



CHOOSING A UKULELE

by Ed Priest



To me, the most important two things to think about when buying a beginner ukulele is a size with which you are comfortable, and one that stays in tune.

Cheaper ukuleles, those priced less than \$60, tend to not hold their tuning well. The joke is, "Half the time you spend tuning the uke, and the other half of the time you spend playing out of tune."

For **between \$70 and \$150** you should be able to find a really nice ukulele that sounds good and stays in tune.



SIZE

Most ukuleles fall into one of four standard sizes and tonal ranges: soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone. The two sizes that most people consider a ukulele at first sight are the **soprano uke** and the slightly larger **concert uke**. I prefer the concert size for adults because it gives our fingers more room on the fretboard. This is also the feedback that I have been receiving from my students.

Ukulele Type	Scale Length	Overall Length
Soprano (or Standard)	13"	21"
Concert	15"	23"

Ukulele SHAPES

Most ukuleles fall into one of two basic shapes:

Guitar-shaped / with Cut-away This is by far the most common shape among ukuleles.



Pineapple: As you might guess, the pineapple body profile with its rounded back was a Hawaiian innovation first used on instruments made by the Kamaka Ukulele Company.



Although I prefer supporting our local music stores and walking in and experiencing the “feel” and “sound” of a future instrument, with our quarantine in place we are limited to online purchases. Going onto **amazon.com** there is a very large variety of styles and prices from which to choose. I have pictured several below. **ALWAYS READ THE REVIEWS** so that **YOU CHOOSE** the correct ukulele **FOR YOU!**



Oscar Schmidt OU2 Mahogany Concert Ukulele Bundle with Gig Bag, Tuner, Austin Bazaar Instructional DVD, and Polishing Cloth
★★★★☆ ~ 586
\$89⁹⁹
FREE Shipping



Luna Tattoo Mahogany Acoustic-Electric Concert Ukulele Bundle with Gig Bag, Tuner, Austin Bazaar Instructional DVD, and Polishing Cloth
★★★★☆ ~ 229
\$149⁹⁹
FREE Shipping



Luna Mo'o Mahogany Concert Ukulele with Lizard Graphic & Gig Bag, Satin Natural
★★★★☆ ~ 147
\$99⁰⁰
FREE Shipping by Amazon
In stock on May 2, 2020.



Protege by Cordoba U100CM Concert Ukulele Bundle (Amazon Exclusive)
★★★★☆ ~ 133
\$84⁸⁷ ~~\$89.99~~
FREE Shipping by Amazon



Enya OMS 04 Concert Ukulele Koa Top Bundle Ukulele with Padded Gig Bag, Strings, Tuner, Strap, Capo, Picks, Polishing cloth (Concert)
★★★★☆ ~ 296
\$85⁹⁹
Get it as soon as Fri, May 8
FREE Shipping by Amazon



Luna Honu Mahogany Concert Ukulele Bundle with Gig Bag, Tuner, Austin Bazaar Instructional DVD, and Polishing Cloth
★★★★☆ ~ 105
\$109⁹⁹
FREE Shipping



Ranch Concert Ukulele 23 inch Ultra-thin Grade A Spalted Maple Professional High End Ukuleles Instrument with Whole Body Glossy...
★★★★☆ ~ 14
\$149⁹⁹
Save 20% with coupon
Get it as soon as Fri, May 8
FREE Shipping by Amazon
Only 2 left in stock - order soon.



Kala KA-PWC Pacific Walnut Concert Ukulele, Natural, Concert
★★★★☆ ~ 29
\$129⁹⁹
FREE Shipping
Only 3 left in stock - order soon.
More Buying Choices
\$80.32 (27 used & new offers)



Kala KA-CG Glossed Mahogany Concert Ukulele
★★★★☆ ~ 36
\$124⁹⁹
Get it Wed, Apr 29 - Fri, May 1
FREE Shipping
Only 1 left in stock - order soon.



Deviser Concert Ukulele 23inch Cutaway Thin Body Travel Ukelele kit Solid KOA Top KOA Back & Side Carbon nylon Strings With Gig Bag & Tuner &...
★★★★☆ ~ 47
\$119⁹⁹ ~~\$160.00~~
Get it as soon as Fri, May 8
FREE Shipping by Amazon

TUNER

It is also **imperative** that you choose a good tuner. I have been very impressed with the line of **SNARK** clip-on tuners. They are highly effective and inexpensive.

Amazon's Choice



Snark SN6X Clip-On Tuner for Ukulele (Current Model)
★★★★☆ ~ 12,968
\$11²⁵
Get it as soon as Fri, May 22
FREE Shipping on orders over \$25 shipped by Amazon



Snark SN6 Clip-On Ukulele Tuner (Black)
★★★★☆ ~ 2,623
\$12⁶⁹ ~~\$15.66~~
Get it as soon as Fri, May 22
FREE Shipping on orders over \$25 shipped by Amazon



Snark ST-2 All Instrument Clip-On Chromatic Tuner
★★★★☆ ~ 3,623
\$13⁹⁹ ~~\$14.95~~
Get it as soon as Fri, May 22
FREE Shipping on orders over \$25 shipped by Amazon



Snark SN1 Guitar Tuner (Blue)
★★★★☆ ~ 4,756
Electronics
\$14⁴⁸ ~~\$20.00~~
FREE Shipping



by Jake Shimabukuro

- Ed Priest