

Music Poppins™ presents

Ukulele Purchasing Guide

I always recommend that the teacher purchase ukuleles when teaching a ukulele class or camp for kids.

Selecting ukuleles for your students allows you to ensure that each instrument works, can be tuned, is good enough quality for a beginner, has no manufacturing flaws, and is ready to use.

I choose ukuleles with very simple goals: the tuning gears have to be able to keep the strings tune for the length of a class (once the strings have been stretched a bit); they need to be sufficiently solidly made so that children won't easily break them; and they need to be inexpensive enough that they are not a tragedy to replace. These ukuleles are different from the fine instruments used by professionals, but they are sufficient to get kids started on developing the musicianship that will serve them for a lifetime.

Ukulele Purchasing Options

If You Are Looking to Invest for Long-Term Use (or For Yourself!)

If time and budget allow, it's worth it to purchase your ukulele(s) from www.MimsUkes.com. Mim gives each ukulele an individual 'setup', including leveling the frets, adjusting the nut slots, adjusting the saddle action, and running a final playing check to know everything's ready. [You can read up on Mim's process at her website.](#)

Mim carries ukuleles at every reasonable price point; there are some great starter models from Kala and Ohana. Kala's [Shark](#) and [Dolphin](#) ukuleles come in a host of fun colors that kids love. Also check into the ['starter packs' that include tuners and cases](#). These ukuleles are inexpensive but you can order them without fear because of Mim's care and attention Mim's ukes ship in 1-3 days via Priority Mail.

If You're in a Hurry

If you are in a hurry, a number of ukuleles are available on Amazon Prime, including some with one-day shipping. [Here is a list of ukuleles in starter packs that include protective hard cases and tuners.](#) Ukuleles come directly to Amazon from manufacturers; be sure to check over each ukulele before distributing to students.

If You Just Want Something Fun

I have personally had good experiences with students playing Penguin ukuleles by Amahi. These are very basic ukuleles, but they come in [many colors](#) and [patterns](#) and I've never met one with a manufacturing defect. They also feel sturdier than many basic ukuleles, which is important for young musicians.

Emergency Ukuleles

If you need to make a last-minute purchase, Guitar Center carries the [Mitchell MU40](#) in several colors for \$45. Be sure to check these ukuleles for defects! Luckily, if you wind up with a lemon, Guitar Center's return policy is great.



Enjoy your new ukuleles! Love, Music Poppins