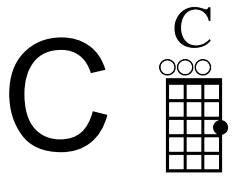
Welcome to Dragon Uke

I have learnt a few things from teaching Old Rukus the Dragon to play over the past 7 years and hopefully can share with you some effective, fun ways of teaching the basics. I had busy teachers in mind designing this, so each song and page builds on the one before. The warmups to each song are important to develop chord changing and memorize the chord sequence before singing the song.

Lets start then, by making sure your little flea is all in tune using the C tuning- G, C, E, A, also sung as - my dog has fleas. G is your top or 4th string, A is your bottom1st string. The little clipon tuners are a 'musthave' as they allow you to tune visually rather than aurally which is easier in a noisy classroom. *Fingering* is important to get right and for our first chord of C, we use the 3rd finger on the third fret of the bottom string. C is represented as below



Lets start with a *loose* wrist in a downward strum, counting out loud

1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.

Regular, steady, everyone on the beat, ukuleles held firmly at a 45 degree angle.

Now strum the 1st beat a little louder than the others as in **1**, 2, 3, 4, **1**, 2, 3, 4, **1** etc Stressing the 1st beat of every bar gives a feel for the rhythm and sequence patterns of the song and develops musicality and form. The strokes below are the strum markings

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Our first song on the Dragon Uke CD uses only the C chord

Set a slow strum up first, accenting the 1st beat

C				*C*				*C*				*C*			
/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	**1**	*2*	*3*	*4*	**1**	*2*	*3*	*4*	**1**	*2*	*3*	*4*

C 2 C *Track 1*

When the beat is solid, start singing

/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
C	to	C,		1	2	3,		I	can play	the	U	- ku	- le	–le	

/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
C	to	C,		1	2	3,		Watch me play	the	U	- ku	-le	– le:‖		