

## **Tips For Paperless Jamming**

### **1. LISTEN! (and watch)**

This is the MOST important thing to do when you are playing with others. If you don't know the song, don't start playing until you have some idea of what is happening in the song. Can you tell what the "home" chord is? What other chords can you identify when you listen to the first part of the song? Is there a chorus? Is it different from the verse? Anything you can notice about how the song goes is going to be helpful.

### **2. KEEP LISTENING (and watching)**

After you start playing, you still want to be listening closely to the person leading and follow them as much as possible. There could be a bridge, or something different might happen at the end of the song, so you always want to stay alert and ready for anything.

### **3. About Watching (see #1 and 2)**

You can learn a lot by watching other people's hands. See if you can identify the chords by what other ukulele players are doing with their hands as they are playing the song.

### **4. Try to identify any simple patterns in the song**

Is there a simple set of chords that repeat over and over? Is the verse the same four chords played twice in a row? Are the chords in every line the same except the third line? Do you play each chord for the same amount of time? Try to notice the patterns in the song.

### **5. Stop Playing If It Doesn't Sound Right**

If what you are playing starts to sound "wrong," you have probably missed a chord change. That's OK! Stop playing and try to figure out what chord you should be playing. If you're having trouble in a particular spot in a song, you can stop every time you come to that part, and start again when you know what the chords are. Sometimes by the end of the song you might figure out the "mystery section," or you might never get it! After the song is over, you can ask someone about the chords you missed.

## **6. Pay Attention to The Melody**

The melody and the chords fit together in a song, and after a while you can learn to match up the chord you should be playing with what is happening in the melody. For instance: maybe the verse consists of the same pattern of chords played twice in a row, except that at the end of the second line, the melody goes up, and you play a D chord, while at the end of the fourth line, the melody goes down and you play a G chord.)

## **7. Pay Attention to The Phrasing**

It also helps to notice how much space there is between the phrases and lines, or how long different parts of the melody last. Since the chords fit with the melody, that will help you know when the chords should be changing

## **8. Make Sure You Can Hear Others**

If you can't hear the people next to you, you are probably playing too loud. Try to fit in with the volume level instead of playing LOUDER than everyone else. You can be enthusiastic without being loud. The singers especially will thank you!

## **9. If It's Way Too Hard, Listening (and watching) Is a Great Way To Learn**

If you find you can't keep up, it's OK to stop playing – but don't feel defeated! You can still listen and watch. You might find that by not playing, and paying attention, you can figure out a lot about what is going on in the song, and the next time it comes up in a jam, you might be able to play along with some (or all!) of it.

## **10. Practice On Your Own**

After you've attended a jam session or song circle, try playing through some of the songs again without paper on your own. It doesn't need to be perfect or complete, just see what you can remember and play. This is a good time to pay more attention to any patterns or work out parts that you might have missed.

## **11. HAVE FUN!!**

Need I say more?