

Ukulele Companion — User Manual

Ukulele Companion

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Ukulele Companion — User Manual

Welcome to **Ukulele Companion**, a free, offline, ad-free Android app for learning ukulele. This manual walks you through every core feature so you can get the most out of the app.

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1. Getting Started — Installation, first launch, and navigating the app
2. Explorer — Interactive fretboard, chord detection, and scale overlay
3. Chords — Browsing the chord library and tracking what you've learned
4. Patterns — Strumming and fingerpicking pattern reference
5. Progressions — Common chord progressions in any key
6. Favorites — Saving and organizing your favorite voicings
7. Songs — Creating chord sheets with auto-scroll
8. Settings — Tuning, themes, sound, notifications, and more

About the App

Ukulele Companion is designed with a simple philosophy:

- **Free forever** — no ads, no in-app purchases
- **Fully offline** — no internet required, no analytics, no tracking
- **No login** — just open and play
- **Educational** — built for beginners and learners

Whether you are picking up a ukulele for the first time or brushing up on music theory, this app has tools to help you along the way.

Getting Started

Installing the App

Ukulele Companion is available as an Android APK. Install it on any device running Android 8.0 (Oreo) or later. No account or login is required — just install and open.

First Launch

When you open the app for the first time, you land on the **Explorer** tab. This is the interactive fretboard where you can tap fret positions and the app will detect chords for you.

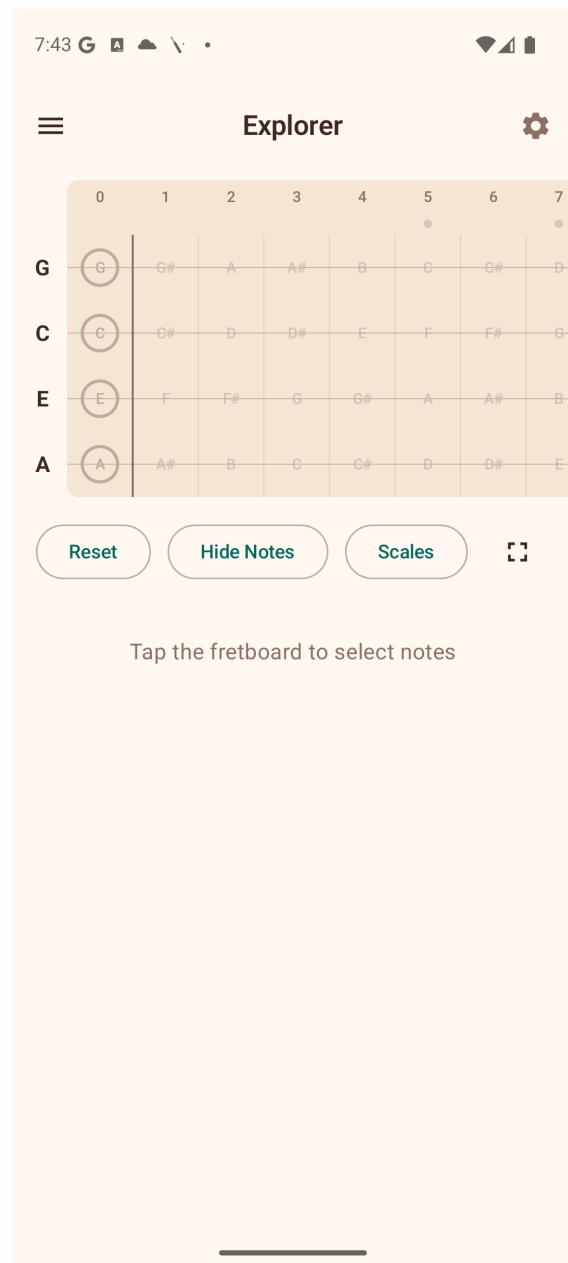


Figure 1: Explorer screen on first launch

Navigating the App

The app uses a **navigation drawer** to move between sections. Tap the hamburger menu icon (three horizontal lines) in the top-left corner to open the drawer.

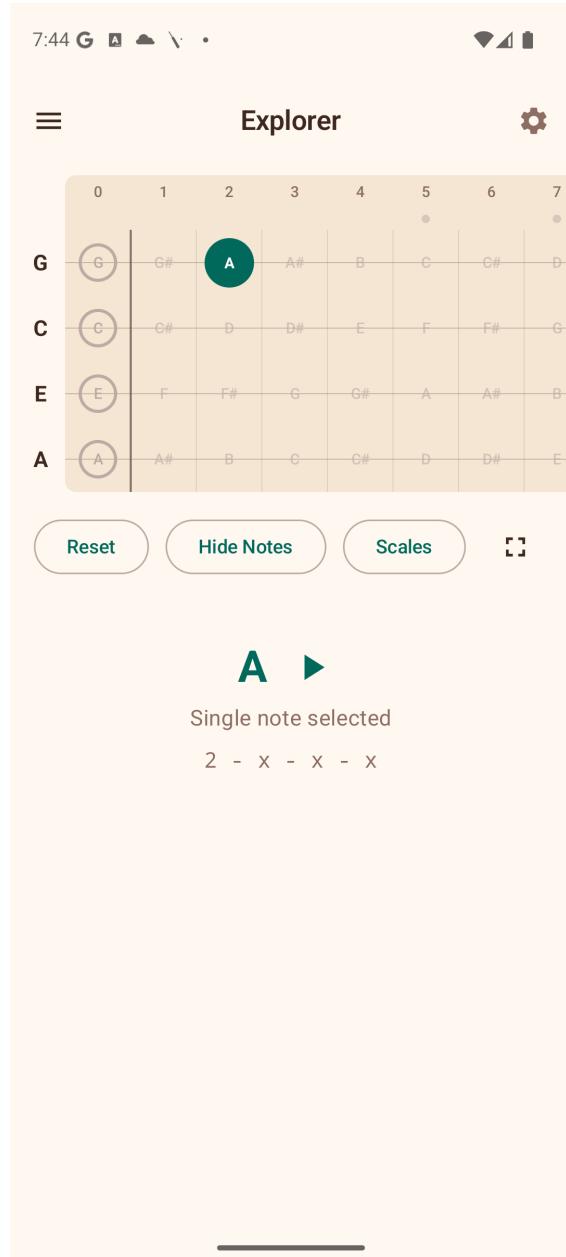


Figure 2: Navigation drawer

The drawer contains the following sections:

Section	What It Does
Explorer	Interactive fretboard with chord detection
Chords	Browse the chord library by root and type

Section	What It Does
Patterns	Strumming and fingerpicking pattern reference
Progressions	Common chord progressions in any key
Favorites	Your saved chord voicings
Songs	Personal songbook with chord sheets
Capo Guide	Educational capo reference
Circle of Fifths	Visual key relationship chart
Theory Quiz	Test your music theory knowledge
Interval Trainer	Ear training for intervals
Chord Substitutions	Guide to chord substitutions
Learn Theory	Structured theory lessons
Melody Notepad	Simple melody composition tool

Opening Settings

Tap the **gear icon** in the top-right corner of the app bar to open the Settings panel. Here you can adjust tuning, theme, sound, and more. See the Settings page for details.

Tips

- The app works entirely offline — no internet connection is needed.
- Your favorites, songs, and settings are saved locally on your device.
- Long-press on chord voicings in the library to save them as favorites.

Explorer

The Explorer is the main screen of Ukulele Companion. It shows an interactive fretboard where you can tap fret positions and the app instantly detects and displays the chord you are playing.

Tapping Notes

Tap any fret cell on the fretboard to place or remove a finger. The fretboard displays frets 0 through 12 across four strings (G, C, E, A in standard tuning).

As you tap frets, the app analyzes the selected notes and shows the detected chord name above the fretboard. The app recognizes 9 chord types: Major, Minor, Dom7, Min7, Maj7, Diminished, Augmented, Sus2, and Sus4.

Transpose

Below the detected chord, you will see + and - buttons to transpose the chord up or down by semitones. The app also shows the equivalent capo position for reference.

Scale Overlay

The scale overlay highlights notes from a selected scale directly on the fretboard. This is helpful for understanding which notes fit within a key while you explore chords.

To use the scale overlay:

