

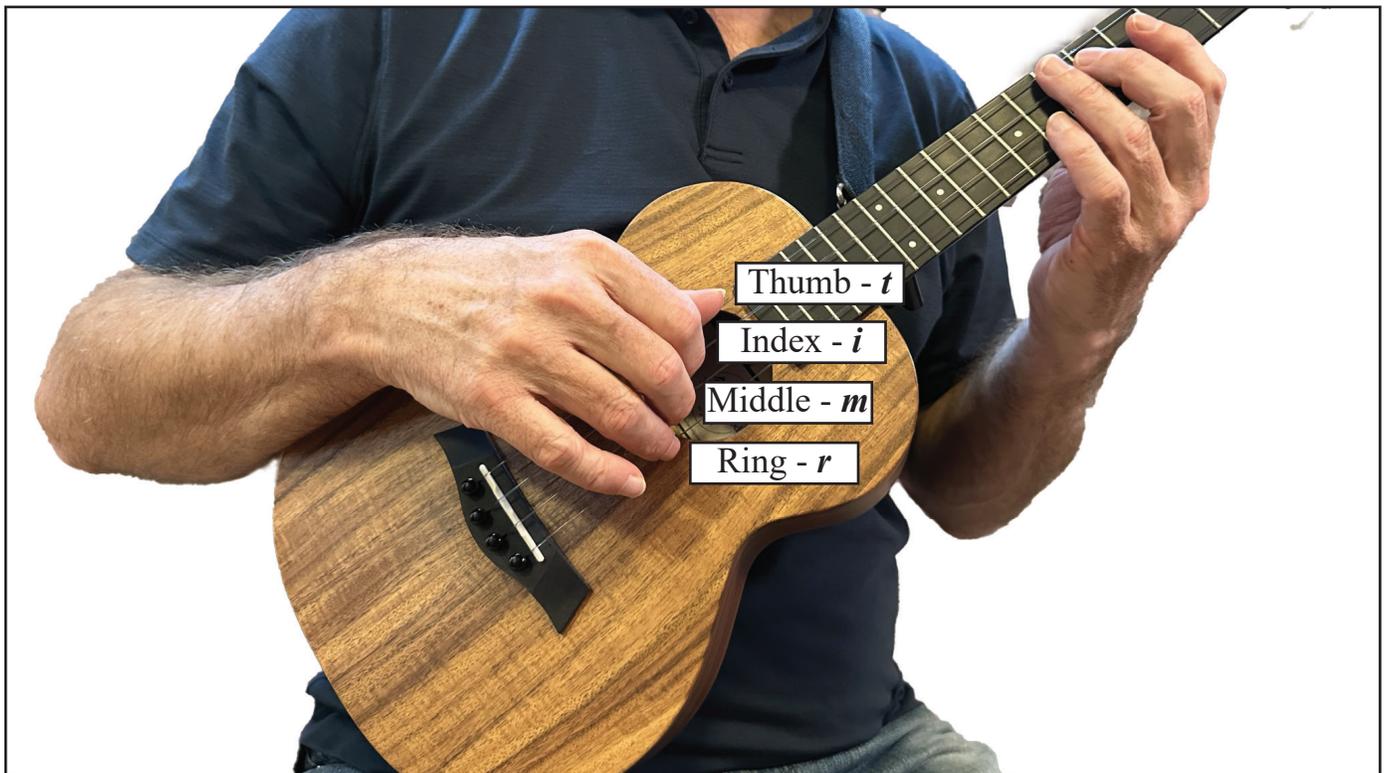
# Ukulele Fingerpicking Primer

Before we begin our exercises and songs, let's learn a warmup you can do anywhere, even without your uke! Working through all the finger combinations is a powerful way to train your hand-to-brain coordination and fast-track your technique.

## How to do the Warmup

You can do the warmup with or without your ukulele. If you do it without, pretend you are playing the ukulele and put your hand approximately where it would typically be.

- Hold your hand in front of your stomach with the palm facing you.
- Elevate the wrist and keep your hand still.
- Move your thumb down, flexing the thumb joint.
- Move the fingers slightly towards your palm.



Now you have your hand in the correct position, let's work through the finger combinations.

## Two-Finger Combinations

Let's begin by alternating two fingers or thumb at a time. Repeat each group keeping your hand in the correct position.

<i>t - i</i>	<i>t - m</i>	<i>t - r</i>	<i>i - m</i>	<i>i - r</i>	<i>m - r</i>	<i>r - m</i>	<i>r - i</i>	<i>r - t</i>	<i>m - i</i>	<i>m - t</i>	<i>i - t</i>
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## Four-Finger Combinations

Here's where we can work every four-finger combination using the thumb, index, middle and ring fingers. Again, we can do the math to find 24 possibilities:  $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$ . These warmups are a little more intense and harder to remember as you move all four fingers.

Again, we will use the open strings placing the thumb on the 4th string, index on the 3rd, middle on the 2nd and ring finger on the 1st string.

Thank goodness you don't have to memorize this; repeat many times in each group as you work through the combinations below:

<i>t - i - m - r</i>	<i>i - t - m - r</i>	<i>m - t - i - r</i>	<i>r - t - i - m</i>
<i>t - i - r - m</i>	<i>i - t - r - m</i>	<i>m - t - r - i</i>	<i>r - t - m - i</i>
<i>t - m - i - r</i>	<i>i - m - t - r</i>	<i>m - i - t - r</i>	<i>r - i - t - m</i>
<i>t - m - r - i</i>	<i>i - m - r - t</i>	<i>m - i - r - t</i>	<i>r - i - m - t</i>
<i>t - r - i - m</i>	<i>i - r - t - m</i>	<i>m - r - t - i</i>	<i>r - m - t - i</i>
<i>t - r - m - i</i>	<i>i - r - m - t</i>	<i>m - r - i - t</i>	<i>r - m - i - t</i>

I realize this is an extensive and technical warmup exercise, but if you work through each combination, you will have moved your fingers in almost every way possible. Eventually, you will recognize many of these combinations as patterns when playing fingerstyle ukulele.