

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 through the woods, across the fretboard and the soundhole, and are tied again to the bridge.

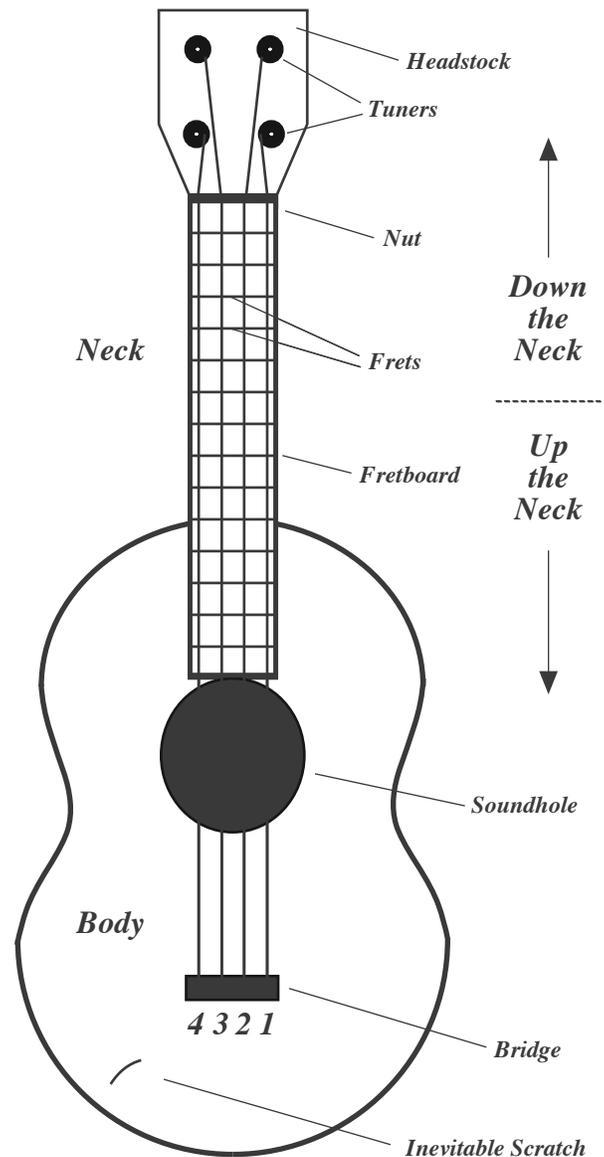
You hold the neck in your left hand and strum the strings with your right hand.

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 know so well), 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** (backward), and I'll be calling them the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th strings. Some people refer to them by their *letter names* **G - C - E - A** from the 4th to the 1st strings, and some people talk about "highest," "lowest," "2nd highest," etc., but I think that sticking with **1st - 2nd - 3rd - 4th strings** is the clearest, least ambiguous way.

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," despite how things look. Down the neck is where you'll play most of your chords.