

Ear Training for Ukulele Players

High Low & Fill in the Gap



Tenthumbspro.com
For educational purposes only

Key: C

Video Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RN_NcAn5Ug

Today we are doing two new ear training exercises.

- In addition to doing the exercises I want to show you how to do these with a friend
- By replicating these exercises and using them as a warm up or taking a couple minutes after a jam your ear will greatly improve which will have a massive impact all literally all areas of your playing.
- We have already done some ear training with the game "major or minor" that you can check out here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG4lWbg0jFQ>
- Once you have learned to do that with one chord try it with multiple chords <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG4lWbg0jFQ>

High Low

- This is a simple exercise where you listen to a note and identify if the following note is higher or lower.
- Why is this beneficial? When you are trying to decipher a melody the first thing you should ask yourself is "is the following note rising in pitch or going down in pitch"
- By asking yourself these general questions what you are doing is narrowing down the notes that are available, making it much easier to work through them and make an educated guess.
- BONUS
 - o Try playing high low or the same. Throwing in a pitch that is the same can make it much trickier.
 - o Try this game with multiple notes as well. Play 1 note and establish it as the root of the game, then play 2, 3, 4 or however many notes you want to after and the listener has to guess if the following pitch went up or down. This means you are not comparing to notes but rather identifying what the following note is doing which is closer to natural melody.

Fill in the Blank

- For this exercise we started with two notes that we are given, the last note of the phrase and the first note of the phrase.

Musical notation for exercise 9-10. The top staff shows a treble clef with a quarter note on C4 (fret 0) and a half note on E4 (fret 4). The bottom staff shows guitar strings A and B with fret numbers 0, x, x, x, and 4. Asterisks are placed above the notes on the top staff.

- To make this easier we are told that the phrase will be limited to 3 notes
 - o C - The open C string which we see at the start
 - o D - 2nd fret of the C string not pictured
 - o E- 4th fret of the C string pictured at the end
- Then one person plays a phrase while the other person tries to identify those 3 notes that have xs on them
- This exercise can be modified in many ways to be made more challenging, but it is important to leave at least the starting note for finishing not so the one training.
 - o Don't tell the notes that are available
 - o Mix up the rhythm
 - o Play a longer phrase
 - o Eliminate the starting note

Fill in the Blank Using a Full Scale

Musical notation for exercise 17-18. The top staff shows a treble clef with a quarter note on C4 (fret 0), a quarter note on D4 (fret 2), a quarter note on E4 (fret 0), a quarter note on F4 (fret 1), a quarter note on G4 (fret 3), a quarter note on A4 (fret 0), a quarter note on B4 (fret 2), and a quarter note on C5 (fret 3). The bottom staff shows guitar strings A and B with fret numbers 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 0, 2, 3. A yellow highlight is under the notes from fret 3 to the end.

- Here we have the C major scale, run through it so your fingers and ears can hear and feel it.

Musical notation for exercise 19-20. The top staff shows a treble clef with a quarter note on D4 (fret 2), a quarter note on E4 (fret 0), a quarter note on F4 (fret 1), a quarter note on G4 (fret 3), a quarter note on A4 (fret 0), a quarter note on B4 (fret 2), and a quarter note on C5 (fret 3). The bottom staff shows guitar strings A and B with fret numbers 0, x, x, x, 3, x, x, x. Asterisks are placed above the notes on the top staff.

- Here the exercise is also fill in the blank but to make it easier
 - o The first measure will only use the
 - D note (2nd fret of the C string)
 - E note (open E string)
 - F note (first fret of the E string)
 - o The second measure will limit itself to
 - A note (open A string)

- B note (2nd fret of the A string)
- C note (3rd fret of the A string)
- Limiting each measure to those 3 notes will make the exercise much easier and to make it even easier every note will be used once and no notes will be repeated.
- Once you have mastered this make it trickier with your friends by
 - Eliminating the note on the 2nd measure
 - Don't limit each measure to three notes but rather let the entire scale be available
 - Allow for note omissions as well as repeating notes.

There you have it folks! Some more ear training, if you have someone you play with put this into your warm ups and you will be amazed at what a massive difference it will make to your ear in turn improving literally every single facet of your playing.

