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Hal Leonard Ukulele Method Book 1



Synopsis

The Hal Leonard Ukulele Method is designed for anyone just learning to play ukulele. This comprehensive and easy-to-use beginner's guide by acclaimed performer and uke master Lil' Rev includes many fun songs of different styles to learn and play.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (87 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I played through the Hal Leonard Ukulele Method Book 1 (with the audio CD) by Little Rev this morning. The fact that I played through the entire book in one sitting might be a clue to you that this is not a book for intermediate to advanced players (I nevertheless feel rewarded by picking up a strumming technique that was new to me). That said, let's look at this from the perspective of a new player, the target for this book. PROS: *Covers the basic basics of how to hold the uke, right-hand positioning, tuning (with a track on the CD devoted to this), the staff, treble clef, note names, time signatures, measures, barlines, rhythmic values, etc. - all in 3 pages. *Gives the basics of plucking melodies, introducing two or three notes at a time and giving tunes like Ode to Joy or Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star and Oh! Susanna to practice on. Very gradual - perfect for a first time player. *Covers basic strums: brushing with the thumb, down and upstrokes with the forefinger. *Introduces the common chord families of C, G, F, d minor and e minor. *Like most of these kind of books, a one-page chord chart is included at the back. CONS: *Unfortunately, when you get to playing with chords on page 23, you are pretty much thrown to the wolves. Like many experienced players who go back and write an ukulele method, Little Rev forgets just how hard a G7 chord is to

a first time player and makes it one of the first three chords he introduces. *The common chord families (C, G and F) are not really the easiest chord sets to start learning with; this method gives them to you and then expects you to make the transitions between those chords fairly quickly. Sink or swim, baby! *The author gives the more difficult version of the e minor chord. While I can think of a couple of reasons why this chord may be preferable in the long run (doubles the fifth and offers a pivot to B7), it is one tough chord and is not level appropriate for an introductory method. GOOD, but NEEDS IMPROVEMENT: *Covers a couple of more advanced strums that will give your playing more rhythmic interest. It is hard to describe techniques like these on paper, but between the description and listening to the CD you may be able to figure them out. *The strum that was new to me was one he called the 'Finger and Thumb Strum' - a type of finger/thumb combination strum involving the sixteenth note before the third beat being played by a downstroke of the forefinger, followed up by a downstroke of the thumb on the third beat. I figured this out, but as someone who reads music notation, I would have preferred a more precise writing out of the rhythm involved. Good strum though. *The CD is adequate, but many of the tracks launch into the song without counting off first, which is annoying. Authors of these kinds of products should remember to ALWAYS count off. Overall, I think this is an excellent introduction to melodic picking, but a less than stellar introduction to chord playing, with some good strum instruction if you can figure it out. New ukers will find the learning curve start out gradual and then jump into 'alpine mode' when it gets into chords. If you're willing to be really patient and put in some hours on the chords to get up to speed on the songs in this book, great. I, however, think a more gradual approach to chord playing will be more rewarding to the learner in the short and long term - allowing players to build muscle memory and finger callouses over time. M Ryan Taylor UkulelePlay.com

I wanted a more structured approach to learning ukulele that just using Youtube and ukulele forums. However, this book was not the way to do it. The songs it introduces are incredibly simple, so simple that I finished the entire book in an afternoon. If you need a bare bones introduction to music reading, this book could help you out. Otherwise, stick to online lessons like Ukulele Underground or pick up a Mel Bay book.

's customer review set-up runs into problems in the case of books which come with or without CDs or DVDs. Similar problems are found in in the case of abridged audio books, which are often quite different from the printed original, with their own good and bad points. It would be nice if product descriptions and reviews for obviously distinct original and "spin-off" products were not transferred

automatically to the others with the same name. Reviews could still be accessed by clicking to open 'a "all editions" page for these products. The product description for this instruction book indicates that it comes with a CD. This is not always true. The product which comes with the CD is this one: Hal Leonard Ukulele Method Book 1. Another version is available without the CD: Hal Leonard Ukulele Method Book 1. You may be reading this review on the page for either product. Make sure you get the one you want. The book without CD could be useful where there is an experienced player to teach the learner, but most people would probably prefer the product with the CD.

I wish I'd found this book earlier, it is so helpful. I feel I am making real progress at last. It is so well set out and clearly explains everything and you don't need to be able to read music to understand it. I am so happy I have found this. The examples are not difficult to follow and at last I feel I'm getting somewhere. I highly recommend this for beginners (like me).

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