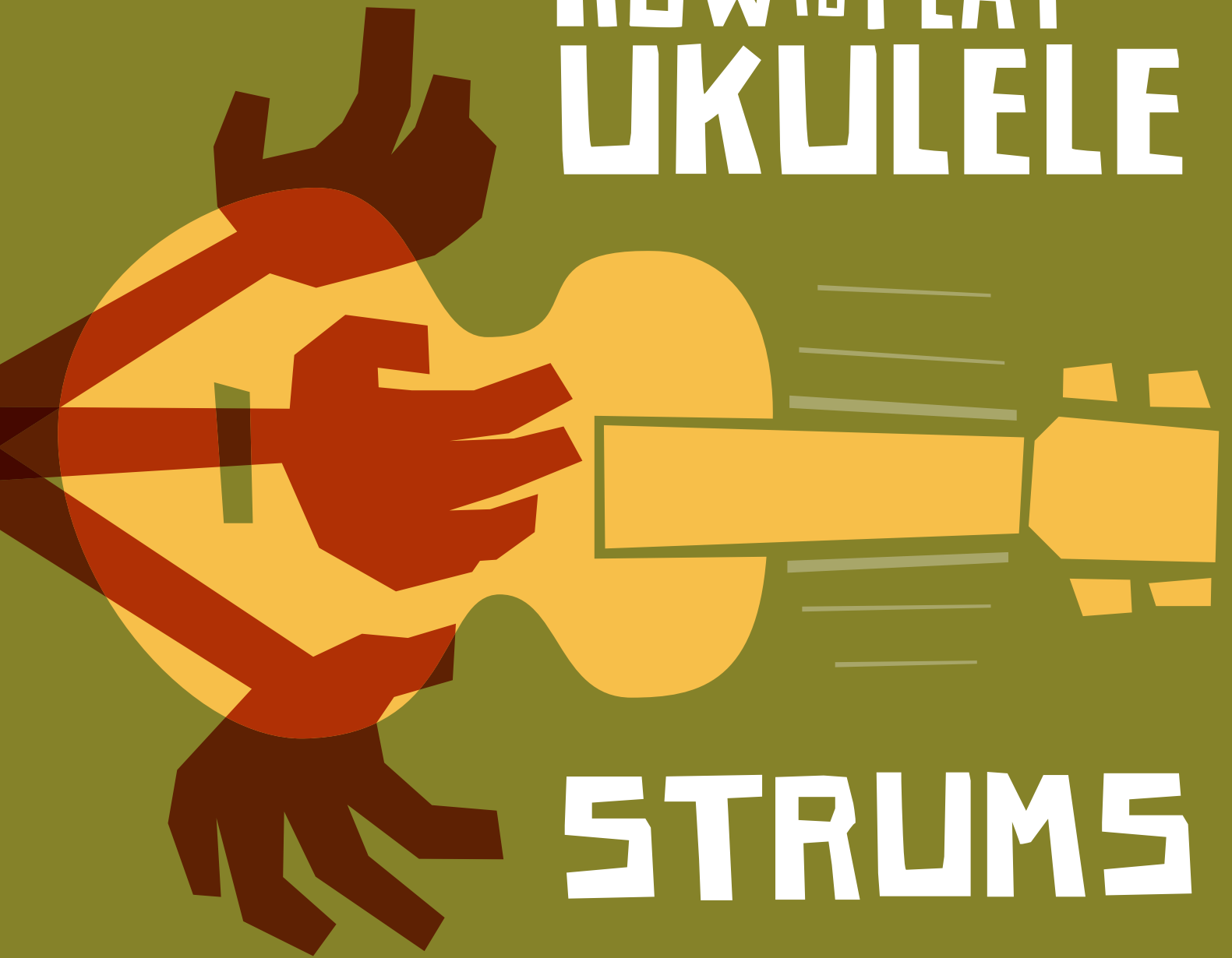


HOW ^{to} PLAY UKULELE



STRUMS

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Introduction

It goes without saying that the best way to strum a ukulele is to train an animal to do it for you. A good ukulele player will have at least four animals with them while playing in order to produce a range of strums.

- **Cat strumming**: is rapid and forceful.
- **Dog strumming**: is slower and more soulful.
- **Duck strumming**: has no echo so perfect for producing a punchy, clean tone.
- **Chimp strumming**: sounds 98.5% like human strumming.

Unfortunately, there are occasions when you don't have access to a collection of pets and will be reduced to strumming the ukulele with your own hands like a caveman. This book is here to guide you through those occasions.

What This Book Is For

I get asked one question more than any other: "Where did you get that simply marvellous hat?" But the second most commonly asked question is: "What's the strumming pattern for this?"

Rather than write out a strumming pattern for every song I decided to write a book that would help you find a strumming pattern for any song you want to play.

It's going to help you get to the point where you can work out a strumming pattern for a song in two ways:

1. Introduce you to strumming patterns and techniques:

There are 49 different strums in this book along with techniques you'll use all the time (how to hold it and how to strum) as well as those you'll save for special occasions (fan strokes and split strokes). The patterns and techniques cover a wide range of genres and moods so you'll never be stuck for ideas.

Introduction (cont.)

2. Help you understand the structure of songs:

The quickest way to come up with a strumming pattern for a song is to grasp where the chords are changing and how the strums fit with that. This book will teach you how to count out a song, how to fit up and down strums into that count and how long your strumming pattern should be.

The first few chapters of the book are divided between those two. So there's a practical chapter followed by a theory chapter followed by a practical chapter.

Links

You can find a video playlist of all the strums at:

<http://strum.in/patterns>

And a video playlist of all the techniques at

<http://strum.in/techniques>

If you have any questions, comments, corrections or death threats you can send them to:

ukulelehunt@gmail.com

1: Strumming Basics

As tempting as it is to start bashing away on your ukulele, a good strumming technique is going to make you sound better right from the first song. So this part walks through the basics of strumming technique.

By the end of this section you'll be able to:

- Get your hand in the right position for strumming.
- Hold your ukulele.
- Strum with the perfect motion.

1.1: Strumming Hand

Getting your strumming hand position right can be a little tricky. You have to make sure it's strong enough to strike the strings firmly and clearly, but if you tense your hand it will quickly become tired. In this section we'll be looking at how to combine a loose, comfortable hand position with a firm strum.

Put your strumming hand (usually your right hand) directly in front of your chest and make it into a light fist. Keep your hand fairly relaxed; your fingers shouldn't be pressing into your palm. Now point your index finger at your left boob (or right boob if you're left handed).

Steady your index by placing your thumb on top of it in the middle third of your finger. Add support by resting your strumming finger between your thumb and your middle finger.



Many people prefer to have their fingers open rather than in a fist. Like this:



Both methods provide good support for your strumming finger, so use whichever works best for you.

The golden rule is: keep your hand relaxed. It's easy to start tensing up when you're working hard on strumming which can lead to soreness or even, in the long term, injury. So check every so often to see if your hand is still loose.