

Assembly instructions for Classic Cantabile DIY Ukulele

ArtNr.: 00036326 Sopranukulele / 00036327 Konzertukulele

Musikhaus Kirstein GmbH

Bernbeurener Strasse 11
D-86956 Schongau / Germany
Tel.: 0049-8861-909494-0
www.kirstein.de

Part list: Before you start assembly, you should check if all parts are complete and have no damage.



Nr.	Bezeichnung	Anzahl	Bemerkung
1	body	1	body is completely assembled
2	neck	1	craved and polished
3	fretboard	1	rosewood, frets included
4	bridge	1	rosewood, 2 screws
5	bridge inlay	1	plastic
6	nut (saddle)	1	plastic, notched
7	strings	4	nylon strings
8	tuners (machine heads)	4	5 parts per tuner (top pod + spacer, axis, knob, screw)

Recommended tools and materials:

Materials: wood glue, super glue, some pieces of wood for fixing/protection while gluing , tape
Tools: 3 clamps (gummed), quick release, ruler, sanding paper (granulation: #120, #240, #360), sharp knife, work table or solid base, pencil, screwdriver.

Assembling

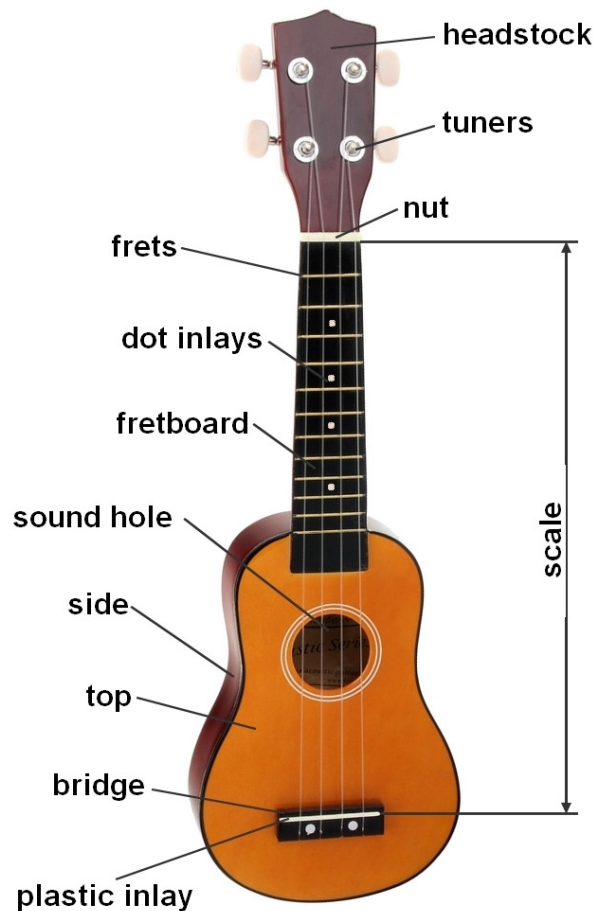
This instruction is a guide for you to complete your DIY Ukulele. But we also recommend that you consult other information for example watch video tutorials in the internet. This will help you to learn additional tips and tricks. You can use your own ideas to complete the DIY Ukulele if you want. The result and the success of the assembly depend from your workmanship. Therefore we cannot guarantee for the quality and final result.

1. Grinding of neck and body

Neck and body are pre-sanded roughly at the factory. If you grind, you have to always move the sandpaper with the grain of the wood. Make sure that you grind never too much material from the neck and body. At first you grind with the sandpaper with granulation #120, than use the sandpaper with granulation #240.

And as last step you have to use the sandpaper with granulation #320. Grind until the grooves in the wood have disappeared.

Do not grind the edges too tightly. Wrap the sandpaper around a rectangular piece of wood or cork. This will help you grinding the flat sides of the body smoothly. Important is the grinding of the transition of the fretboard and neck after gluing. If this is done very properly playing on the ukulele will be very comfortable.



Ukulele parts

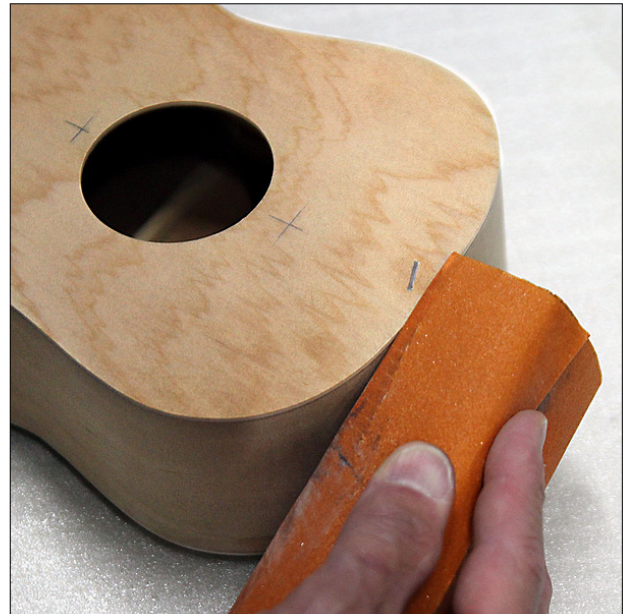


Custom-fit processing!

