

# Plectrum Tuning For Baritone Ukelele

## Getting Started

In addition to the standard ukelele tuning, plectrum tuning for ukelele is a wonderful variant as you'll soon discover. To help get you started on your journey with plectrum tuning for ukelele, I've tried to answer some of the more common questions and also present you with a beginning road map for learning your chords. Most of my arrangements are built around chord structures and shapes. The more familiar you become with the chords in this tuning, the more comfortable you will become. Please make sure to check out the accompanying short video on my website (Plectrum Tuning) at [www.sandyweltmanmusic.com](http://www.sandyweltmanmusic.com)

To further assist you, I also teach via Skype. If you are interested in setting up some lessons, please contact me at: [harpmac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harpmac@sbcglobal.net)

## What is "Plectrum" tuning for the baritone ukelele?

The plectrum tuning I use for ukelele originally derived from the 4-string "Plectrum Banjo" hence the name "Plectrum Tuning". For more on the history of this tuning, please visit my website at [www.sandyweltmanmusic.com](http://www.sandyweltmanmusic.com)

The plectrum tuning from lowest to highest is C-G-B-D. I tune the 1st and 4th strings down a whole step from the original baritone tuning of D-G-B-E. This is not a re-entrant tuning, but rather a linear tuning.

## What are the advantages/disadvantages of using this tuning on the ukelele?

In this tuning, the ukelele will resonate in a lower, warmer frequency. This is purely subjective, not better or worse. The harmonic (chord shapes and voicings) and melodic possibilities will obviously be different. The plectrum tuning does have a lot of fun chord/melody possibilities. One of the other things that I really enjoy about this tuning is the availability of some lower movable bass notes and voicings on the 4th string as you'll hear in many of my arrangements..

The obvious disadvantages are that if you already play in standard tuning you'll have to learn new chord shapes etc.. Although they are different, none of them are terribly hard. The standard baritone tuning of D-G-B-E is certainly a wonderful tuning with limitless possibilities as evidenced by all of the masterful arrangements that have been performed and composed on it. The plectrum tuning is just another very good option that works quite well. Neither is better or worse, just different.

## Will this tuning work for a tenor ukelele?

The short answer is a resounding YES, and it sounds pretty good as well. Again, a very subjective thing. It all works proportionally by tuning the 1st and 4th strings down a whole step. If you are using the standard tenor "C" tuning which is G-C-E-A, just tune the 4th string down to an F and tune the 1st string down to a G. You'll end up with F-C-E-G which is the plectrum tuning up a fourth degree from the plectrum tuning on the baritone.