

GETTING STARTED WITH UKULELE

MusicPlusComedy.com/uke-stuff

4 MAIN UKULELE SIZES (from smallest to largest, with typical lengths)

- ▶ soprano (21.0" length) - usually tuned high g (g-C-E-A)
- ▶ concert (24.0" length) - also usually tuned high g
- ▶ tenor (26.5" length) - tuned either high g or low G (G-C-E-A)
- ▶ baritone (30" length) - usually tuned D-G-B-E (typically low D, sometimes high d), so how you play a certain chord (the chord's shape) differs - e.g., a C chord shape in G-C-E-A tuning is an F chord in D-G-B-E tuning.

CHOOSING A SIZE

The overall size affects (1) the ukulele's sound (as do other factors), and (2) the fret spacing on the neck (and therefore how much room you'll have to place each fretting finger, and to stretch fingers up the fretboard).

COST OF A NEW UKULELE

\$60 & up (laminated wood and/or plastic) • \$130 & up (solid wood top) • \$160 & (way) up (all solid wood)

OTHER NEEDS

- ✓ a clip-on tuner, \$12 & up (Snark brand tends to be good), and/or a phone app or online tuner
- ✓ a carrying bag (a padded one is best - \$35 and up) or hard case (for a solid-wood ukulele - \$65 and up)
- ✓ a humidifier (mostly for an all-solid or solid-top ukulele; works best in a hard case) - \$4 for Herco brand, \$12 for Humistat Model #1, or make your own (put holes in top of small plastic pill bottle or soap bar travel container, wet & wring out piece of sponge, place it in the bottle or container)

WHERE TO FIND YOUR UKULELE (with advantages of each)

Borrowing from a Library: some local libraries lend ukuleles, which means you can try one at no cost.

Buying from a local store:

- ▶ you can try out ukuleles in person (but bring a clip-on tuner with you, or borrow or buy one at the store)
- ▶ it should be simpler to make a return, if needed (but check the store policy)
- ▶ you are supporting a local business

Buying online:

- ▶ usually there is more selection - brands, price range, types
- ▶ there might be reliable (not falsified) sound samples - TheUkuleleSite.com has reliable sound samples.
- ▶ a set-up (which makes the uke easier to play) and inspection might be included with a purchase (see below)
- ▶ people who work at the three places listed below understand and appreciate ukuleles

Recommended online stores:

MimsUkes.com - sets up each ukulele before shipping, and she has a great selection of lower-cost Ohana ukes (among others), and free shipping with a \$200+ order.

TheUkuleleSite.com - TheUkuleleSite (located in Hawaii) sets up ukulele \$399-and-up ukulele for free, and for \$20 or \$30 otherwise. They don't have as many lower-cost ukes. Shipping is free with orders \$500 and up.

Uke-Fan.com sets up ukuleles, but their website might not list their entire stock, so call them for assistance.

Recommended Online/Local: MagicFluke.com (or visit them in Sheffield, MA) sells very sturdy ukuleles that are fun to play and have an authentic ukulele sound. Great customer service, made locally (so not an inexpensive import).

Recommended starter ukuleles: A laminated Ohana brand from MimsUkes.com or a laminated model from TheUkuleleSite.com or an Enya Nova concert size from online. And you can contact me with any ukulele questions at MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com

Learning tools: UkeBuddy.com (chord diagrams/names, tuner) • Ultimate-Guitar.com (song chord names & lyrics) • transposr.com or getsongkey.com/tools/transposer (change song key/chords)