

Ukulele Durability and Sound

Brand	Model	Size	Approx. Price	Build Material	Build Quality 5 Max.	Sound Quality 5 Max.	# Ukes Reporting	Recommend Yes or No	Why Yes?	Why Not?	Review	Website
Tippy Canoe Tough												
Outdoor	Carbon black	Soprano or Tenor	\$145-\$205 DOS (depends on size)	Carbon fiber	5.0	5.0	2	Yes	It's a no worry uke. I have Multiple Sclerosis and am a bit clumsy. I don't have to worry. As the weather warms I have to tighten the strings a tiny bit. Almost no adjustment in winter with stable indoor temps. If you request a low G they will send you a strung high G and toss in a low G string in the box if you order from them. No postage or tax either.		https://vicsukuleleblog.com/2018/08/09/review-outdoor-tenor-ukulele/	https://www.outdoorukulele.com/collections/ukuleles
Outdoor	Std.	Tenor	\$160+-	Composite polycarbonate with fiberglass strands	5.0	4.5	9 (60 for school)	Yes	Available in tenor size. Neck and action is perhaps the best in the business...wood ukuleles included. Made in America. Best for outdoor playing. Great all-around uke. I like these so much that we bought them for our school. No kidding...60 tenors and 10 sopranos. I have a beautiful mahogany Kala with great sound and since I bought the Outdoor ukulele, I haven't even taken the Kala out of the case!	A little pricey. Sound is softer - can get lost in a group. Darker tone than many other ukuleles, even with fluorocarbon strings.	https://youtu.be/R5NmXVCoops & https://www.gotaukulele.com/2020/02/outdoor-ukulele-nickel-tenor-review.html	https://www.outdoorukulele.com/collections/ukuleles
Outdoor	Std.	Soprano	\$130+-	Composite polycarbonate with fiberglass strands	5.0	4.0	5 (10 for school)	Yes	Neck and action is perhaps the best in the business...wood ukuleles included. Made in America. Best for outdoor playing. I like these so much that we bought them for our school. No kidding...60 tenors and 10 sopranos.	A little pricey. Sound is softer - can get lost in a group. Darker tone than many other ukuleles, even with fluorocarbon strings.	https://youtu.be/g5H--uRyHk	https://www.outdoorukulele.com/collections/ukuleles
Enya	Nova	Concert	\$90	Carbon fiber composite	5.0	4.0	2	Yes	Fairly priced, very comfortable to play. Slight radius fretboard. Side sound hole. Durable	Requires a little care as it is painted—not as rugged as an Outdoor Ukulele.	https://youtu.be/jPxAYIwNITs	https://www.enya-music.com/collections/ukulele/carbon-fiber#MainContent
Lava U		Tenor	\$300+	Carbon fiber	5.0	3.0	1	Yes	electronics are cool as well as the case	Definitely overpriced. Not great sound. Not waterproof.	https://youtu.be/-WNW2zeQkgU & https://www.gotaukulele.com/2020/04/lava-music-lava-u-26-inch-tenor-ukulele.html	https://www.lavamusic.com/en/lava_u

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Kala	Waterman	Soprano	\$50+-	ABS Composite Plastic	3.0	2.0	2	No	Price.	I really don't like this uke much, it can handle different types of weather but I find that it doesn't stay in tune as well as the nicer ukes. It also is more muted sounding. I find it also has sloppy action and is just not that fun to play. It might be ok for kids, but I really don't recommend it for adults who want to play a lot. I have a feeling this one might even discourage new players because it is not that great. I guess the only benefit to this one is the lower price point.	https://www.gotaukulele.com/2019/02/kala-waterman-concert-ukulele-review.html	https://kalabrand.com/collections/the-waterman?gclid=CjwKCAjwm_P5BRAhEiwAwRzSOznuB1HDrSk_WjcF75vN7yJO rAvFEJZ4Czw9YCWqSllwZ2cN9TRwmBoCOGYQAvD_BwE
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	Campground Tough											
Blackbird	Farallon	Tenor	\$1500	Ekoa	5.0	5.0	1	Yes	Highly recommended. I play my Blackbird any time I'm in and out of a hot car all day running errands, but still want to jam, if I am performing or jamming in adverse environmental conditions.	\$1500 - pricey. I could not find any information about water immersion.	https://liveukulele.com/reviews/blackbird-farallon/	https://www.blackbirdguitar.com/collections/ukuleles/products/farallon-tenor-ukulele
Magic Fluke	Fluke	Concert or Tenor Scale - many options for more \$\$\$	\$249 - Upgrade to Peghed internally geared tuners + \$79.	ABS body, wood soundboard & neck	5.0	5.0	3	Yes	Best sounding ukulele of all of these, but you pay for it...starting at \$250 and going up. In terms of sound, this is as good as it gets on these plastic ukuleles. Once you get used to them standard friction tuners work well.	Really wide, flat neck, different than an Outdoor, that I find to be a bit uncomfortable. The rounded back of body shape makes it difficult to hold for some players. Generally not easy to have a strap (people have work arounds, but I'm not a fan of those). Difficult to adjust friction tuners standard.	https://youtu.be/vx80crzTjWM & https://www.gotaukulele.com/2010/10/fluke-ukulele-review.html	https://www.magicfluke.com
Magic Fluke	Flea	Soprano or Concert Scale - many options for more \$\$\$	\$225 - Upgrade to Peghed internally geared tuners + \$79.	ABS body, wood soundboard & neck	5.0	5.0	3	Yes	Great sounding ukulele! Very comfortable. Once you get used to them standard friction tuners work well.	Really wide, flat neck, different than an Outdoor, that I find to be a bit uncomfortable. The rounded back of body shape makes it difficult to hold for some players. Generally not easy to have a strap (people have work arounds, but I'm not a fan of those). Difficult to adjust friction tuners standard.	https://www.gotaukulele.com/2017/01/what-is-my-most-played-ukulele-its-flea.html	https://www.magicfluke.com

