Introduction to the Ukulele

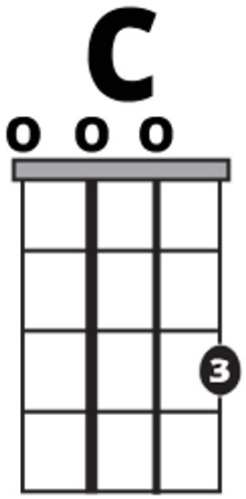
The C Chord

After learning the C chord, play some one-chord songs! These will also work with the F chord or any other major chord:

- We Will Rock You by Queen
- Hold on by Alabama Shakes
- One Chord Song by Stoney LaRue
- Rubber Band Girl by Kate Bush

Nursery Rhymes

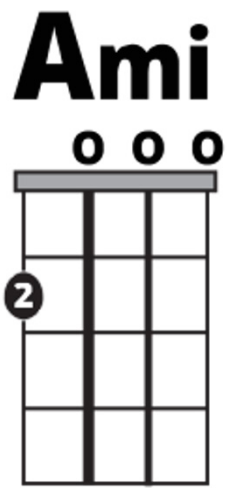
- Frere Jacques
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- Make New Friends



The Ami Chord

After learning the A minor chord, try playing one of these one-chord minor songs!

- Get Up, Stand Up by Bob Marley
- Mi Gente* by J Balvin, Willy William, Beyoncé
- DNA* by Kendrick Lamar

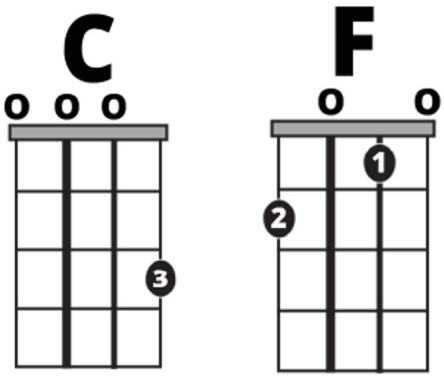


Introduction to the Ukulele

The C and F Chord

After learning C to F:

- Best Day of My Life by American Authors
- Iko Iko by Dixie Cups
- I'll Take You There by Staples Singers
- Three is a Magic Number by Blind Melon
- Achy Breaky Heart by Billy Rae Cyrus



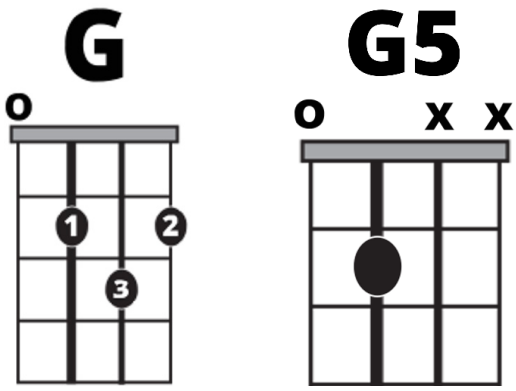
After learning Am:

- Here by Alessia Cara*
- All three - Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars

Next steps: The G Chord

The G chord - this opens up hundreds of song possibilities. Remember that students can split chords up and they can also play the G power chord

Wikipedia 4-chord page



Other Helpful Resources

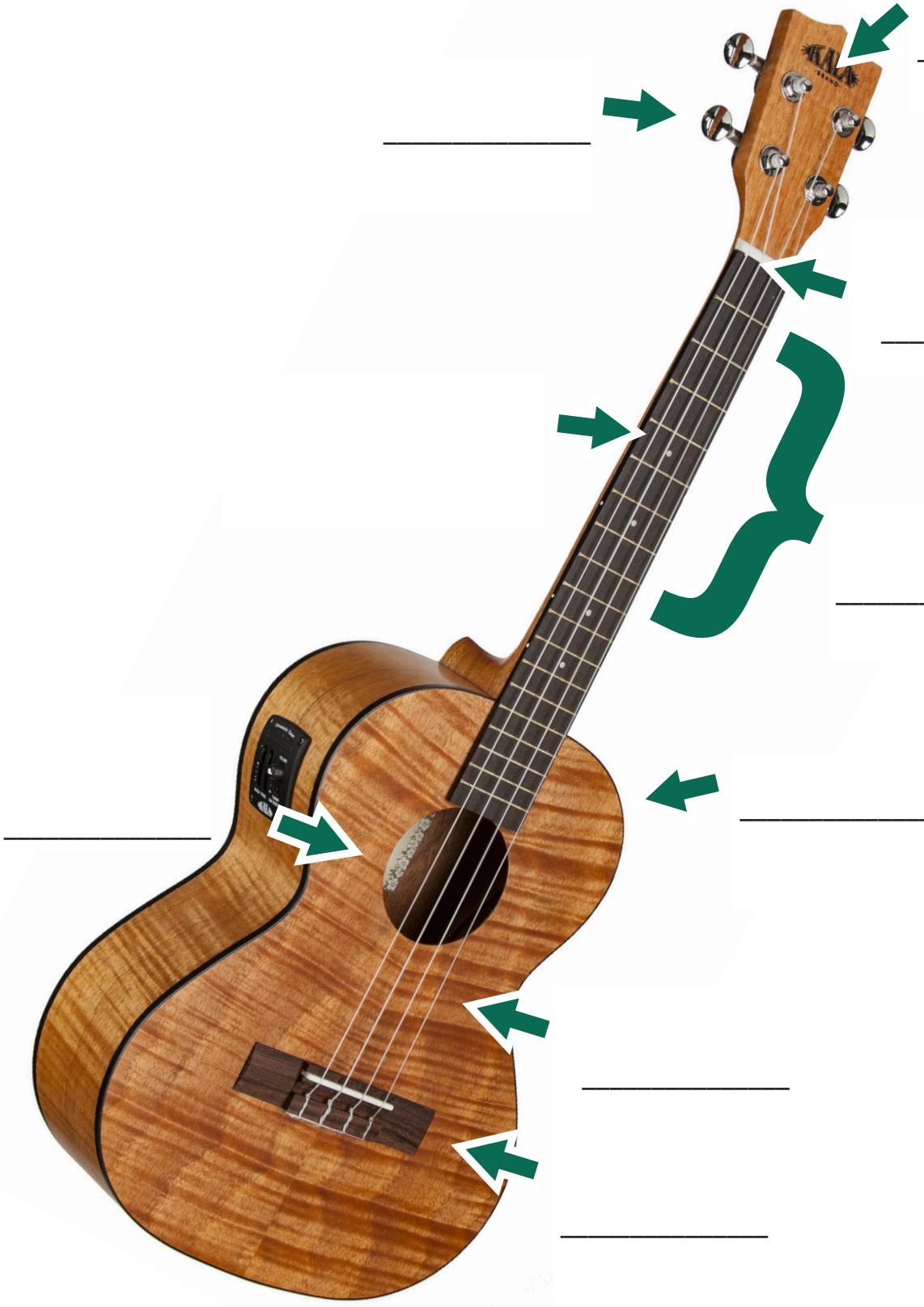
JamZone Resources

Paula Fuga Lessons

Transpose Chrome Extension

* Song contains lyrical content that is not appropriate for all classrooms. Use your discretion to determine what songs are appropriate for your students and school community.

