

Must Know Tips and Habits

Beginner Ukulele



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Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAj-RZ5utk>

Why learn this tips and habits?

- This tips are going to do two things for you.
 - o They will help you as a beginner to learn faster
 - o They are going to plant the seed for things that you will benefit you greatly further down the road.

1. Get in Tune

- a. Easiest way is to buy a tuner. You can also do this with tuner apps on your phone.
- b. A great easy ear exercise is to play a chord you are familiar with, strum through it, and see if you think it sounds in tune.
- c. If you think it is in tune, check with your tuner. If you think it is out of tune see if you can hear which particular string is out of tune.

2. Know your roots

- a. The root note is the note that gives a chord
 - i. C major - C root
 - ii. A minor - A root
 - iii. G7 - G root
 - iv. Bm7b9 - B
- b. Whatever the letter that gives a chord its name is the root note.
- c. Why would you do this?
 - i. It is a very easy way to start to learn the fretboard
 - ii. It will also set you up to learn how to move chords around the fretboard as well as set you up for the future of learning scales and how to move them.

3. Correct Chord Fingerings

- a. Play the D chord with your middle finger on the G string, ring finger on the C string and pinky finger on the E string. There is a reason that you want to use the correct fingers. It will help you learn how to move the chords, how to connect them to

the scale and how to change them correctly. Bad chord fingerings are bad habits.

4. Developing Rhythm

- a. Clap to a metronome
- b. Play to a metronome
- c. Clap to a drum beat
- d. Play to a drum beat
- e. Count 1 2 3 4 to the beat
- f. Count to the music you listen to in the car
- g. Dance, dance, dance.
- h. Learn to count your strum patterns.

5. Break the Pattern

- a. You are not locked into strum patterns, the songs you listen to do not play the same strum pattern throughout the entire song, in fact most won't have a strum pattern for the entire song.
- b. If the strum pattern is D DU UDU add an U at the end over the last chord to play DUDU UDU
- c. Just adding an one extra up can change the whole feel of the song.

6. Intention

- a. You will never get better playing the what you already know.
- b. If you only play what you know you won't improve
- c. To get better write down what you want to learn. After you do that play it, barre chords, scale, whatever, focus on it.
- d. Don't spread yourself to thin, I see a lot of people do a different lesson every day without ever learning a single song. Take your time. Slow is smooth, smooth is fast.

7. Music Theory - Do Beginners Need It... Not Really

- a. Do you need beginners to learn the ukulele? Not to get started but it helps to master it for sure.
- b. As a beginner you just really need to know that there are three elements and what they are.
 - i. Rhythm - This is the beat
 - ii. Melody - The part people sing or non-harmonic instruments play
 - iii. Harmony - The chords that support the melody and blend to the rhythm

8. Play the with Recording

- a. Turn it up loud, seriously it makes it much easier.

9. Get Your Ear Started

- a. You are not tone deaf, play the lowest note on your ukulele the highest, can you tell which is lower in pitch? Yes, you can, it is just underdeveloped.
- b. Simple steps to get your ear started
 - i. Count the beats while you listen to the song
 - ii. How many instruments can you hear? How many voices? Count them and see if you can name them. Two guitars, drums, a bass and two voices for example.
 - iii. Start with these two ideas and keep it simple.