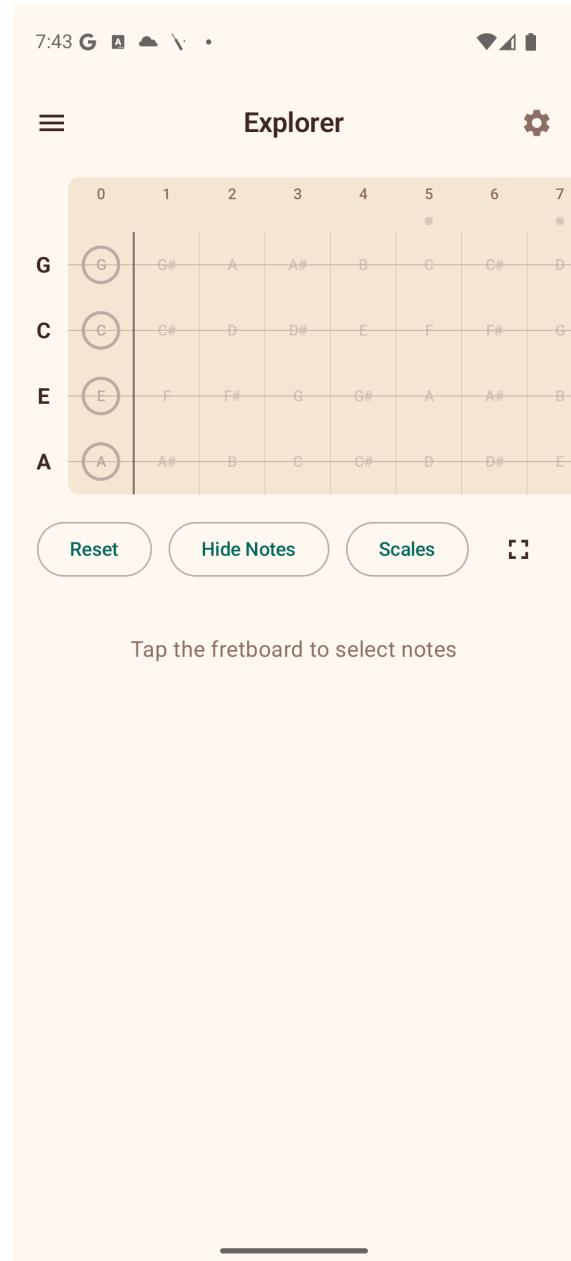


Figure 3: Explorer fretboard

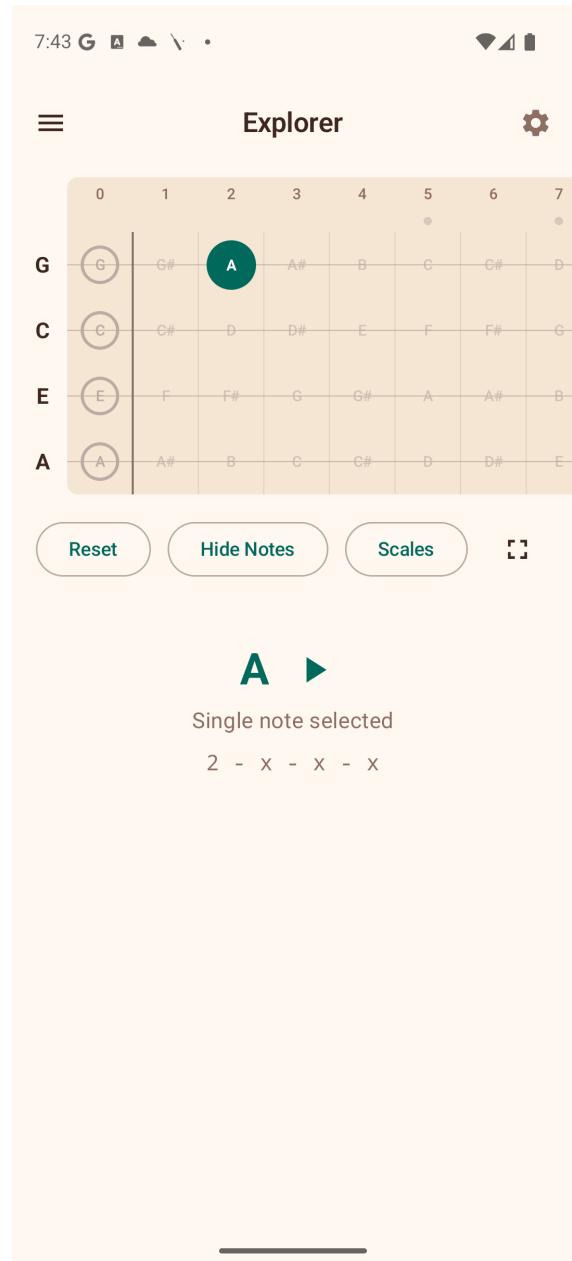


Figure 4: Chord detected on fretboard

1. Scroll down below the fretboard to find the **Scale** section.
2. Toggle the scale overlay on.
3. Select a **root note** (e.g., C, G, D).
4. Select a **scale type** (Major, Minor, Pentatonic Major, Pentatonic Minor, Blues, Dorian, or Mixolydian).

Scale notes are highlighted on the fretboard, with the root note shown in a distinct color.

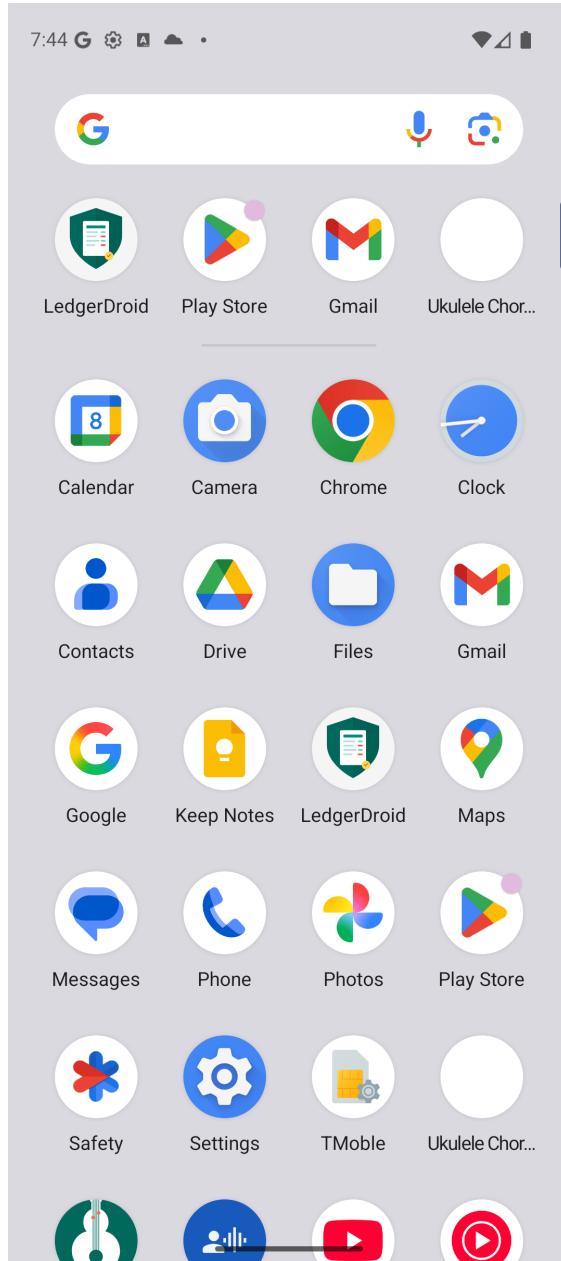


Figure 5: Scale overlay active

Scale Positions

When a scale is active, a row of **Position** chips appears. These let you focus on a specific fret range:

- **All** — shows all scale notes across the entire fretboard (default).
- **Position 1, 2, 3...** — limits the highlighted notes to a specific fret range, making it easier to practice one position at a time.

Tap a position chip to filter, and tap **All** to go back to showing every note.

Key-Aware Note Spelling

When a scale overlay is active, the fretboard automatically uses the correct note spelling for that key. For example, in the key of F major, the note between A and B is shown as “Bb” (flat), while in the key of G major, the note between F and G is shown as “F♯” (sharp). This follows standard music theory conventions.

Chords in This Scale

Below the position chips, the app lists the **chords that naturally occur** in the selected scale. Tap any chord chip to jump to its voicings in the Chord Library.

Sound Playback

If sound is enabled in Settings, the app plays back the notes when you tap the fretboard. You can also tap the **Play** button to hear the current chord strummed. See Settings for sound options.

Full-Screen Mode

Tap the **full-screen icon** in the top-right corner to expand the fretboard to fill the entire screen, hiding the top bar and other controls.

Chords

The Chords section is a comprehensive chord library. Browse voicings for any chord by selecting a root note and chord type.

Browsing Chords

1. **Select a root note** — tap one of the 12 note buttons at the top (C, C♯, D, etc.). If you prefer flat names, you can switch this in Settings.
2. **Select a category** — choose from Triad, Seventh, Suspended, or Extended.
3. **Select a chord type** — for example, Major, Minor, Dom7, Min7, etc.

The app displays all available voicings as mini fretboard diagrams in a grid.

Voicing Diagrams

Each diagram shows:

- The fret positions for each string.
- Open strings (played but not fretted) and muted strings.
- A small play button to hear the voicing.

Tap a voicing to load it onto the Explorer fretboard, where you can see it in full size.

