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Introduction



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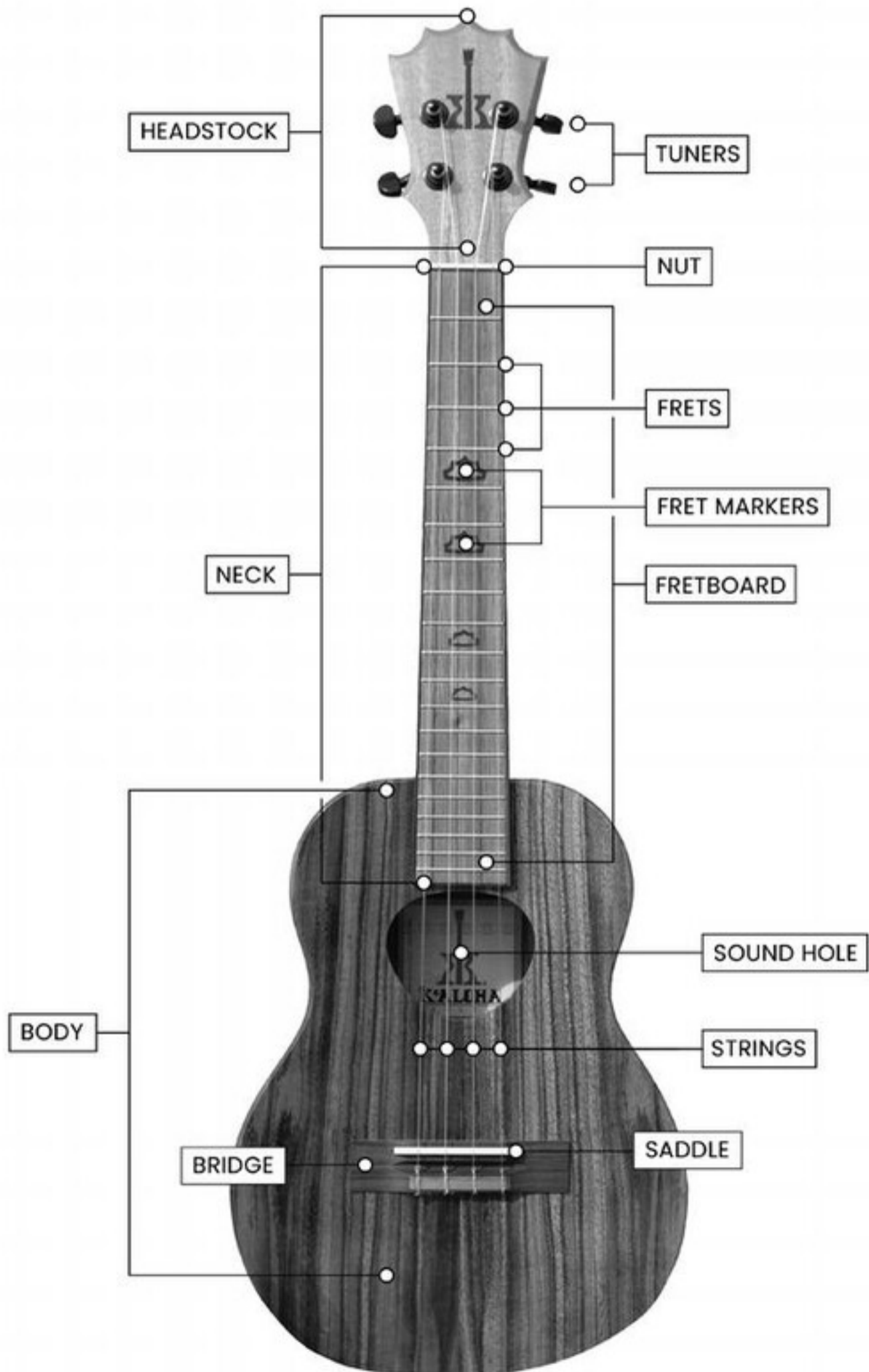
Do-It-Yourself Ukulele is a comprehensive method and playbook to help you become a well-rounded and exceptional ukulele player. As the name implies, you will be able to learn ukulele at your own pace with the contents of this book combined with the included videos. This book starts from the very beginning—even if you just purchased your ukulele—then helps you to play your favorite songs, develop correct and solid technique, jam with the blues, learn how to read music notation and tablature, and have a great time. *Do-It-Yourself Ukulele* will be the most valuable ukulele resource you will ever own and one you can continue to refer to time and time again. So, if you're ready to become the ukulele player that you have dreamed of being, grab your ukulele and let's get started.

