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Kala KALA-LTP-S

Kala Learn to Play Soprano Ukulele Starter Kit (KALA-LTP-S) Instruction Manual

Model: KALA-LTP-S | Brand: Kala

1. INTRODUCTION

The Official Kala Ukulele Starter Kit provides a high-quality mahogany soprano ukulele and essential resources for beginners. This manual offers guidance on setting up, tuning, playing, and maintaining your instrument to ensure a rewarding learning experience.

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Official overview of the Kala Learn to Play Ukulele Soprano Starter Kit, demonstrating its components and initial setup.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Your Kala Learn to Play Soprano Ukulele Starter Kit includes the following items:

- High-quality Mahogany Soprano Ukulele with traditional Polynesian Shark Teeth laser etched rosette, Aquila strings, quality open gear tuners, and GraphTech NuBone nut and saddle.
- Kala logo tote bag for convenient transport and protection.
- 20-page Quick Start Guide booklet with essential information and tips.
- Access to Kala's FREE, easy-to-follow online lessons.
- Free Kala Tuning App for accurate tuning.



The Kala Soprano Ukulele Starter Kit, showcasing the ukulele, its packaging, and the quick start guide.

3. SETUP

3.1 Tuning Your Ukulele

The strings on your new ukulele will need to be stretched before they hold tune consistently. This is normal for new instruments. You will need to tune your ukulele each time you play, especially during the initial period.

1. **Download the Kala Tuning App:** The kit includes information on how to download the free Kala Tuning App from the App Store or Google Play.
2. **Stretch the Strings:** Place your hand on the bridge and lightly tug on the strings, pulling them away from the face of the ukulele. Do this to each string a few times during the tuning process.
3. **Tune Each String:** Play each string individually. The string name will appear on the app's display. The most common ukulele tuning is G-C-E-A (from top string to bottom string).
4. **Achieve Correct Pitch:** When the needle in the app is in the middle and the letter turns GREEN, the string is in tune. If the tuner reads to the left of center, tighten the tuner. If it reads right of center, loosen the tuner. Be careful not to over-tighten your string or it may break.



Close-up of the ukulele headstock, showing the tuning pegs for adjusting string tension.

3.2 Holding Your Ukulele

- Hold the ukulele in your left hand.
- The neck should be cradled in your left hand with your thumb behind the neck and your fingers on the front side of the neck.

- Cradle the body in your right arm with your forearm pressing it to your body.
- The ukulele will be held high on your body in the crook of your elbow.
- Your right hand points towards the neck of the ukulele.

3.3 Strumming Techniques

- To strum, make a loose fist with your index finger extended.
- Hold your fist in the center of your chest pointing left.
- Brush the fingernail of your index finger down across the strings towards the floor.
- Use the tip of your finger and nail to strum on the way up.
- Practice strumming down-down-down-down, initially.

4. OPERATING: PLAYING SONGS

The Quick Start Guide provides basic chord charts and simple songs to help you begin playing immediately. For more in-depth lessons, utilize the free online lessons available through the Kala Brand Music website.

- **Forming Chords:** Refer to the finger charts in the Quick Start Guide to learn how to position your fingers on the fretboard for various chords (e.g., C, F, G, Am).
- **Practice Chord Changes:** Continuously practice forming chords while strumming slowly. Gradually increase your speed as you become more fluid with chord transitions.
- **Playing Songs:** The guide includes simple songs like "This Land Is Your Land" and "Pachelbel's Canon in C" with corresponding chord progressions.





The Kala Soprano Ukulele, viewed from an angle, showcasing its mahogany body and fretboard.

5. MAINTENANCE

- **String Care:** New Aquila strings will stretch significantly during the first few days of playing. Continue to tune frequently until they stabilize.
- **Cleaning:** Wipe down your ukulele with a soft, dry cloth after each use to remove oils and dirt.
- **Storage:** Store your ukulele in the provided Kala logo tote bag to protect it from dust and minor bumps. Avoid extreme temperatures and humidity.



Detailed view of the ukulele's bridge and strings, showing the GraphTech NuBone nut and saddle.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Ukulele Not Staying in Tune:** This is common with new nylon strings. Continue to stretch and tune the strings

frequently. It may take several days for the strings to settle.

- **Buzzing Sound When Playing:** Ensure you are pressing down firmly enough on the strings when forming chords. If the issue persists, consult online resources or a music instructor.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	KALA-LTP-S
Size	Soprano
Body Material	Mahogany
Neck Material	Mahogany
Fretboard Material	Mahogany Wood
String Material	Nylon (Aquila)
Nut & Saddle	GraphTech NuBone
Tuners	Open Gear
Item Weight	1 pound (16 ounces)
Product Dimensions	3.25 x 8.38 x 22.63 inches

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, product support, or to access additional online lessons and resources, please visit the official Kala Brand Music website or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.