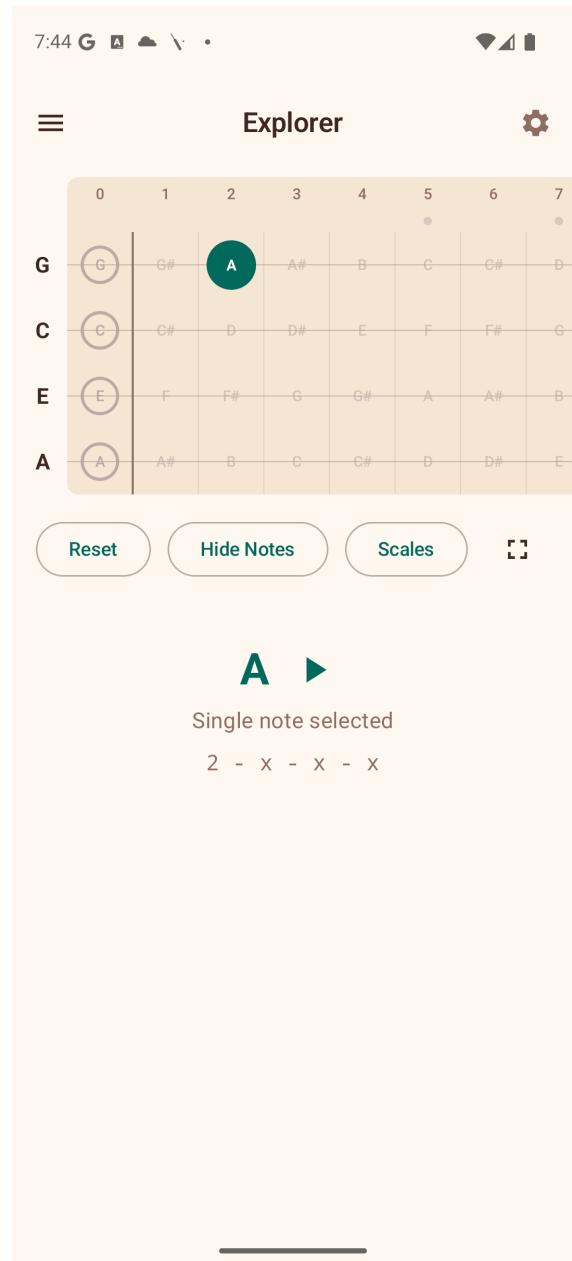


Figure 6: Chord library

Saving Favorites

Long-press any voicing diagram to save it to your Favorites. A heart icon appears on voicings that are already saved. Tap the heart to remove it from favorites.

See Favorites for more about managing your saved voicings.

Marking Chords as Learned

Each chord type has a **checkmark icon** in the top-left corner of the voicing grid. Use this to track your learning progress:

- Tap the **empty checkmark** to mark a chord as learned. It turns into a filled checkmark with your theme's primary color.
- Tap it again to unmark it.

This is a personal tracking feature — it does not affect the app's behavior, but it helps you keep track of which chords you have practiced and feel comfortable with.

Playing Voicings

Tap the **play button** on any voicing to hear it played back. The app strums the notes with the sound settings you have configured (volume, strum delay, note duration).

You can also play all voicings in sequence by using the play controls at the top of the voicing grid.

Patterns

The Patterns section provides a reference guide for strumming and fingerpicking patterns. Use the toggle chips at the top to switch between the two views.

Strumming Patterns

The **Strumming** tab shows a list of preset strumming patterns, from beginner to intermediate. Each pattern card includes:

- **Name** — e.g., “Island Strum”, “Calypso”, “Ska Upstroke”.
- **Difficulty badge** — Beginner or Intermediate.
- **Visual beat arrows** — down arrows, up arrows, and miss/pause indicators showing the rhythmic pattern.
- **Notation** — a text representation of the pattern (e.g., “D DU UDU”).
- **Description** — a brief explanation of the pattern and when to use it.
- **Suggested tempo** — a BPM range for practicing the pattern.

Creating Custom Patterns

Tap the **+** button (floating action button) in the bottom-right corner to create your own strumming pattern:

1. Enter a **pattern name**.
2. Tap each **beat slot** to cycle through directions: Down, Up, Miss, and Pause.

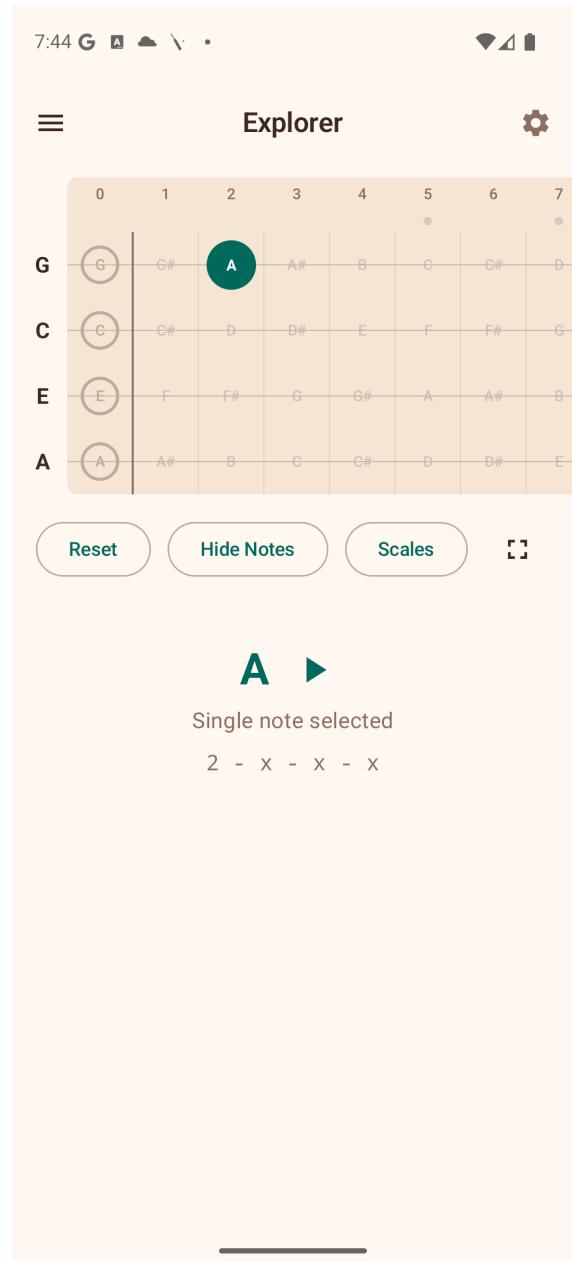


Figure 7: Strumming patterns

3. Tap the **accent row** below to toggle emphasis on individual beats (accented beats are shown louder/bolder).
4. Tap **Save** to add it to your custom patterns.