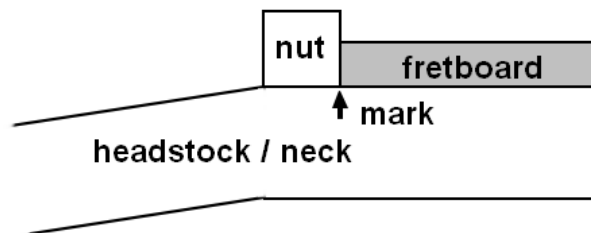
The transition from the neck to body must be prepared and adjusted very accurately. At first grind properly the contact surface of the neck. Then grind the body at the base of the neck point. The base of the neck point at the body is rounded because of the production process. This is the reason why you have to grind the surface completely plane. Check several times during grinding whether the transition fits perfectly.

2. Gluing the fretboard to the neck

Be sure, that the neck and the body are properly grinded. Take the nut and place it on the edge, where the headstock starts to go down from the neck. Mark the nut position with a pencil and make sure, that the nut is placed in right angle to the direction of the strings.



Apply wood glue to the lower side of the fretboard and spread it equally all over the lower side of the fretboard. Glue the fretboard to the neck and fix the neck/fretboard on a table board or fix the neck/fretboard with various pieces of wood and clamps (see picture).

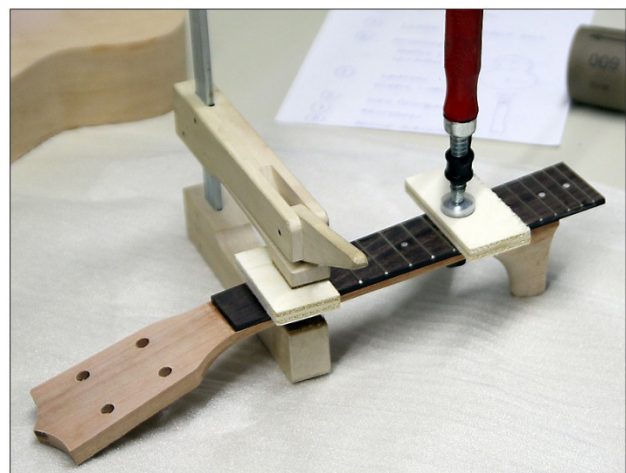


For gluing please use several pieces of wood as protection for the neck and fretboard. Let the glue dry completely (over night). When the glue has dried completely, you can grind the lateral transition of fretboard / neck. This will make the neck/fretboard very smoothly and comfortable to play.

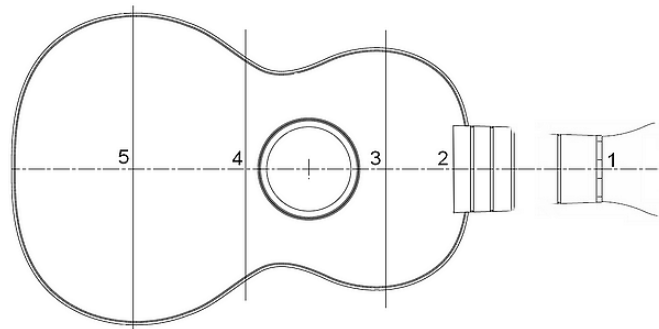
3. Connect the neck on the body

It is very important that the neck will be properly attached to the body so that you have good intonation and playing comfort. Body and neck must be firmly and accurately connected.

Check again, when the fretboard is glued to the neck and improve, if it is necessary. Please make following marks on neck and body to prepare adjustment from neck to the body: middle position of the nut (1) and end of the fretboard (2), middle marks (3), (4) and (5) on the body. Draw a thin line with a pencil through the middle marks (3), (4) and (5). Mark with the pencil the area where body and lower part of the fretboard will be connected. Apply the glue on the end of the neck and on marked area on the body. Press neck and body together, remove glue from the edges (if you applied too much and some glue is coming out). Place the body on a table board and fix the fretboard on the body with clamps.