Parts of the Ukulele (Work-



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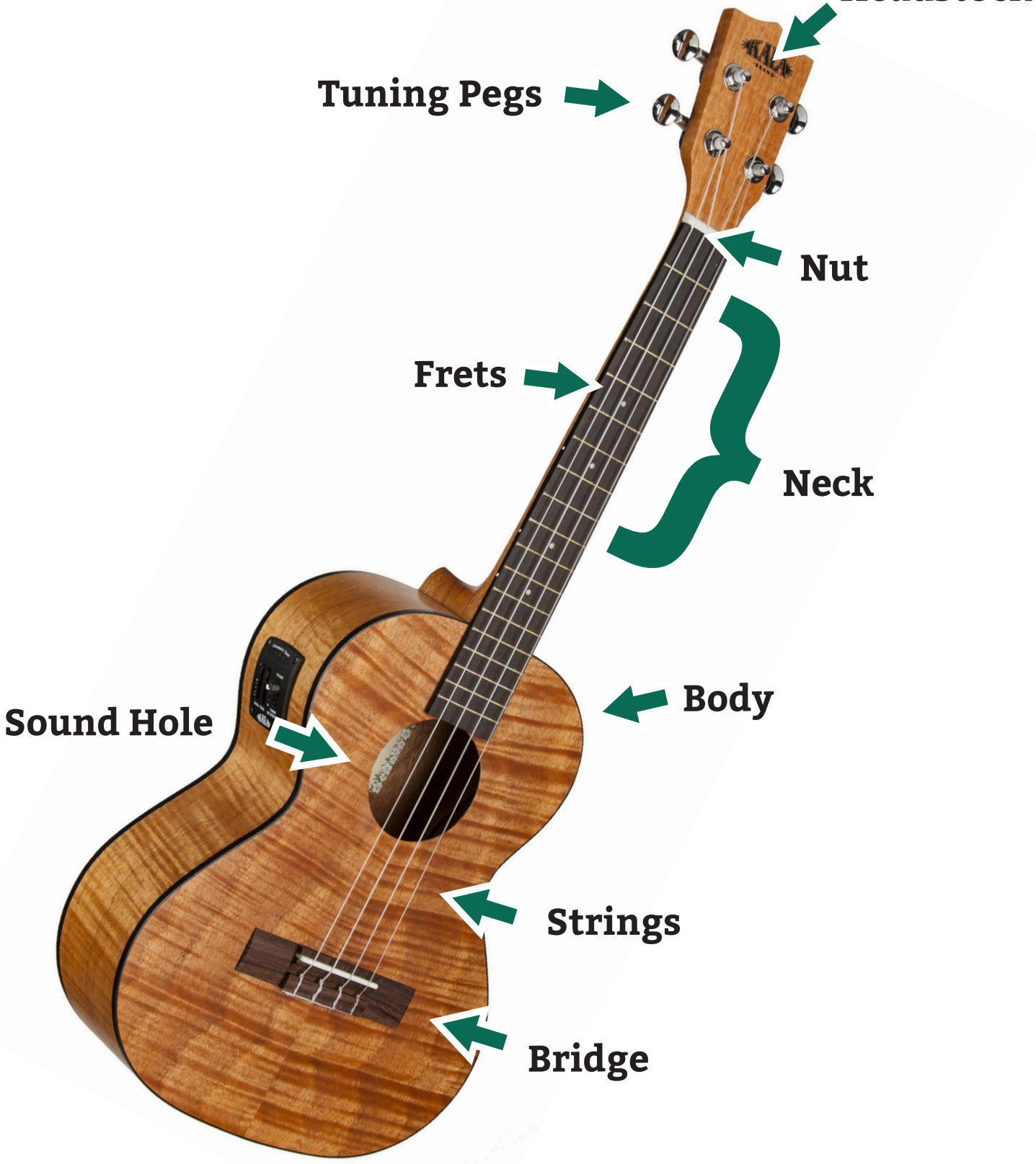
Parts of the Ukulele (Key)



Introduction to the Ukulele

Tuning Tips

Use a mnemonic device to memorize the names of the strings (G, C, E, A).
Our favorite is "**G**otta **C**atch '**E**m **A**ll"

If the string is too high, bring it under the target pitch and then bring it back up. The string will stay in tune longer this way.

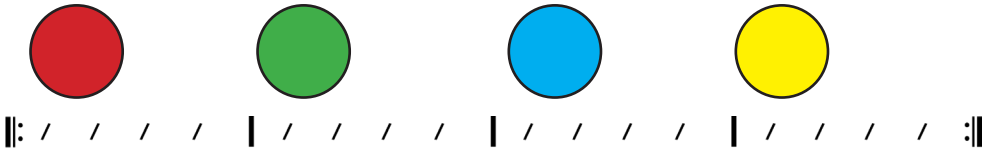
Clip on tuners (like Snarks) are great for noisey spaces, as they tune based on vibration rather than by hearing the note.

There are many free apps that you can use to tune, such as GuitarTuna

Stickers

Marking your ukulele with stickers can help students learn to play chords without the need of picture diagram. Our teachers recommend 1/4" stickers or paint pens!"

Chord name chart

C Ami F G

Colored-Coded Chart