Your custom patterns appear in a “**My Patterns**” section at the top of the list. Each custom pattern has a **delete button** to remove it.

Fingerpicking Patterns

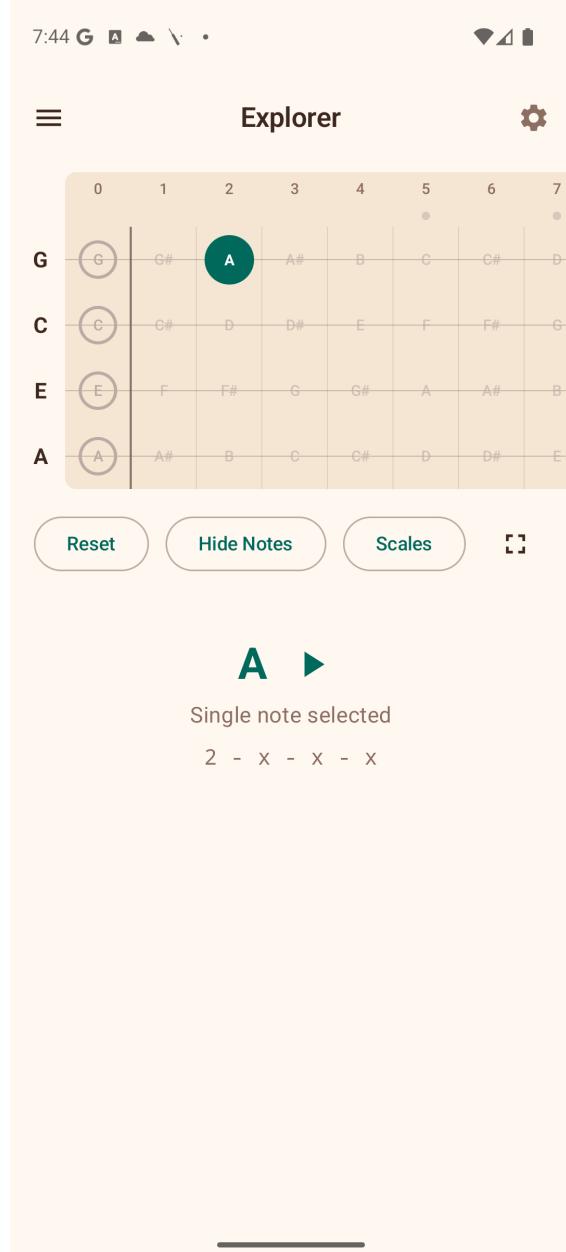


Figure 8: Fingerpicking patterns

The **Fingerpicking** tab shows reference patterns for fingerstyle playing. Each card includes:

- **Name** — e.g., the pattern name and style.
- **Difficulty badge** — similar to strumming patterns.
- **Finger step display** — color-coded indicators showing which finger (Thumb, Index, Middle, Ring) plucks which string at each step.
- **Notation** — a text representation of the fingerpicking sequence.
- **Description** — guidance on technique and musical context.
- **Suggested tempo** — a BPM range for practice.

The finger indicators use distinct colors for each finger, making it easy to follow the picking pattern visually. Emphasized steps are shown in a bolder weight.

Tips

- Start with the beginner patterns and work your way up.
- Use the suggested BPM ranges as a guide — start slower and increase tempo as you get comfortable.
- Create custom strumming patterns to save patterns you learn from songs or teachers.

Progressions

The Progressions section shows common chord progressions for any key, in both major and minor scales.

Browsing Progressions

1. **Select a key** — choose a root note at the top.
2. **Choose major or minor** — toggle between the two scale types.

The app displays a list of common progressions for that key: Pop (I-V-vi-IV), Classic Rock (I-IV-V), 50s (I-vi-IV-V), Folk, Jazz ii-V-I, Reggae, and more.

Progression Cards

Each progression card shows:

- **Name** — the progression name (e.g., “Pop”, “Jazz ii-V-I”).
- **Roman numeral degrees** — the scale degrees used (e.g., I - V - vi - IV).
- **Chord chips** — the actual chord names in your selected key. Tap any chip to jump to its voicings in the Chord Library.

Actions on Each Card

- **Play** — hear the progression played back with the current sound settings.
- **Share** — export the progression as text to share with others.
- **Voice Leading** — view smooth voice-leading suggestions between the chords.
- **Duplicate** — create a copy of the progression. The copy appears as a new custom progression with “(Copy)” appended to the name. This is useful when you want to modify a progression without changing the original.