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Martin	OX	Soprano	\$314 street price	High pressure laminate body & wood neck	5.0	5.0	1	Yes	I absolutely love its sound. The Body is made of HPL so It can take a lot and you can't beat the sound on it! It's my go to Uke Since I can leave it out on a stand.	Pricier than the other [Tough] ukuleles. Wood fretboard and wood interior bracing so it isn't as durable as other [Tough] ukuleles.	https://www.gotaukulele.com/2017/05/martin-0x-uke-bamboo-soprano-ukulele.html	https://www.elderly.com/products/martin-ox-uke-bamboo-gigbag-red
Bonanza	Laminate	Soprano	\$300+- Depends on Size (DOS)	Formica body, wood neck - x	5.0	4.5	4	Yes	Good competitive price. I don't worry about going back and forth in temperature and humidity extremes. So well-made. Has high-end details and will customize. Just a delight! I am female and really appreciate the slimline model (which still sounds great by the way) because larger instruments are harder to play/hold with a bigger chest.	Cost. Really no other reason. A winner!	https://www.gotaukulele.com/2017/08/bonanza-ukuleles-hpl-concert-review.html & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqbCSeyAmNs	https://www.bonanzaukuleles.com/category-s/126.htm
Flight	TUS35	Soprano	\$50+-	ABS body & neck, wood soundboard	4.5	5.0	2	Yes	Amazing ukulele. Almost all the sound as a Fluke/Flea in a more traditional body style at 1/5th the cost. New models offer an adjustable bridge if action seems high. Comes with a single strap button. A number of colors are available. Good sound and great playability. I'd highly recommend them for anyone. The zero nut makes for easy fretting. It's loud and punchy! Haven't put it down since I got it. Very impressed, especially for a \$50 uke!	Bag is weak. Not waterproof.	https://youtu.be/vb_-GRR36kA	https://flightmusic.com/product-category/by-series/travel/
Amahi Panda	Watercolor	Soprano	\$50	ABS body & neck, wood soundboard	4.0	4.0	1	Yes	Direct copy of the Flight TUS35 at a slightly lower price point. Available at Cadenza Music.	It works well, but does not sound quite as nice as the Flight TUS 35. Still a good ukulele.	https://youtu.be/oHkZyRqjFO	https://amahiukuleles.com/product/watercolor-series/

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Klos	Acoustic carbon fiber	Tenor	\$539+ for acoustic model	Carbon fiber body & wood neck.	4.0	4.0	4	Yes	Klos claims you can run a truck over it with no damage. I haven't tried that. Neck has carbon fiber stiffening rods. I have it stung with a low G and the sound really projects, so when I want to play loud...it can play very loud. It also "feels" very good in my hands... very smooth contours, and I like the smoothness and size of the next. I have two Klos ukes...one strung with high G (Kala Elite) and my Klos...both are tenors and I switch and play both on a regular basis!	Expensive	https://www.gotaukulele.com/2019/01/klos-guitars-carbon-fiber-tenor-ukulele.html & https://www.ukulelemag.com/gear-reviews/uke-review-the-klos-deluxe-tenor	https://klosguitars.com/products/klos-carbon-fiber-acoustic-ukulele?variant=11369188163627
Definitions	See below.											

Tippy Canoe Tough - These are ukuleles that can fall in the water when the canoe tips over. They are likely to survive a knock on the rocks when you are dumped from the canoe. Play them on the dock or diving raft with no fears. They are wood free!

Campground Tough - These are ukuleles that can survive some banging around. They are likely to survive a fall from your picnic table. They will most likely tolerate some water being spilled on them occasionally but they won't like going for a swim! Wood and water don't mix in the long term life of a ukulele with any wood parts.

IMPORTANT Tough Ukulele Consideration - Ukuleles with electronic parts should not get wet! Just do a quick Google search for "what happens when instrument electronics get wet." The results will be helpful.