

Ukulele Straps?!?

Tony Anthonisen June 2018

I have ukulele straps on all of my ukuleles - soprano, concert and tenor. Why? For me, a strap stabilizes the ukulele. When I am leading a jam, I am forever handing out stuff. With a strap, I don't have to worry about my ukulele falling. Plus, whether I am sitting or standing while playing, with a strap my ukulele is always in the same position. I don't have to adjust to the uke being in a different location or orientation.

Does a strap button “hurt” your ukulele? - Most likely not. However, I'm not an instrument repair person. So I ALWAYS have strap buttons installed by professionals. My recommendation in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul) is Michele or Ron at St. Paul Guitar Repair - <https://stpaulguitarrepair.com>. I have worked with them for a couple of decades, and they are fantastic. They know when a strap button can be safely installed, and when it can not be safely installed. Cost of two strap buttons is about \$20.

To Strap or Not Articles and Videos

- GotAUkulele - Barry Maz - <http://www.gotaukulele.com/2012/12/to-ukulele-strap-or-not.html>.
- Ukulele Mike - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpLNvsRGfy4>.
- Ukulele Magazine - <http://www.ukulelemag.com/gear-reviews/how-a-strap-might-help-your-ukulele-play-and-sound-better>.
- Strap types - <https://liveukulele.com/gear/straps/>.

Strap Style - There are many different styles of straps that may or may not require a strap button or buttons on your ukulele. I am a firm advocate of strap buttons on the end and heel of the uke. The ukulele is stable and the strap doesn't get in the way. I prefer a strap that is relatively narrow, less than roughly 1 1/2 inches. Here are some of the strap styles.

Strap button to strap button or to Headstock

- **Levy's Jacquard - My favorite** - Looks good and works well - 3 patterns — <https://tinyurl.com/LevysJacquardStrap2> or <https://tinyurl.com/LevysJacquardStrap>.
- **Chee-Maisel** - Beautifully made - Many patterns - Really works well - <http://www.cheemaisel.com/signature-strings/straps>.
- **Bailey** - Works of hand-made leather art - <http://www.thebaileystrap.com/TopGrain.html>.
- **Lakota Leathers** - Made for mandolin, but work very well for ukulele - Non-braided strap made of Bison by Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation - Have to have shoemaker punch hole for second strap button - <http://lakotaleathers.com/products/mandolin/>.

Other Strap Styles

- **Uke Leash** - <http://www.ukeleash.com> - Not as secure as I like.
- **Mobius Strap** - <http://www.mobiusstrap.com/index.html> - Ukulele must have a waist.
- **Folk Guitar Style** - https://www.amazon.com/Levys-Leathers-MP23-006-Classical-Ukulele/dp/B00AWKJJKK/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1506317019&sr=8-4&keywords=levys+ukulele+strap - Too easy for ukulele to come unhooked and fall.

My Philosophy on Drilling Strap Holes - Musical instruments are “made to be played!” Over time, they will acquire badges of use. Hopefully these are nicks and dings of wonderful times spent playing your ukulele. Treat your musical friend/confidant/therapist to the protection of a two-button strap and the badges of use won't be major ones like a broken neck, cracked body or destroyed uke.