

LANIKAI™

BASS UKULELE CARE GUIDE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE OF A LANIKAI BASS UKULELE.

Lanikai is dedicated to providing instruments that allow musicians of all levels to maximize their musical experience. This brief guide provides an overview of your Lanikai bass ukulele.

While the Lanikai bass ukulele is relatively small & comfortable to play, you will soon notice the full body projects well for an impromptu acoustic rehearsal. Or, you can experience the tonal complexity & range when plugged in through an interface, DI or amp. We hope you find it a truly a versatile & multi-faceted instrument in your musical toolbox.

ENJOY YOUR LANIKAI!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ukulele Anatomy	3
Tuning Your Ukulele	4
Stretching The Strings	5
Playing the Ukulele	6
Treating, Cleaning & Polishing	6
Ukulele Construction Styles.....	7
Temperature & Humidity	8
Storage & Traveling	9
String Action	10
String Care & When To Change.....	10
How To Change Your Strings.....	11
Lanikai Truss Rod	12
Fishman Preamp & Tuner.....	13



BASS UKULELE ANATOMY

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. HEADSTOCK | 9. NECK BINDING | 17. BODY BINDING |
| 2. TUNERS | 10. UPPER BOUT | 18. TRUSS ROD ADJUSTMENT |
| 3. NUT | 11. WAIST | 19. SOUNDHOLE |
| 4. STRINGS | 12. LOWER BOUT | 20. ROSETTE |
| 5. FINGERBOARD | 13. BRIDGE PINS | 21. SADDLE |
| 6. FRETTS | 14. STRAP BUTTONS (2) | 22. BRIDGE |
| 7. INLAY | 15. TOP | 23. BATTERY/OUTPUT JACK |
| 8. NECK | 16. POSITION MARKERS | 24. PREAMP CONTROLS/TUNER |

TUNING YOUR BASS UKULELE

Lanikai acoustic electric basses utilize a comfortable 23.4"/595mm scale with a new style of string which offers familiar feel and comfort while maintaining a genuine ukulele tone with depth. Lanikai bass ukuleles are tuned like a bass guitar or E-A-D-G (low to high).

All Lanikai bass ukuleles have Fishman® Clásica II preamps that feature a built-in tuner. (More information on the preamp later in this booklet.)

BASS UKULELE TUNING NOTES

Notes top to bottom holding bass ukulele in playing position

4 STRING
BASS

WRITTEN



SOUNDS



Open strings,
no fingers

E A D G

Fret 1



1

2

3

4

5

6

	E	A	D	G
1	F	A[#] B^b	D[#] E^b	G[#] A^b
2	F[#] G^b	B	E	A
3	G	C	F	A[#] B^b
4	G[#] A^b	C[#] D^b	F[#] G^b	B
5	A	D	G	C
6	A[#] B^b	D[#] E^b	G[#] A^b	C[#] D^b

STRETCHING THE STRINGS

GETTING NEW STRINGS TO SETTLE

It is a good idea to keep your bass ukulele tuned to standard tuning E A D G (low to high). Keeping it in tune helps the strings stretch and settle in. It also helps the neck adjust to the standard tuning tension.

Be advised, new strings need to STRETCH! Lanikai bass ukulele strings are Phosphor Bronze metal outer windings but still with a nylon core. Nylon is very elastic at first and needs to stretch and settle in. It is normal that new strings will need several tunings initially before they begin to fully stabilize.

Once tuned, gently pull on each string out from the ukulele at the sound hole and in front of the fingerboard several times. This helps strings stretch out. Then retune and repeat the stretching process. After several stretches and tunes, eventually, the strings will settle and require only a light tuning touch up before playing.

From the factory, your Lanikai bass ukulele is equipped with **D'Addario XTB3790GS** strings for optimal tone, projection and intonation. This set is Phosphor Bronze wrapped for intonation stability and provides a traditional tactile feel that bass players appreciate, while the nylon core creates a warm, full low-end foundation. We highly recommend that you continue to use this D'Addario string set to maximize your bass ukulele performance and feel while preserving the unique musical tone. **Caution:** Do not use standard bass guitar strings on this bass ukulele. Standard steel core bass guitar strings have too much tension for the construction of this instrument.



D'Addario, D'Addario X, D'Addario XT, XT, X logo, and the D Six String logo are registered trademarks and/or common law trademarks of D'Addario & Co., Inc. or its affiliate companies in the United States and/or other countries. © 2023. All Rights Reserved.

PLAYING A BASS UKULELE

A Lanikai Bass ukulele is tuned to standard pitch E-A-D-G and is essentially played just like a bass guitar. While all of the standard notes of a bass guitar apply, the comfortable short scale allows for easier access to a wider range of notes. The special design and strings of the Lanikai acoustic bass ukulele provide great tone and outstanding feel while delivering a fantastic array of tones when amplified. The Lanikai bass ukulele is a great size to use as a practice bass or a back-up bass, while also providing an excellent option to serve as a primary bass for acoustic performances or recordings.

