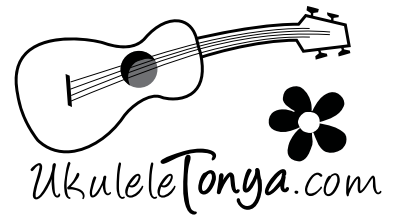


Beginner Lesson

Getting Started With Fingerpicking



Curt Sheller offers these tips to get your fingers used to “running” in different patterns up and down the strings of your ukulele. Curt has written a number of ukulele instructional books—many having to do with teaching theory. Find out more about them at: <http://CurtSheller.com/ukuleleBooks.shtml>

Do each repetition 500 times—really! The key is a lot of repetitions to develop the motor skills. Curt uses the following fingering notation vs. the classical (Spanish) fingering notation.

- t = thumb
- i = index finger
- m = middle finger
- r = ring finger

Each finger is “assigned” to a string (remember, string 4 is the closest to your nose and string 1 is closest to the floor).

- String 4 is played by the **t** = thumb
- String 3 is played by the **i** - index finger
- String 2 is played by the **m** = middle finger
- String 1 is played by the **r** = ring finger

Try this exercise first—Code: **t i m r**

Then it is just variation and combinations (see below) and introducing actual chords and rhythmic variations. For example, do one series with a I-IV-V⁷-I progression, four (or eight) notes of each chord.

Putting all the finger possibilities together, there are a total of 24 possible combinations. See below:

Start with thumb	Start with index finger	Start with middle finger	Start with ring finger
t-i-m-r	i-t-m-r	m-i-t-r	r-i-t-m
t-i-r-m	i-t-r-m	m-i-r-t	r-i-m-t
t-m-i-r	i-m-t-r	m-t-i-r	r-m-i-t
t-m-r-i	i-m-r-t	m-t-r-i	r-m-t-i
t-r-m-i	i-r-m-t	m-r-i-t	r-t-i-m
t-r-i-m	i-r-t-m	m-r-t-i	r-t-m-i