



FINGERPICKING CHEAT CODES

1. Playing Position and Ukulele Angle

- Maintain good seated body posture
- Place palm of hand over sound hole
- Make sure sleeves are not touching strings
- Angle ukulele up to 45 degrees, slightly facing towards you. Try a strap if you want more support.
- Keep fretting arm free swinging

2. Hand Position + Bracing

- Form a flat plane from forearm, wrist to top of hand
- Brace pinky below directly the sound hole
- Make a rounded U shape with fingerpicking hand

3. Finger Names + Technique

- **PIMA: P = thumb, I = Index, M = Middle, A = ring**
- Use of finger pad and nail, keep a longer nail for more pointed crisp tone.
- Thumb should be nearly parallel to the strings

- Use small movements pulling fingers into the palm with your middle knuckle
- Start with open string picking, watching your picking hand

4. Patterns + Time Signatures

- P-I-P-A (1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 4 &) Time sig: 4/4
- P-A-M-I (1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 4 &) Time sig: 4/4
- P-I-P-M-P-I "Ohta San" (1, 2, 3) Time sig: 6/8

5. Tone Clarity + Expression

- Focus on tone and note clarity (fretting hand will play factor)
- *Adding dynamics*: changing volume of picking pattern as you play
- *Accenting*: adding emphasis to specific plucks

Bonus Tip

- Your fretting hand finger pressure makes a difference.
- Make sure to keep breathing as you fingerpick. This seems like a no brainer, but it will help to stay relaxed as you approach fingerpicking.

Practice Exercises (See Tab)