

## GETTING STARTED WITH UKULELE

[MusicPlusComedy.com/uke-stuff](http://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) - usually tuned high g
- ▶ tenor (26.5" length) - tuned either high g or low G
- ▶ baritone (30.25" length) - usually tuned D-G-B-E (typically low D, sometimes high d), so how you play a chord (the chords 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 (all-laminate wood) • \$130 & up (solid top/laminate back & sides) • \$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 (works best in a hard case, mostly for an all-solid or solid-top ukulele) - \$4 for Herco brand, or make your own (put holes in top of small plastic pill bottle, wet & wring out a sponge, place sponge in bottle)

### 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](http://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 four places listed below understand and appreciate ukuleles

**Recommended online stores:**

[TheUkuleleSite.com](http://TheUkuleleSite.com) - TheUkuleleSite sets up each ukulele (at no charge for ukes \$399+) before shipping it, and there are more higher-cost ukuleles (if that's what you want); and free shipping with orders \$500 and up.

[MimsUkes.com](http://MimsUkes.com) - also sets up each ukulele before shipping, and she has a great selection of lower-cost Ohana ukes, free shipping with a \$200+ uke. (She does limit how many she sells each week.)

[Uke-Fan.com](http://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](http://MagicFluke.com) (in Sheffield, MA) sells very sturdy ukuleles that are fun to play and have an authentic ukulele sound. They are made in Massachusetts, and their customer service is very good.

**Recommended starter ukuleles:** There are so many inexpensive ukuleles now, some of them the same ones with different brand names, that's it hard to keep up. But you can contact me with any questions (on any of this) at [MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com](mailto:MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com)

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