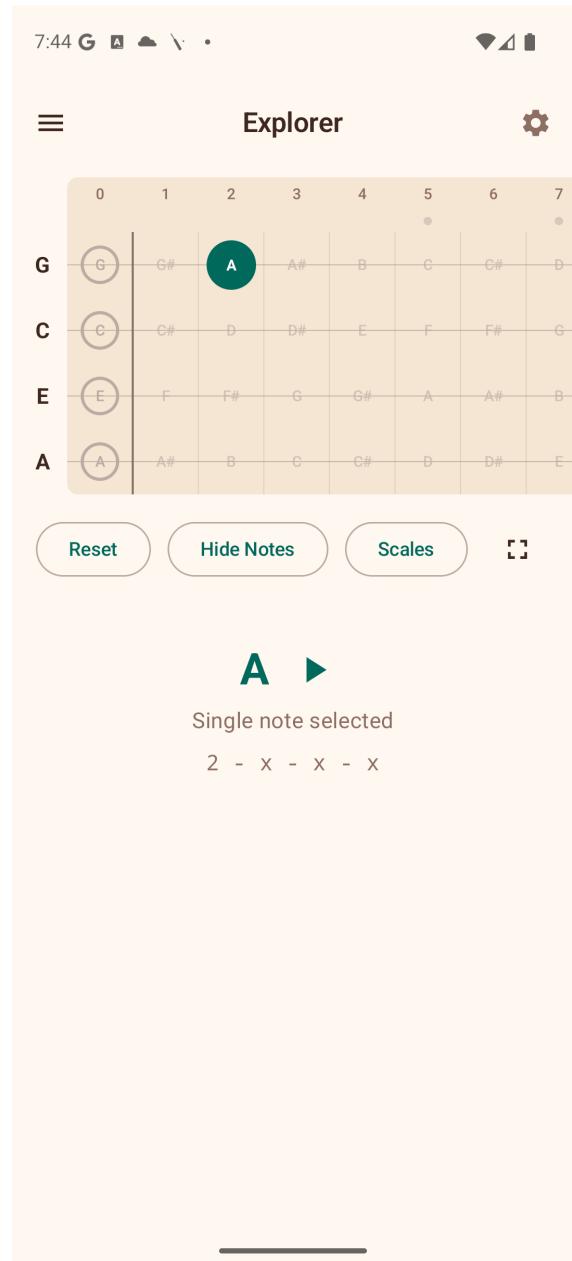


Figure 9: Chord progressions

Custom Progressions

You can create your own custom progressions by tapping the **+** **button**. Custom progressions can be edited and deleted. The **Duplicate** button on any custom progression creates a new copy you can modify independently.

Tips

- Use progressions as a starting point for songwriting or practice sessions.
- Tap chord chips to quickly look up voicings you are not familiar with.
- Try the same progression in different keys to understand how transposition works.

Favorites

The Favorites section stores your saved chord voicings for quick access. You can organize them into folders for better management.

Saving a Favorite

To save a voicing to your favorites:

1. Go to the **Chords** section.
2. Find a voicing you like.
3. **Long-press** the voicing diagram — a heart icon confirms it has been saved.

You can also tap the **heart icon** on any voicing in the library to toggle it as a favorite.

Viewing Favorites

Open the **Favorites** section from the navigation drawer. Your saved voicings appear in a grid, showing the chord name and a mini fretboard diagram for each.

- **Tap** a voicing to load it onto the Explorer fretboard.
- Tap the **heart icon** on a voicing to remove it from favorites.

Organizing with Folders

Favorites can be organized into folders using the **filter chips** at the top of the screen:

- **All** — shows every saved voicing (default).
- **Unfiled** — shows voicings not assigned to any folder.
- **Your folders** — each folder you create appears as a chip with the count of voicings inside.

Creating a Folder

1. Tap the **+** **chip** at the end of the filter row.
2. Enter a folder name in the dialog.
3. Tap **Create**.

The new folder appears as a chip in the filter row.

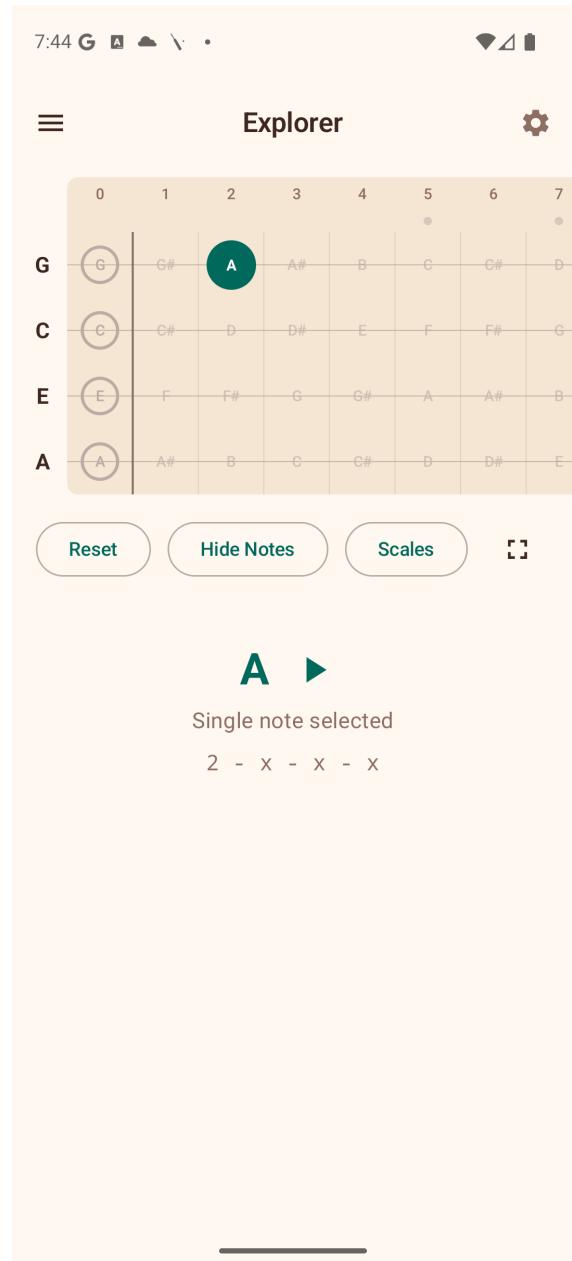


Figure 10: Favorites

Moving Voicings to a Folder

1. Tap the **folder icon** (small + icon) on any voicing.
2. A dialog appears listing all your folders plus “Unfiled”.
3. Tap a folder name to move the voicing there.

Deleting a Folder

Tap the **delete icon** on a folder chip. The folder is removed, and all voicings inside it are moved back to “Unfiled”. The voicings themselves are not deleted.

