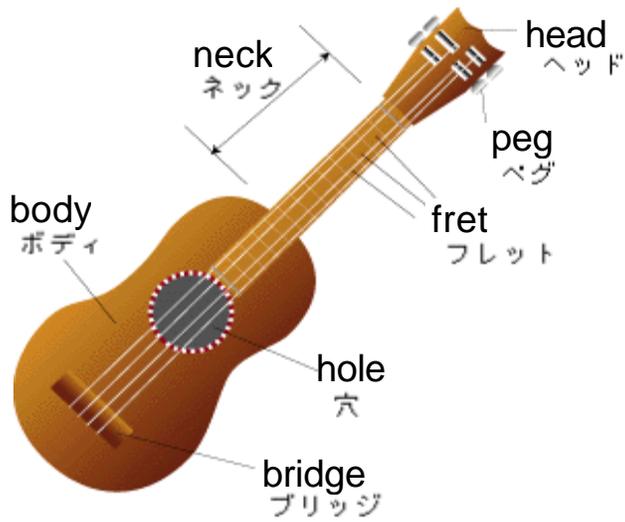
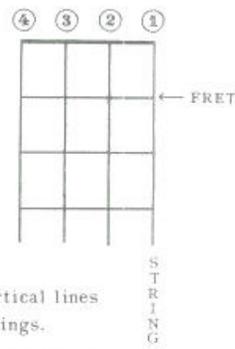
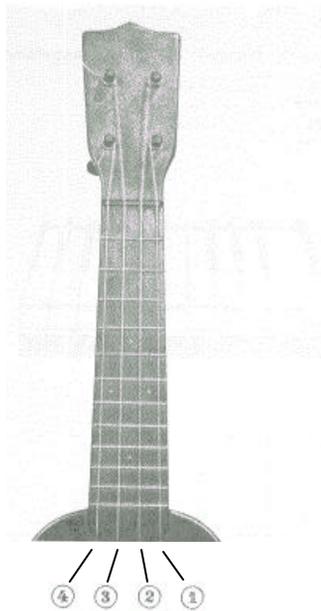


Lau Kanaka No Hawai'i Ukulele Class



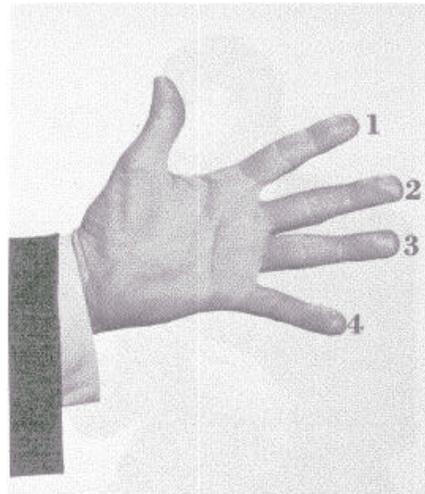
THE FINGERBOARD

5



The vertical lines are the strings.
 The horizontal lines are the frets.
 The encircled numbers are the number of the strings.

THE LEFT HAND



Definitions

String – Strings are numbered. The highest pitch is number 1.

Fret – Frets are the raised ridges along the neck. Frets are numbered. Fret 1 is the first one below the nut (the nut is the part the strings pass over after they leave their tuning pegs). Press the string behind the fret so the string contacts the fret board.

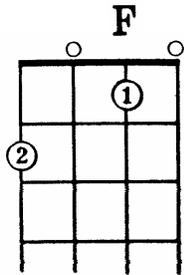
Note – Each fret of each string plays a single note when you pick only that string. Notes are named A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Some notes can also be sharp (like G#, slightly higher pitched) or flat (like Gb, slightly lower pitched).

Chord – A chord is a collection of notes played together. When you strum across all four strings, you are playing a chord. The sound of the chord depends on the notes in the chord. Chords are named after the most important note in the chord. Chords can be modified by changing some of the notes, and then the names are modified. For instance, a C chord can be modified to become C7, C minor, C diminished, C augmented, etc. There are thousands of chords.

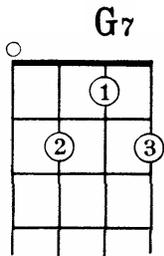
Key – A key is a collection of chords that sound good together. When a song is played in a particular key, then the song will be played using only some of the thousands of chords. The singer gets to choose the key of a song, since vocal ranges are limited and singers find they are more comfortable singing along with the chords of a particular key. You will become familiar with playing in these keys: F, G, C, A and maybe D.

Vamp – A vamp is a musical figure that is common in Hawaiian music. It is used to start a song, to end a phrase, and to give time for the dancers to add elements to hula. A vamp is a sequence of two or three chords that are always played together. Each key has a different vamp.

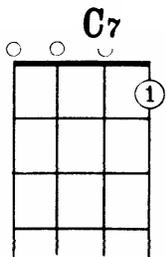
How to read chord diagrams



- Put finger 1 on the first fret of the second string
- Put finger 2 on the second fret of the fourth string
- Let the first and third strings be open (don't touch them)
- Strum across all four strings



- Put finger 1 on the first fret of the second string
- Put finger 2 on the second fret of the third string
- Put finger 3 on the second fret of the first string
- Let the fourth string be open (don't touch it)
- Strum across all four strings



- Put finger 1 on the first fret of the first string
- Let the other strings be open (don't touch them)
- Strum across all four strings