ukulele strings will break from time to time.**

Never overtighten ukulele strings otherwise you could cause serious damage, not covered by the guarantee, to the bridge and top of the ukulele.

Strings under excessive and incorrect tension may also cause the bridge to be wrenched from the top of the ukulele, possibly resulting in physical hurt to the player.

Remove the broken strings.

When changing strings do so one at a time. This maintains the tension on the ukulele neck.

First fit the replacement string into the tailpiece section as shown in the photograph. Nylon strings pass through and over the bridge and are looped. Examine how the other strings are attached to the bridge of your ukulele and follow suit. See Fig.1.

The illustrations Fig. 2 & 3 show you the correct way to wind on strings. A useful aid is a Machinehead Winder of the type as shown in Fig. 2 & 3.

Hold some slack string in your hand and feed the string into the hole in the machinehead post gradually turning the machinehead button until the string has passed around the roller at least 2-3 times and the slack has been taken up.

Nylon strings tend to stretch rather a lot, so you will need to retune new strings often.

The excess string above the machinehead can be clipped off.

Your ukulele is now ready to tune. See 'tuning instructions' above.

Pass string over saddle and through bridge and loop as shown above

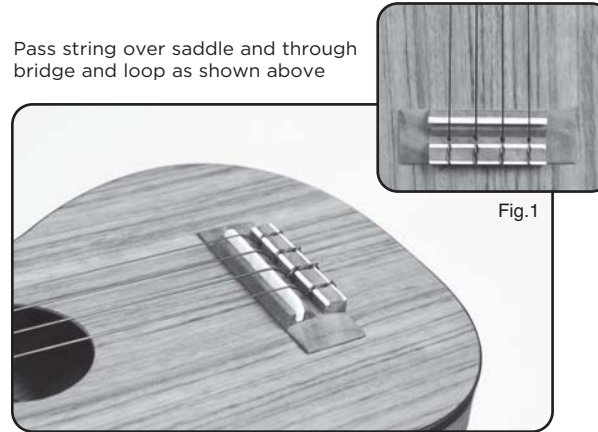
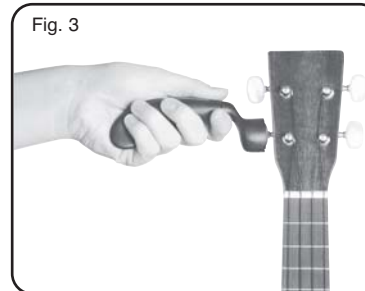


Fig. 2

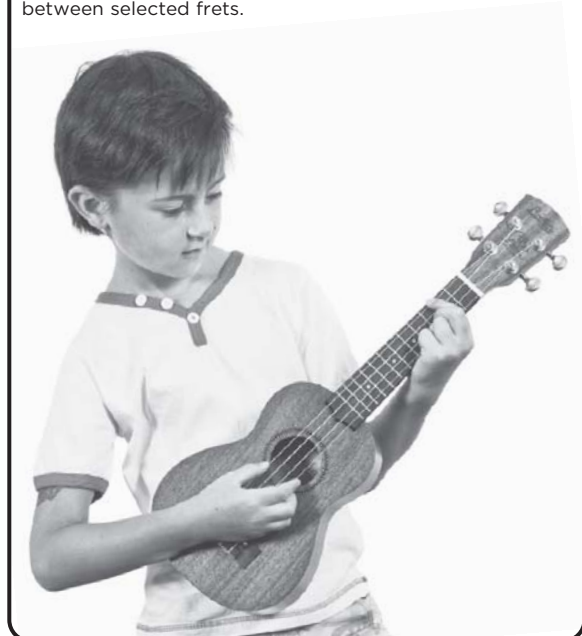


Fig. 3



## 5. PLAYING POSITIONS

The ukulele is held upright in the playing position (not flat). It may seem more difficult to see the fingerboard but you will certainly find it much easier and more comfortable to finger the frets with the left hand (right hand player). Frets are the metal divisions across the ukuleles fingerboard to enable each note on each string to be located. On some ukuleles, position markers are also shown on the side of the neck or between selected frets.

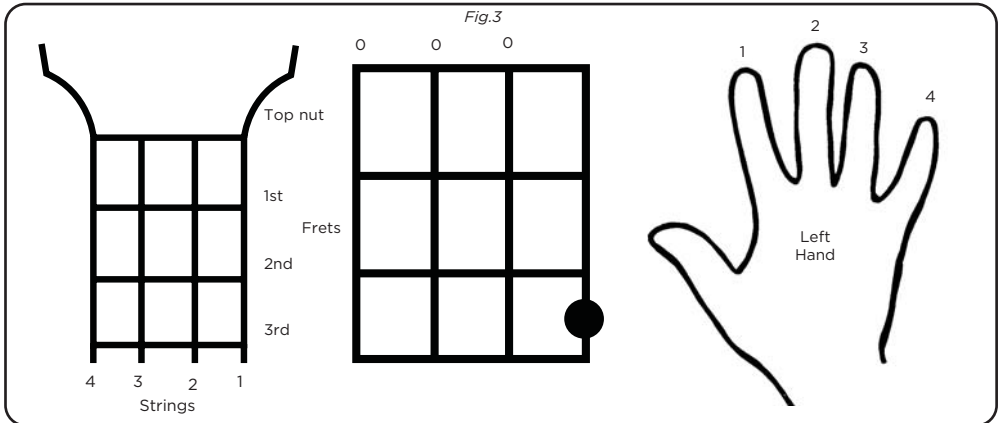


## 6. PLAYING THE UKULELE

Once your ukulele has been tuned you are ready to try a few simple chords, (a chord is two or more notes played together and they are used as an accompaniment to a melody).

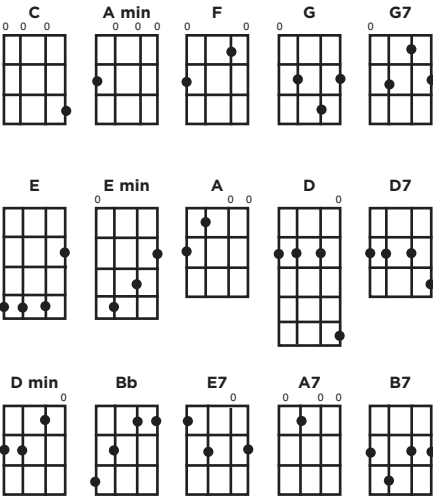
Ukulele chord charts are normally drawn like Fig.3. Fig.3 is an example of a chord of C major.

The number above each string indicates which finger should be used, 'O' means that the string should be played 'open' (not pressed down). Where an 'X' appears, the string should **not** be played. Where a dot appears in a chord diagram, that is where the finger should hold down the string. Always remember to hold the string down as close as you can behind the fret otherwise the ukulele string may 'buzz'.



### CHORD CHART

Here are a few chords for you to try.



Try these simple tunes.

D7 / | G / / / | / / / / | / / / / | / / / /  
She'll be comin' round the mountain when she comes.

/ / | G / / / | / / / / | D7 / / / | / / / /  
She'll be comin' round the mountain when she comes.

/ / | G / / / | G7 / / / | C / / / / | A min / / /  
She'll be comin' round the mountain, comin' round the mountain.

/ / | G / E min / | D7 / / / | G / / / | / / / /  
She'll be comin' round the mountain when she comes.

C | F / / / | / / / | Bb / / / | F / / / | F / / / | / / / | C / / /  
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

/ | F / / / | / / / | Bb / / / | F / / / | / / / | C / / / | Bb / / / | F / / /  
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now can see.

Dm / / / | / / / | Am / / / | Dm / / / |  
Are you going to Scarborough Fair.

Am / / | Dm / / / | G / / / | Am / / /  
Parsley, sage, rose - mary and thyme.

/ | Dm / / / | / / / | / / / | / / / | / / / |  
Remember me to one who lives there.

/ / / | G / F | C G C | Dm / / /  
She once was a true love of mine.



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IF YOU NEED ADVICE ON YOUR UKULELE CALL OUR HELPLINE

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