

Tips for Beginners...

1. Practice for 5 to 30 minutes a day...

Use the practice as a BREAK... Pick up the uke while you have a few minutes before you leave the house or while watching TV.

2. Toughen finger tips with your thumb nail...

The more you practice the tougher your fingers become but don't overdo in the beginning.

3. Keep the uke out of the closet...

Keep it on the chair or table that way you can grab it and practice that new or difficult chord a few times and then go back to what else you were doing.

4. Warm up...

Don't pick it up and go right to that tough chord. Run through the Triads you know to limber up the fingers then hit that tough one. Pick a simple song or make one up to warm up. Not only is it easier but it builds your confidence

5. Practice chords vs songs...

It is more fun to learn to play songs but in the beginning it is more important to learn the Triads going from one chord to the next while keeping on the beat. Playing songs will come later. Going through our Song Book playing songs is fun but unless you stop and practice each new chord or strum it won't help you reach that next level.

6. KISS...

The old rule of Keep It Simple Stupid applies to learning the ukulele. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star is not much of a challenge but it is a great warm up, it builds your confidence and it will work as a bridge to learn new strums, turn-arounds or chord progressions.

So, pick an easy song that you know well and before every practice use that as a warm up. Then try different strums and listen to the chords to make the ukulele sound as if it is singing the song not "chopping".