LanikaiUkuleles.com has a free downloadable fingerboard note chart to get you started, but there are many lessons and tutorials available online from many sources. Your local music store likely has a teacher and books, or perhaps you already have a friend who plays who can show you how to get started playing bass if you haven't played before.

TREATING, CLEANING AND POLISHING

To keep your bass ukulele in the best condition, sometimes it is necessary to clean and polish it as well as treat the fingerboard and bridge. Old T-shirts and sweatshirts are excellent choices for polish cloths since they typically do not have any buttons or harsh stitching that can scratch the ukulele.

Satin finishes require less polishing. Your satin bass ukulele should be wiped down after playing, but keep the polish to a minimum.

Use instrument polish that is specially formulated for delicate string instrument finishes. Guitar polishes are formulated for the same style polyurethane finish and easily available online or at local music stores.

DO NOT use any furniture polishes, waxes, anything that contains silicone or harsh chemicals such as a window cleaner or bleach that can damage the ukulele finish.

Notice that the fingerboard and bridge of your bass ukulele have no finish. This is called “open pore” which means the wood is open or exposed with no finish closing the pores. Treating the fingerboard and bridge should be done once or twice a year depending on the climate you live in.

For treating the fingerboard and bridge you can use a very light coat of lemon oil, mineral oil (available at home improvement stores) or bore oil (used on wood clarinets – available at music retailers). A light coat of any of these safe, mild oils on the bridge and fingerboard will restore the wood's luster, rehydrate it and give it a gentle protective coating to help keep it safe from the elements.

UKULELE CONSTRUCTION STYLES

Lanikai bass ukuleles are available in two construction styles: Laminate and Solid Top with laminated back and sides. Depending on the particular use of the ukulele, each construction type has specific advantages and associated care suggestions.

LAMINATED Laminated wood ukuleles are the most popular type of ukulele. The wood of a laminated ukulele is in several layers with crisscrossed grains. There is a decorative veneer layer on top to finish it off. A laminated wood ukulele is durable and resilient to splitting or cracking. However, like any string instrument, temperature and climate extremes should be avoided.

SOLID TOP On a Solid Top instrument, the top wood is solid or one piece of wood, but it is usually book-matched, meaning it is split down the middle and opened like a book, which results in grain patterns that mirror one other from one side of the top to the other. The solid top naturally gives the instrument a more rounded tone and more projection or volume. Solid wood is more susceptible to temperature extremes and humidity changes, so it requires a little extra care. In dry climates, a humidifier is suggested to keep the top wood in good condition and not too dry. To avoid splits or cracks in a solid top, keep it in a comfortable controlled climate with adequate humidity (between 40% and 60%).

MODEL	COLOR	NUT/SADDLE	NUT WIDTH	TOP STYLE	SCALE LENGTH
MA-EBU	Satin Natural Mahogany	NuBone XB®	1.65" / 41.9 mm	Laminate Mahogany	23.4" / 595 mm
OA-EBU	Satin Natural Oak	NuBone XB®	1.65" / 41.9 mm	Laminate Oak	23.4" / 595 mm
FB-EBU	Satin Natural Figured Bocote	NuBone XB®	1.65" / 41.9 mm	Laminate Figured Bocote	23.4" / 595 mm
SPST-EBU	Satin Natural Spruce	NuBone XB®	1.65" / 41.9 mm	Solid Spruce	23.4" / 595 mm

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

A COMFORTABLE UKULELE: Whether you have a laminated or a solid top bass ukulele, the most important factor for proper care of your Lanikai is to keep it in a comfortable climate. Generally, it is best to store your Lanikai in a temperature range of 70° to 77° Fahrenheit and in 40% to 60% humidity. These are the temperature and humidity conditions are ideal, but obviously conditions change in different rooms or when outside etc, but as a general rule, try to keep your instrument within these conditions.

TEMPERATURE: AVOID ANY EXTREME (TOO HOT OR COLD)

DO NOT:

- DO NOT expose to extreme temperatures. Heat and cold directly affects the glue and can damage the bracing, joints and even split the wood or the seams.
- DO NOT expose to direct sunlight for extended time.
- DO NOT store or place ukulele directly in front of hot/cold air ducts.
- DO NOT store or place directly in front of functioning fire place or space heater etc.
- DO NOT leave in the trunk or in a hot/cold car for extended time.
- If your bass ukulele has been exposed to cold temperatures, let it gradually warm up inside the case slowly to guard against the possibility of the wood or finish cracking.

HUMIDITY: AVOID ANY EXTREME (TOO MOIST OR DRY)

- Be advised that while they sound sweet, full and project well, solid top instruments are sensitive to too little humidity.
- