

Tuning the Bari-Uke: D-G-B-E

First, a word to players of the "Small Ukes." This different tuning for the Big Uke, the **DGBE** tuning, has consequences for you: The chords that you will be learning here will have familiar shapes and fingerings, but they will have **different names**.

So what we call the **G** chord on the Big Uke looks like a **C** chord on the Small Uke. There's a good reason for this, and I'll show you later (page 65) why this is.

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I'm going to suggest that you go out and buy an electronic tuner. No really, you should get a tuner. Let me put it a different way: A tuner you should get, really.

I'm only thinking of you, Young Uker. Tuning by ear, also known as Relative Tuning, is tricky, especially if your ear for music is still developing. It's better to employ the tuner and be **CERTAIN** that you are in tune, than it is to throw a Hail Mary pass and hope to land somewhere in the vicinity. Better to hear yourself playing in tune from the start, something I lacked the opportunity to do, coming up through the Thoracic Period.

That being said, I will run you through the process of Relative Tuning, just in case.

So. The diagram to the right gives you a bird's-eye-view. This is a **Fretboard Diagram**, where the dark line on top represents the nut, the vertical lines are the 4 strings, labeled **D - G - B - E** (4th through 1st), and the lower horizontal lines are the first 5 frets.

You'll need to get a D note from somewhere (piano or pitch pipe) and tune the 4th string to it as close as you can. Now play the 4th string at the 5th fret, which is a G note, and compare this sound to the open 3rd string, which **also** needs to be a G note. Turn the **3rd-string knob**, start closing the gap between the two pitches, if there is one, and listen for a beating sound that will start to slow down and finally disappear when the notes are "in unison."

Then use the B note at the 4th fret of the 3rd string to get the open B string in tune, and the E note at the 5th fret of the 2nd string to get the open E note in tune. You can also find various tuning sites on something we like to call "The Worldwide Wide Websternet."

