Harmonics

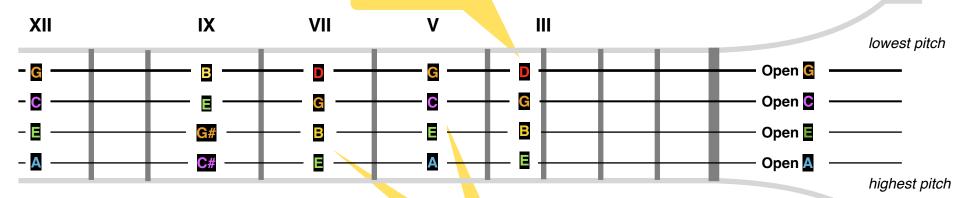
The open strings (from lowest to highest) are G C E A

To play open-string harmonics, (otherwise known as natural harmonics) you place your finger lightly on the string, over the fret and not alongside as you would normally play. Do not press the string down - it shouldn't touch anything but your finger.

Note the harmonic at the 3rd fret is slightly misaligned with the fret.

What is a harmonic?

Whenever you play a note on a stringed instrument you create multiple pitches. The most audible pitch is called the **fundamental**, which is the named note (eg, A2 - the note of A in the 2nd octave). The less audible pitches that sound above the fundamental are called **overtones**. A harmonic note is the overtone without the fundamental.



Due to the small size, nylon strings and sometimes doubtful construction, getting a clean harmonic on a ukulele can be a challenge.

The easiest harmonic to play is at the XIIth fret which is exactly half the vibrating string length.

If the ukulele is set up correctly, the harmonic at the XIIth fret should be the same as the normally fretted note.

Some players use the Vth and VIIth harmonics to tune their instruments.