READING UKULELE TABLATURE

1 WHY TABLATURE HELPS

- EASY ENTRY POINT FOR BEGINNERS
- SHOWS EXACT STRING + FRET TO PLAY
- GREAT FOR MELODIES, RIFFS, AND SOLOS
- HELPS YOU LEARN SONGS FAST
- BUILDS FRETBOARD AWARENESS



2 KEY INSIGHTS

- TAB SHOWS WHERE TO PUT YOUR FINGERS, NOT RHYTHM BY ITSELF
- READ LEFT TO RIGHT
- EACH LINE = A STRING
- EACH NUMBER = A FRET
- 0 MEANS PLAY THE STRING OPEN
- SMALL PATTERNS REPEAT ACROSS MANY SONGS

SEE · READ · FRET · PLAY · LISTEN

TAB TELLS YOU WHERE. YOUR EARS TELL YOU HOW IT SHOULD SOUND.

3 THE 4 TAB LINES

A
E
C
G

TOP LINE = A STRING
BOTTOM LINE = G STRING



STANDARD TUNING:
A -----
E -----
C -----
G -----

4 HOW TO READ A TAB NUMBER

0 = OPEN STRING
1 = FIRST FRET
3 = THIRD FRET
10 = TENTH FRET

ON A STRING
A |—0—1—3—10—

ON C STRING
C |—0—2—3—5—

PLAY THE NUMBER ON THE MATCHING STRING.

5 THE READING FLOW

1. FIND THE STRING
2. READ THE NUMBER — 1 2 3
3. PLACE THE FINGER
4. PICK OR STRUM THE NOTE
5. MOVE TO THE NEXT NOTE
6. PLAY SLOWLY, THEN SMOOTHLY

6 COMMON TAB SYMBOLS

H = HAMMER-ON
P = PULL-OFF
/ = SLIDE UP
\ = SLIDE DOWN
× = MUTED / PERCUSSIVE HIT
( ) = GHOST NOTE / OPTIONAL NOTE
| = BAR LINE
:||: = REPEAT SIGNS / SECTION BRACKETS

7 EXAMPLE TAB PHRASES

A SIMPLE ASCENDING MELODY (ON A STRING)

A |— 0 — 2 — 3 — 5 —|

B STRING CHANGE EXAMPLE (C AND E STRINGS)

E |— 0 — 2 ——— 0 — 2 — 3 —|
C |——— 0 — 2 — 3 ——— 3 — 5 —|

C SIMPLE CHORD-MELODY STYLE (STACKED NOTES)

A |— 3 ——— 3 ——— 5 ——— 5 —|
E |— 0 ——— 0 ——— 2 ——— 2 —|
C |— 0 ——— 0 ——— 0 ——— 0 —|
G |— 2 ——— 2 ——— 2 ——— 0 —|

★ STACKED NUMBERS = PLAY TOGETHER. ☆

D REPEATING RIFF EXAMPLE (2-BAR LOOP)

A |— 0 — 3 — 0 — 3 —|— 0 — 3 — 0 — 3 —||
E |— 1 — 1 — 1 — 1 —|— 1 — 1 — 1 — 1 —||
C |— 0 — 0 — 0 — 0 —|— 0 — 0 — 0 — 0 —||
G |— 2 — 2 — 2 — 2 —|— 2 — 2 — 2 — 2 —||

PLAY THE 2 BARS AGAIN.

8 CORE BUILDING BLOCKS

- STRING NAMES: G C E A
- FRET NUMBERS
- LEFT-HAND FINGER PLACEMENT
- CLEAN SINGLE-NOTE PICKING
- 1-2-3-4 COUNTING SLOWLY
- LISTENING FOR ACCURACY
- SMALL PRACTICE LOOPS
- CHANGING STRINGS CLEANLY

9 PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS THAT WORK

- CHUNKING: ONE SMALL BAR AT A TIME
- LOOPING: REPEAT THE HARD SPOT
- SLOW TO SMOOTH TO FAST
- SAY THE STRING + FRET OUT LOUD — A 3!
- PLAY + PAUSE + CHECK
- RECORD YOURSELF — IREC
- 80/20: MASTER THE MOST COMMON PATTERNS FIRST — 20% / 80%

10 COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- CONFUSING STRING ORDER
- PLAYING TOO FAST TOO SOON
- IGNORING FINGERING
- NOT LISTENING TO THE RHYTHM
- LETTING NOTES BUZZ
- SKIPPING STRING CHANGES PRACTICE
- TREATING TAB LIKE MAGIC INSTEAD OF MUSIC

CHAOS → CLARITY

11 HOW TO MEASURE PROGRESS

- STREAK CALENDAR — M T W T F S S — KEEP THE STREAK GOING!
- SONGS LEARNED — 12 — AND COUNTING!
- CLEAN NOTE SCORE — ★★★★☆ — 80% — AIM FOR 90%+
- TEMPO / BPM GROWTH — 120 / 80 / 40 — W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 — SLOW TODAY, FAST TOMORROW!
- CONFIDENCE SCORE 1-10 — 7 — KEEP BUILDING!
- WEEKLY RECORDING CHECK — LISTEN. LEARN. IMPROVE.

12 ACTIONABLE TAKEAWAYS

- ☑ START WITH OPEN STRINGS + SMALL MELODIES
- ☑ LEARN STRING ORDER: G C E A
- ☑ PRACTICE 5 MINUTES DAILY
- ☑ PLAY SLOW ENOUGH TO STAY CLEAN
- ☑ USE TAB WITH AUDIO WHEN POSSIBLE
- ☑ GRADUALLY LEARN SYMBOLS, NOT ALL AT ONCE
- ☑ TURN SHORT TAB LINES INTO REAL MUSIC

READ THE LINES. PLAY THE NUMBERS.
LISTEN CLOSELY. TAB TURNS LITTLE PATTERNS INTO REAL MUSIC.