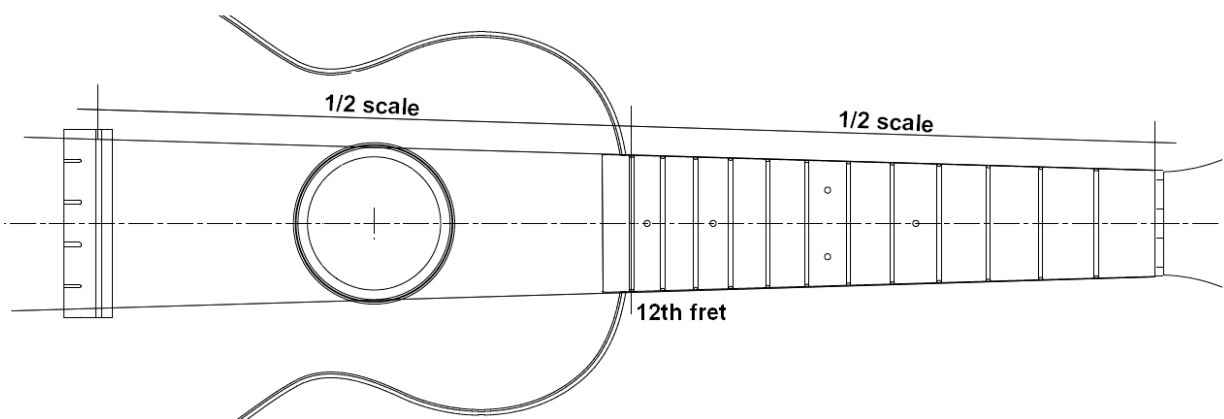


Attention: Please be careful and do not tighten the clamps too hard to prevent damages on the body. **Important:** Check the alignment of the neck (fretboard). The middle mark on the nut, the middle mark on the end of the fretboard and the middle line on the body must be in alignment. You can additionally fix the neck on the body in horizontal direction with a tape or rubber rope.



4. Marking the correctly position for the bridge

The scale of the Ukulele is the length from the edge of the nut to the bridge. The 12th fret marks the middle of the scale. Place a ruler to the left side of bottom edge of fretboard and measure the distance from nut edge to 12th fret. Now use the same distance (which you measured from the edge of the nut to the 12th fret) and mark the point with a pencil on body. Make the same step on right side. Now make a line with the pencil from left point (marked) to right point (marked). Place the bridge on the line like shown in picture below. Please be sure, that the bridge is centered to left and right point. Now you can mark the position of the bridge on the body with the pencil. Apply super glue on the marked area of the bridge. Attach the bridge and fix carefully with clamps (do not tighten too much to avoid damages). Let the glue dry completely. Finally use the two screws to additionally fix the bridge and cover the screws with the inlays.



5. Oil finish or paintwork

Materials for the finishing are not included. You can style your instrument individually. You need oil or spray paint (available in DIY stores or art shops) – ask your dealer which paint or oil is recommended to be used with wood. Painting offers the possibility to design your instrument individually in color and finish. An oil gives a very natural look.

- 1) mask the fretboard and bridge with tape
- 2) check that there is no glue on body or neck
- 3) paint work must be done outside
- 4) paint several thin layers to achieve good results
- 5) let the paint dry after each layer

6. Mounting the tuners

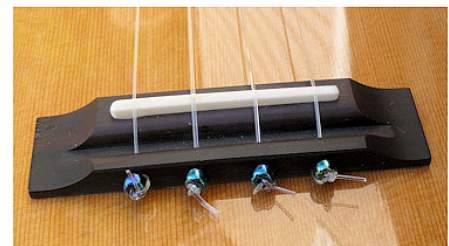
Set in the pod into the hole of the headstock of the Ukulele (see picture). If the pod does not fit perfectly you can use some super glue to fix it. Set in the axis of the tuner and install the plastic spacer from the lower side. Assemble the knob (head) and fix it with the screw.



7. Assemble the nut and stringing of the Ukulele

Attach the nut with super glue to neck/fretboard. Let the glue dry completely. The package includes a set of strings for the Hawaiian tuning (G - C - E - A). Tie a knot at one end of the strings (simple knot for the two thicker strings, double knot for the two thinner strings) and insert the strings into the grooves of the bridge.

- top position: G string (second thickest string)
- second position: C string (thickest string)
- third position: E string (second thinnest string)
- lowest position: A string (thinnest string)



G C E A
(4) (3) (2) (1)

Thread the loose ends of the four strings into the holes of the designated machine heads. Make sure to attach each of the four strings with two to three turns securely to the tuning pins. First slightly pre-tighten all strings and check the action as described in the following section.

9. Checking the action

At the first fret, the distance between string and fretboard should be approx. 0.4 mm, at the twelfth fret approx. 1.2 mm. You can improve the action by adjusting the notches of nut and bridge (plastic inlay) with a file. **Attention:** this work will need some experience, if you file the notch too deep the action will be too low and the strings snare.

10. Tuning:

The package includes a set of strings for the Hawaiian tuning (G - C - E - A) C-tuning), where G is tuned an octave higher, another common tuning is A - D - F # - H (D tuning). Best method for tuning your ukulele is using an ukulele clip tuner.

Below you will find a fingering chart for the C tuning

