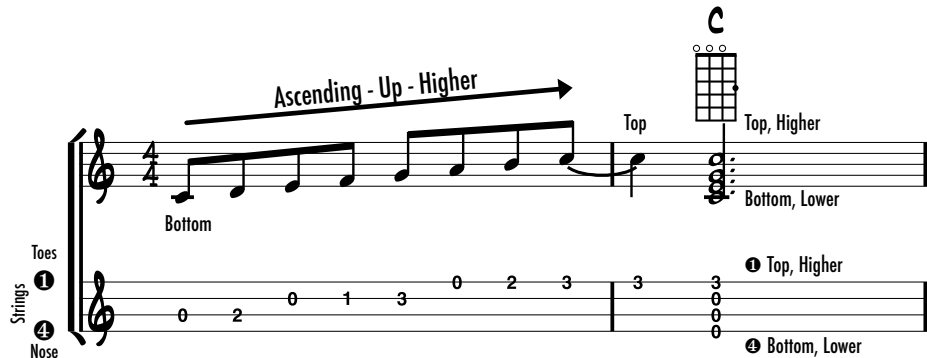


Up, Down, Higher, Lower, Top, Bottom, Ascending, Descending...

What is *up*, *down*, *higher*, *lower*, *top*, *bottom*, *ascending*, *descending* on a ukulele? Up, down, higher, lower, top, bottom, ascending, descending should refer to musical pitch and not to direction as we know it. Up and higher refers to the raising of musical pitch. Down and lower refer to the lowering of musical pitch. Top refers to the upper note of a chord voicing or musical phrase and bottom refers to the lowest note.

These terms can be shown using standard music notation and TAB notation.



The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody starts on a low note, moves up stepwise, and then down stepwise. An arrow labeled "Ascending - Up - Higher" points to the upward movement. The word "Bottom" is written under the first note, and "Top" is written above the highest note. To the right, a chord diagram for a C major chord is shown, with "Top, Higher" and "Bottom, Lower" labels. Below the staff is a TAB line with fret numbers: 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 0, 2, 3, 3, 3, 0, 0. To the left of the TAB line, "Toes" is written above string 1 and "Nose" is written above string 4. To the right, "1 Top, Higher" and "4 Bottom, Lower" are written.

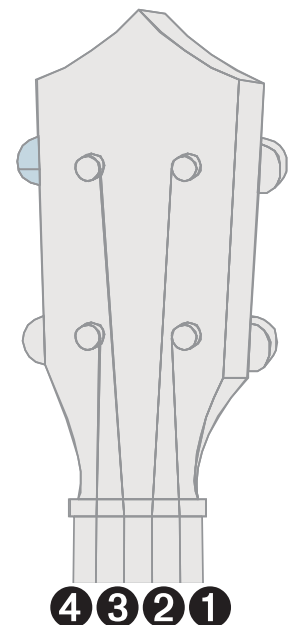
The standard music notation also happens to show one of the problems with tab. Tab can not accurately show the ascending and descending nature of pitch or the contour of a musical line as well as written music notation can.

Horizontal Only

Piano notes move only in the horizontal direction. Higher, ascending pitches move to the right, up the keyboard and descending pitches move to the left, down the keyboard. Even sharp and flat notes are easy to figure out.

The Ukulele Moves Horizontal and Vertical

Notes on the ukulele can move either along the strings or across the strings. And depending on whether you are using a high string ④ tuning or low string ④ tuning, the lowest note on your ukulele might not be on string ④ but on string ③.



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