Tips

- Use folders to group voicings by song, practice session, or chord type.
- The “All” chip always shows your complete collection regardless of folder assignments.
- Removing a voicing from favorites (via the heart icon) deletes it entirely, while moving it to “Unfiled” keeps it saved.

Songs

The Songs section is your personal songbook. Create chord sheets with lyrics and inline chord markers, then use them as a reference while playing.

Creating a Chord Sheet

1. Tap the **+** button to create a new song.
2. Enter a **title** for the song.
3. In the content area, type your lyrics with chord markers using square bracket notation:
`Some[C]where over the [Em]rainbow
[F]Way up [C]high`
4. Tap **Save** to add the song to your collection.

Viewing a Chord Sheet

Tap any song in the list to open it. The viewer renders your text with chords displayed inline above the lyrics in a highlighted style.

Tap any chord name in the viewer to jump directly to its voicings in the Chord Library. This makes it easy to look up unfamiliar chords while practicing a song.

Auto-Scroll

The song viewer includes an **auto-scroll** feature so you can keep both hands on your ukulele while reading lyrics:

1. Tap the **play button** (floating action button) in the bottom-right corner to start auto-scrolling.
2. While scrolling, **speed controls** appear as chips: **1x**, **2x**, and **3x**. Tap a chip to change the scroll speed.

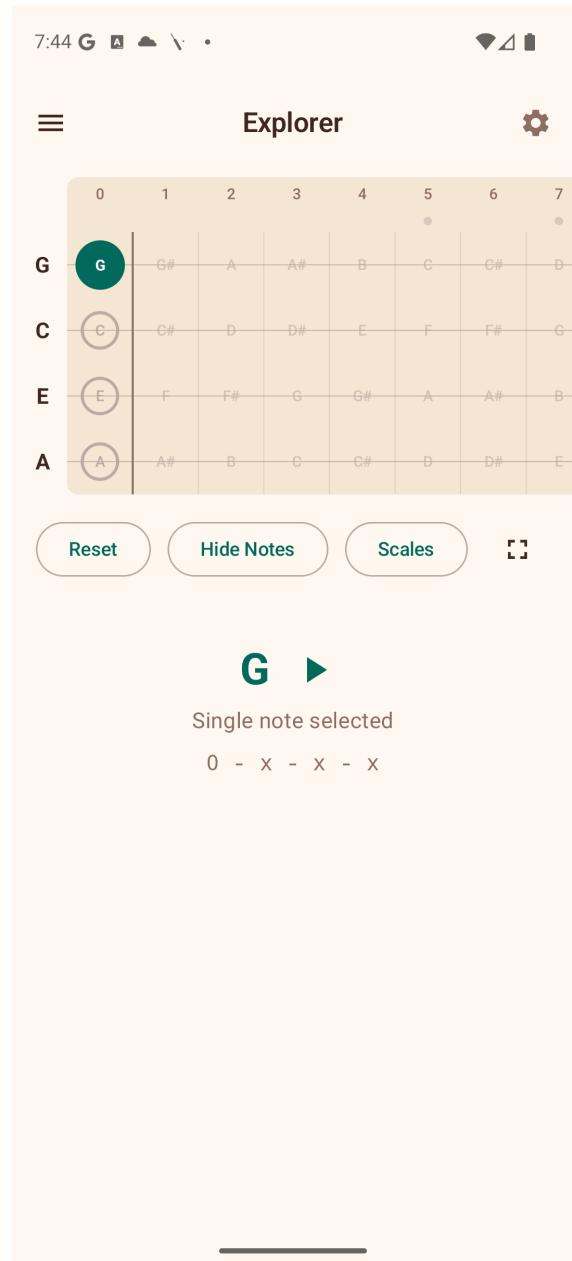


Figure 11: Songs list

3. Tap the **stop button** (same FAB position) to stop auto-scrolling.
4. If you manually scroll or swipe the screen while auto-scroll is active, it pauses automatically.

This is especially useful during practice or performance when you cannot tap the screen to scroll manually.

Transpose in Songs

The song viewer includes **transpose controls** to shift all chords up or down by semitones. This is helpful when a song is in a key that does not suit your voice or playing style. The original text is preserved — only the displayed chord names change.

Editing and Deleting

- Tap the **edit button** on a song to modify its title or content.
- Tap the **delete button** to remove a song from your collection.
- Use the **share button** to export a song as text.

Tips

- Use the [ChordName] bracket notation to mark chords anywhere in your lyrics.
- Auto-scroll at 1x speed is good for slow ballads; try 2x or 3x for faster songs.
- You can create chord sheets for any song — just type the lyrics and add chord markers where they belong.

Settings

Tap the **gear icon** in the top-right corner of the app bar to open the Settings panel. Settings are organized into sections.

Sound

Control how the app plays back chords and notes.

Setting	Description
Sound enabled	Toggle all sound playback on or off.
Volume	Adjust the playback volume from 0% to 100%.
Note Duration	How long each note rings out (300–1200 ms).
Strum Delay	The delay between strings when strumming a chord (20–150 ms). A shorter delay sounds like a quick strum; a longer delay sounds like a slow arpeggio.
Strum Direction	Choose between strumming down (low to high) or up (high to low).
Play on Tap	When enabled, plays the note immediately when you tap a fret on the Explorer fretboard.

Display

Customize the app's appearance and notation style.

