

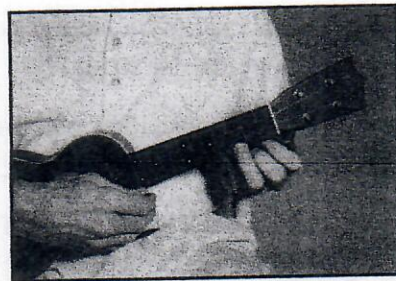
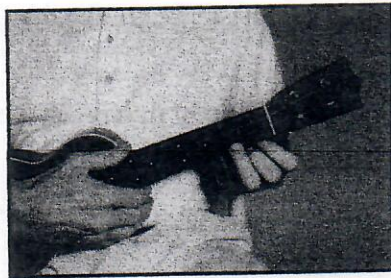
Strumming

If you have had the pleasure of listening to some of the great ukulele players, then you are aware of the awesome array of strumming techniques that can be used on a uke. You, too, should be able to create some pleasant sounds! Strumming can be done with either the thumb, the fingers, or a felt pick.

1. Thumb strumming

So far you have been using a very basic strum, passing the fleshy portion of your thumb slowly across the four strings. We call this the Simple Thumb Strum.

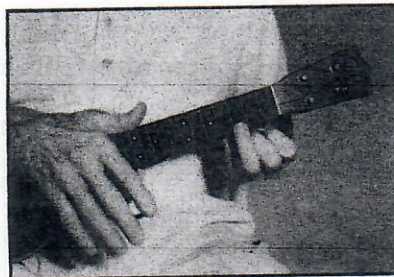
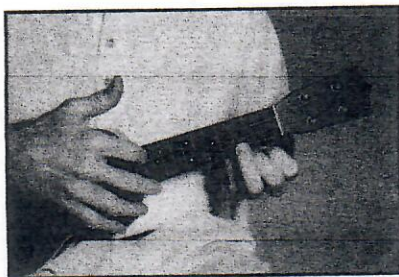
Simple Thumb Strum



Although this is the most basic strum, you will find it useful no matter how proficient you may become on the ukulele. You can enhance it by running your thumbs across all four strings *without pausing for each string*. Try to vary the speed and rhythm.

Next, we advance a step further with the Full Thumb Strum.

Full Thumb Strum



Just like getting the most out of a golf shot, the action will be all in the wrist. Your arm doesn't have to go up and down as you strum. You simply move your thumb across the strings by rotating your wrist. After you are comfortable with the **down-strokes**, reverse the procedure for the **up-stroke**. Go lightly on the **up-strokes** since you will be striking the strings with your thumb-nail. For practice, switch back and forth between the Simple Thumb Strum and the Full Thumb Strum.