

You yourself should probably get all the instruments roughly in tune before the start of class using an electronic tuner, and then don't worry unless someone goes horribly out of tune. I see no compelling reason for the students to be concerned right now with pages 4 and 5.

Tuning the Ukulele (My Dog Has Fleas)

Your first task will be to Tune Your Uke, and there are plenty of online ukulele tuners and mobile phone apps to help you out. Typically, you touch the screen or click on the buttons for the 4 open strings of the uke, tones are rendered, and then you tighten or loosen the strings to coincide with the pitch you hear. Of course, all of this presupposes that your "ear for music" is hitting on all cylinders and that you have regular access to the necessary devices.....

So you might want to acquire an **electronic tuner** that you can keep with your uke. These gadgets operate on the basis of colored lights and dials that help you tune visually. **Green** means *Go play!* and **Red** means *Really?* (Try Again). Of course, batteries die.....

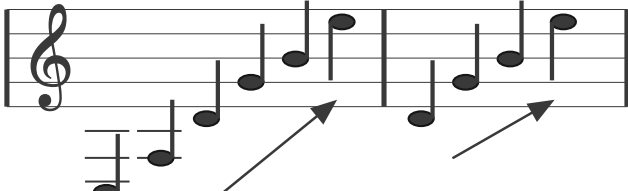
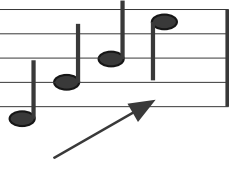
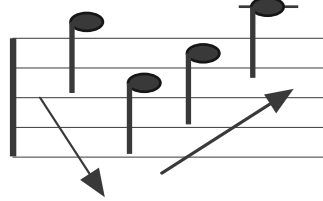
So you might want to get a **tuning fork** that is tuned to what they call **A440**, or the musical A note above Middle C that has a frequency of 440 hz. This is an internationally recognized standard. ***And it just happens to be the very same note as the 1st string on the uke***, the one with the thinnest gauge and highest pitch.

If you have a piano, go to Middle C (which really is right in the middle) and go up 5 white keys to A. You can also use a pitch pipe.

Still, it is my duty to run you through the process of Relative Tuning.
(Feel free to skip this section if you have a tuner and just want to get started.)

But first, there's an **anomaly** in the way the uke is tuned that we need to address, and that's where **My Dog Has Fleas** enters the picture. Most stringed instruments have adjacent strings tuned from the **lowest**-pitched note to the **highest**; this is **Linear Tuning**. NOT SO for the soprano uke, although the tenor uke (as we'll see) does have that option.

Now, **DON'T PANIC!** I'm **NOT** about to start forcing you to learn to Read Music. I just want you to see the **contours in pitch** for the open strings on three instruments. Notice that the tuning for the ukulele does **not** start with the lowest-pitched note:

<i>Six String Guitar</i>	<i>Baritone Ukulele</i>	<i>Ukulele</i>
E A D G B E	D G B E	G C E A
		
<i>Straight Up, No Chaser</i>		<i>First Down, then Up</i>