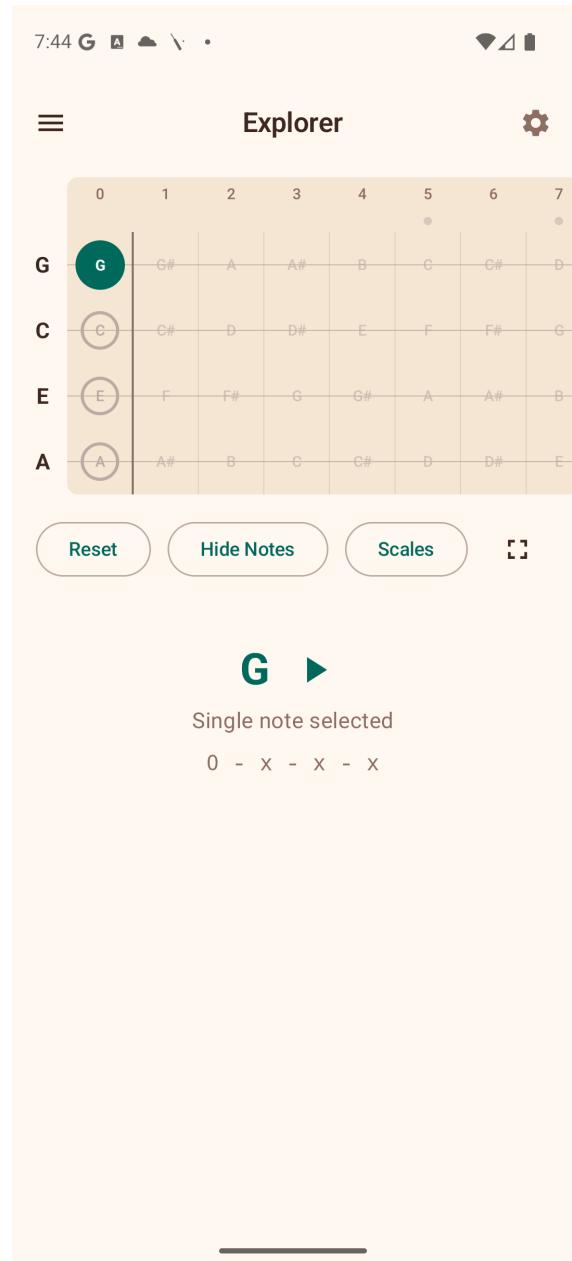


Figure 12: Settings panel

Note Names

Toggle between **sharp** (C#, D#, F#, etc.) and **flat** (Db, Eb, Gb, etc.) note name display. This affects all chord names, fretboard labels, and progression displays throughout the app.

Theme

Choose from four theme options:

Theme	Description
Light	Light background with dark text.
Dark	Dark background with light text, easier on the eyes in dim environments.
System	Follows your device's system-wide light/dark mode setting.
High Contrast	An accessibility-focused theme with stronger color contrast, making text and UI elements easier to read. Adapts to your system light/dark preference.

Tuning

Select the tuning for your ukulele. The app adjusts the fretboard, chord detection, and playback accordingly.

Tuning	Strings	Description
High-G (Standard)	G4-C4-E4-A4	The most common soprano/concert/tenor tuning with a re-entrant high G string.
Low-G	G3-C4-E4-A4	Same notes but with the G string tuned an octave lower, extending the bass range.
Baritone (DGBE)	D3-G3-B4-E4	Baritone ukulele tuning, matching the top four strings of a guitar.
D-Tuning (ADF#B)	A4-D4-F#4-B4	A traditional alternative tuning, one whole step above standard.

Fretboard

Setting	Description
Left-Handed	Mirrors the fretboard so the nut appears on the right side, matching a left-handed player's perspective.

Notifications

Setting	Description
Chord of the Day	Enable a daily notification that shows you a new chord to learn each day. The notification includes the chord name and finger positions. Tap the notification to open the app.

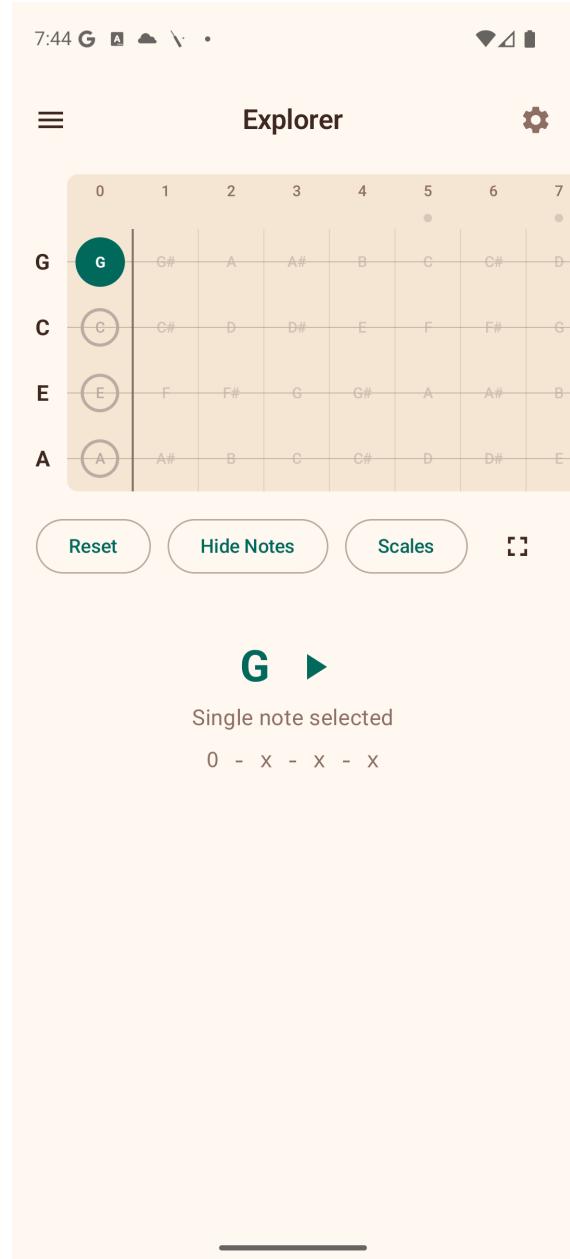


Figure 13: Settings — more sections

Tips

- If you play a baritone ukulele, switch to the **Baritone (DGBE)** tuning so chord detection and playback match your instrument.
- Try the **High Contrast** theme if you find the default colors hard to read, especially in bright sunlight.
- Adjust the **volume slider** independently from your device volume for finer control over playback loudness.
- Enable **Chord of the Day** notifications to build a daily practice habit.