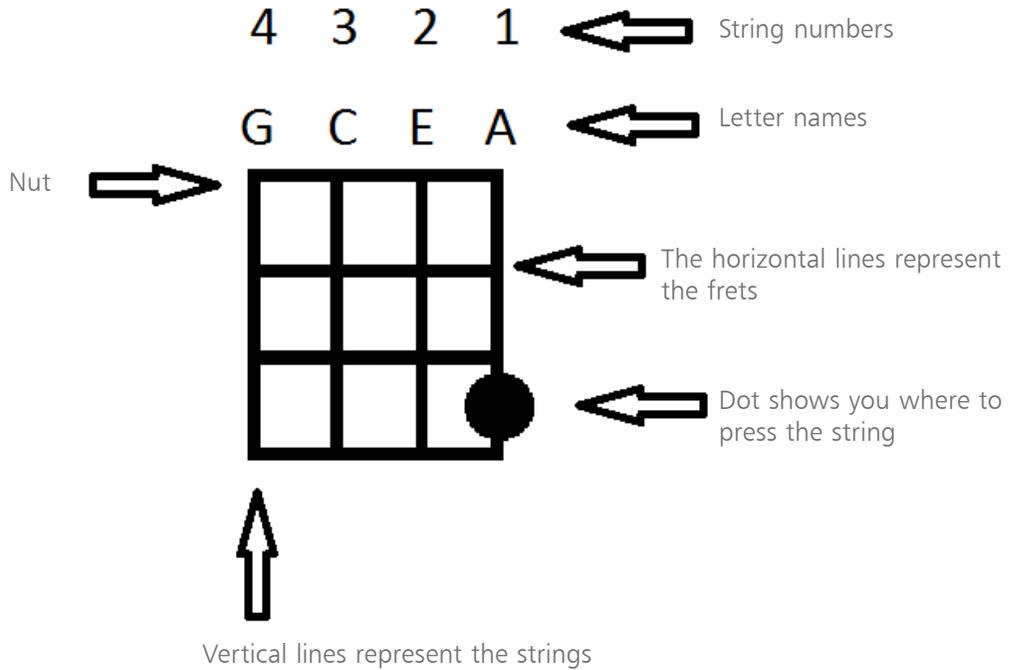


Understanding chord diagrams

One of the things about the ukulele that appeals to lots of people is the fact that you don't need to read music to start playing, and with just a few chords you can play lots of songs. However, to make things easier learning new chords, we use chord "boxes" (or "windows") to show where to press down the strings on the ukulele. It is worth having a quick look at how they work so that you can start learning some chords. Rather than a picture of the whole instrument, we just use diagrams of the strings and frets with dots to show where to put your fingers to play each chord:



Note for left-handed players:

It is perfectly possible to play the ukulele left-handed as well as right-handed (look at some pictures of Paul McCartney playing the ukulele). I'm left-handed, but learnt to play right-handed, and in fact at one point was in a band with a right-handed guitarist who played left-handed, so really the most important thing is just to find out what feels right for you.

This book follows the convention of using chord boxes that show a ukulele strung for a right-handed player. If you are playing left-handed, remember the diagrams should be treated as a mirror image.