

Advice on Buying a Ukulele

What size to buy?

Ukuleles come in 4 sizes:

- soprano
- concert
- tenor
- baritone

The best sizes for adults are **tenor** and **concert**. Soprano ukuleles are very small and there is not a lot of room for adult fingers.



You will need a ukulele with GCEA tuning for this course.

A **baritone** ukulele is **NOT** recommended for this course. The strings are tuned differently (like a guitar) and thus it is quite different from the other three types of ukulele.

What brand should I buy and how much should I plan to spend?

Great starter ukuleles are made by Kala, Mahalo, and Beaver Creek.

You should expect to spend \$75 to \$150 for a decent quality starter ukulele.

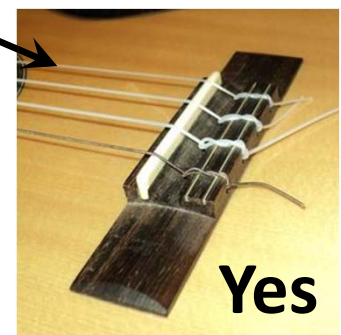
What features should I look for?

Here are some basic features that tend to separate the quality instruments from the 'toys'.

Look for geared tuning pegs, not friction pegs.



Look for a bridge with looped strings.



Test out your ukulele before buying – it should be easy to press the strings down with your left hand and it should sound sweet when you strum the strings.

What else will I need

- An electronic tuner - \$10 to \$30. (There are also free apps for your smartphone.)
- A case is a good idea, to protect your ukulele. (Sometimes this is included.)
- A portable music stand is also useful, though you won't need it for this course.