

Learning the Ukulele Fingerboard

Most players struggle with learning the names of the notes of the ukulele fingerboard. There doesn't seem to be a pattern and notes repeat. There is an easy way and...

...it's easier that you think!

Most players know the names of the open strings for their tuning. In "C" tuning the open strings are named **G C E A**, no sharps or flats.

If you know the open strings (G C E A) you know fret (1) by sharpening the open strings: G# C# E# A#. You also know fret (12), which are the same as the open strings, G C E A. By flattening each note you get fret (11) Gb Cb Eb Ab.

A sharp raises a note one half step or one fret. A flat lowers a note one half step or one fret. A double sharp raises a note one whole step or two frets. A double flat lowers a note one whole step or two frets.

Enharmonic Equivalents - A note can have alternate names. Any one of the seven letters in the musical alphabet (A B C D E F G) can be sharpened (#), flattened (b), double sharpened (x) or double flattened (bb). Some are more common than others.

E# is the same pitch as **F**

B# is the same pitch as **C**

Cb is the same pitch as **B**

Fb is the same pitch as **E**

Sharp, Flat and Natural Note Name Order

There are seven letters used in the musical alphabet, A B C D E F G and then starting over with A again. This A to A' is called one octave. These are the white keys of a standard piano. There are twelve notes in one octave making up the chromatic scale. The following chart shows the names of all the notes in the chromatic scale.



Natural Notes	A		B	C		D		E	F		G		A
Sharps		A#		B#	C#		D#		E#	F#		G#	
Flats		Bb	Cb		Db		Eb	Fb		Gb		Ab	
Double Sharps*			Ax		Bx	Cx		Dx		Ex	Fx		Gx
Double Flats*	Bbb	Cbb		Dbb		Ebb	Fbb		Gbb		Abb		Bbb

* Although theoretically correct for proper chord and melody notation, the double sharp and double flat names are typically avoided in favor of a natural, flat or sharp equivalent. This is an ease of reading issue vs. theoretically correct notation.

Reference or Key Frets

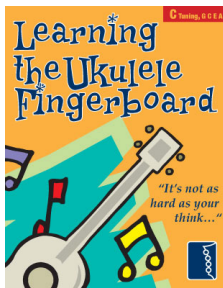
Beyond the names of the open strings **G C E A**, there are two more frets that can be memorized using the natural notes..

Here is fret (5) **C F A D**, no sharps or flats as well. So now you know twice as much as most players. Throw in fret (7) **D G B E** and you are bordering on becoming an expert ;-)

By sharpening all the notes of the open, fret (5) and fret (10), G# C# E# A#, C# F# A# D# and D# G# B# E# you have six frets memorized.

Fret (12) contains the same names as the open string. So, by flattening fret (12), (10) and (5) Gb Cb Eb Ab, Db Gb Bb Eb and Cb Fb Ab Db you now have 9 frets. Almost the whole fingerboard.

Learning the names of the notes of the fingerboard is easier than you think.



Finally learn the notes of the neck...

Beyond knowing the names of the open strings most ukulele players find it hard to learn the whole fingerboard.

If your goal is to finally learn the names of the notes on the ukulele fingerboard for your favorite tuning or all three common tunings, including the low tuning variations of each. Then "Learning the Ukulele Fingerboard" is your answer. "Learning the Ukulele Fingerboard" has a step by step approach to finally mastering the ukulele fingerboard.

Books available covering the three common ukulele tunings: "C", "D" and "G" tuning.