Pro Tips & Info

The ukulele is a Hawaiian instrument, but it has its roots in the Portuguese instrument the *braguinha*.

Getting Started

Parts of the Ukulele



Open Strings on the Ukulele

These are the open string names for a soprano, concert, and tenor ukulele. The only difference between the high G and the low G is that ukuleles with a low G have a wider range of notes.



How to Tune the Ukulele

It's essential to know how to tune your ukulele, and it's not hard at all—especially with the aid of a tuning device or app. Watch the video for a full tutorial.

Pro Tips & Info

Reentrant tuning refers to a ukulele with a high G string; the strings are *not* ordered by pitch from highest to lowest.

Pro Tips & Info

- Ukuleles are made with many different woods including koa, mahogany, spruce, rosewood, acacia, and mango. Each wood has a different look and produces a different tone. Koa is a favorite used by most Hawaiian ukulele builders.
- Ukulele bodies are typically made with all solid wood, solid wood top with laminate sides and back, all laminate wood, and even plastic or carbon fiber.
- Most ukulele necks are made with mahogany for its strength and abundance.
- Ukulele strings are most commonly made of nylgut, fluorocarbon, and nylon.

Ukulele Sizes



Soprano

Concert

Tenor

Baritone

Pro Tips & Info

Baritone ukuleles are typically tuned D-G-B-E, which is different from the G-C-E-A of soprano, concert, and tenor ukes.

Ukulele Hands

Numbers and letters are used to indicate which fingers to use for both your picking hand and fretting hand. These letters and numbers will show up in the music notation, tablature, and/or chord diagrams.

Fretting Hand

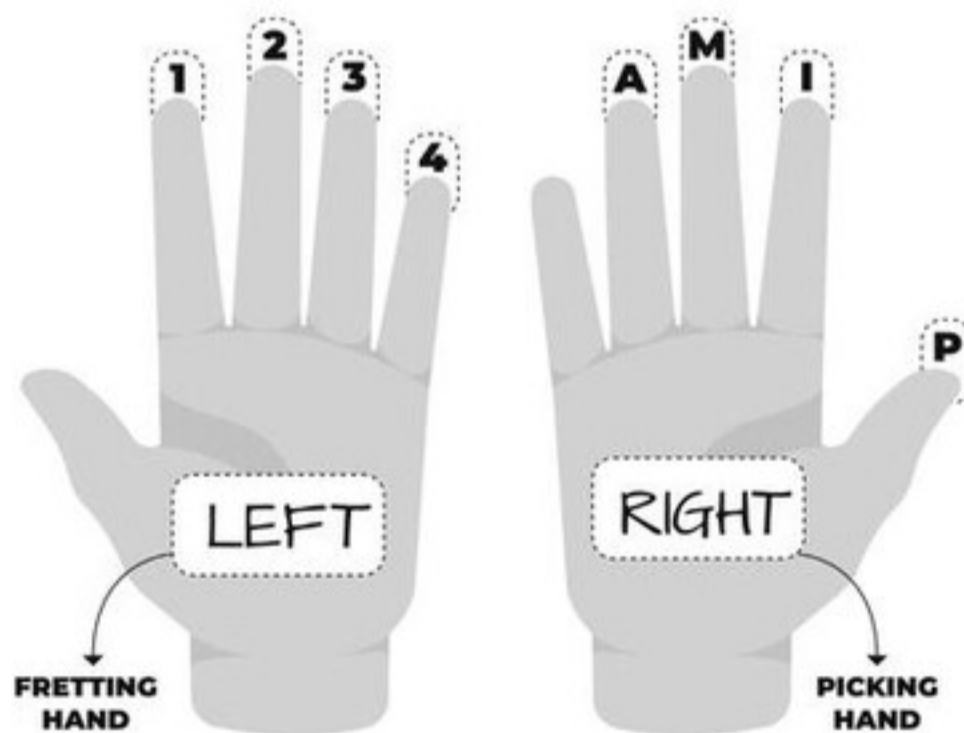
This is the left hand for right-handed players. The fingers are indicated in the music or chord diagrams with numbers:

- 1 = index finger
- 2 = middle finger
- 3 = ring finger
- 4 = pinky finger

Picking Hand

This is the right hand for right-handed players. It is indicated in the music with letters:

- p* = thumb
- i* = index
- m* = middle
- a* = ring



How to Hold a Ukulele



Holding a Ukulele Without a Strap



Holding a Ukulele with a Strap