

Here We Go

In the killer diagram to the right, you see depicted Your Basic Ukulele.

The strings are tied to the tuners and run through the slots in the nut and down and over the river and across the fretboard and the soundhole, and are tied again to the bridge.

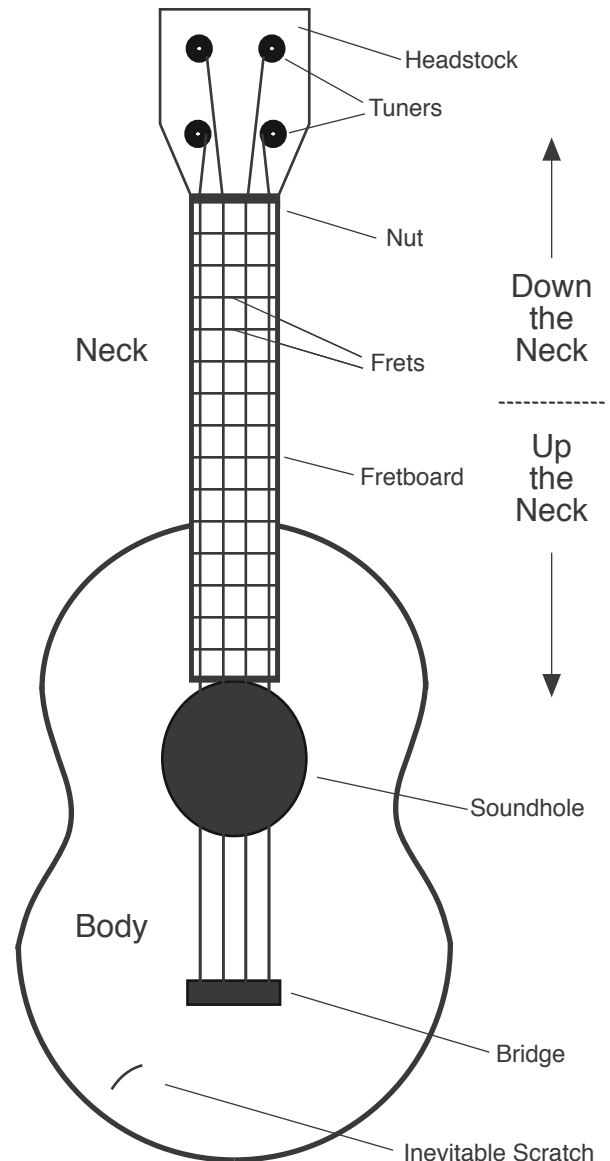
You hold the neck in your left hand and strum the strings with your right hand.

Question: Are You Left-Handed?

If you are, you **still** might want to play the uke right-handed. The practical reason for this is that, since it's a right-handed world (as you are well aware), most of the ukes you will ever run into are strung to be played right-handedly.

You can certainly restring the instrument in reverse order; if you do, you'll need to read the chord diagrams in reverse, but that isn't too great a complication, I suppose.

But really, the two hands perform such different functions that it isn't obvious where to assign the dominant hand. Up to you.



The strings are numbered from 1 to 4, from right to left on the diagram. The 1st and 2nd strings are usually made of clear nylon and the 3rd and 4th strings are made of metal wrapped around, or silverplated onto, a core of nylon filaments. The strings increase in thickness and pitch (high/lowness) from 1 to 4, so when you hold the uke as a righty, the "highest" string is the one nearest the floor.

Also, the term "up the neck" means toward the soundhole, where the notes sound higher in pitch, and so the nut of the uke is "down the neck."

Down the neck is where you'll play your first chords.