

Tuning the Ukulele

(From the Bellingham Ukulele Group)

Soprano C6 Tuning

This is the most common tuning for a soprano ukulele. In the past, Ukes were sometimes tuned a whole step higher, to notes of a D6 chord (A D F# B). Most modern uke books use notes tuned to a C6 chord (G C E A), as shown below.

A diagram of a ukulele neck with four strings labeled 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st from top to bottom. The notes G, C, E, and A are written above the strings. Below the neck is a musical staff with a treble clef. The notes G, C, E, and A are written on the staff, with dashed lines connecting them to the corresponding strings on the neck. The notes are labeled 'g', 'c', 'e', and 'a' below the staff.

A musical staff with a treble clef showing the C major scale. The notes are c, d, e, f, g, a, b, c. Below each note is a small fretboard diagram showing the finger placement for that note. The notes are labeled 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'a', 'b', 'c' below the staff, and 'Do', 'Re', 'Mi', 'Fa', 'So', 'La', 'Ti', 'Do' below that.

C

A fretboard diagram for the C chord. The 3rd string is fretted at the 3rd fret, indicated by a circled '3'.

F

A fretboard diagram for the F chord. The 1st string is fretted at the 1st fret (circled '1'), and the 2nd string is fretted at the 2nd fret (circled '2').

G

A fretboard diagram for the G chord. The 1st string is fretted at the 1st fret (circled '1'), the 2nd string is fretted at the 2nd fret (circled '2'), and the 3rd string is fretted at the 3rd fret (circled '3').