

# Syncopation For the Ukulele



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Key: Any  
Tempo: Any  
Chords needed: Any  
Video Tutorial:

Syncopation: Emphasis on the off beat, or the &. Very common, but not exclusive to, reggae and ska music. It can be used in both rhythm, riffing and lead playing.

Rhythm style one - try and mute the strings for a quick muted down up strum on the beat and e and after emphasis the &. To mute both down and up the easiest way is to lay your fingers across the strings, instead of the chucking method.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a  
x x D x x D x x D x x D

Take it slow, if you would like to you can also add a mute on the a like this.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a  
x x D x x x D x x x D x x x D x

Rhythm style two - This is a great rhythm, I give a very slight mute on the 1, 2, 3 and 4. Because there is less action going on this will work better with more musicians. Remember, when you add other instruments you have less responsibility.

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a  
x D x D x D x D

Rhythm style three - This rhythm is a series of quick upstrums and sounds best in fast styles like punk rock with syncopation, or ska music.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &  
U U U U

Riff - Slightly modified from the video, the 1 & and have been replaced with a single pluck of the G note on the 3<sup>rd</sup> fret of the E string.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & |  
G  
A|---2-2---2---0-|-----|---2-2---2---0-|-----|  
E|3---3-3-----|--3---0---3---3-|3---3-3-----|--3---0---3---3-|  
C|---2-2-----|-----|---2-2-----|-----|  
G|---0-0-----|-----|---0-0-----|-----|

Practice all these techniques, you will be able to throw them in your own song writing in no time, and next time syncopation comes up in a tenthumbs lesson you will nail it!

