

## Buying a Ukulele

There is a vast range of price and quality. Cheap ukuleles are mass-produced and vary tremendously in how well they play. Quality instruments will be set-up (adjusted) by hand but this takes time. When you buy from a music shop, ask them to set-up the ukulele. If you try various ukuleles in the shop and find one that suits you and plays really well, ask if you can buy that actual one, rather than a brand new boxed one. You may get a discount and it has probably been set-up for demonstration purposes.

If you already have a ukulele, a music shop or luthier can set it up for you. If your ukulele is old, try a set of new strings. New strings will take time to settle and will need constant tuning adjustment to begin with.

**Size:** Soprano, for small hands, Concert (medium) or Tenor (larger) for bigger hands.

**Make:** Mahalo, Makala, Octopus, Brunswick, Ashbury, etc. Please make sure that the ukulele is made of wood, has good strings (Aquila are a good budget brand and popular on sub-£100 ukuleles) and has geared machine heads (see below). Avoid straight-through pegs.



Geared ✓



Straight-through pegs X

There are good music shops in East Kent. If purchasing on the Internet, it is best to buy from a music supplier. Avoid cheap new ukuleles from a charity shop/Internet. The minimum guide price is £25-£35 for a soprano.



### Accessories:

A bag or case will protect the instrument; make sure it is the right size.

A digital tuner is useful; these are cheaper online but make sure it is/includes a **Ukulele C** tuner.



Don't forget, I offer one-to-one teaching, gift vouchers, help with setting-up clubs etc. I can also help you to start playing u-bass (bass ukulele), enough to accompany other players. Whichever way you want to take your ukulele playing, let me know if I can help.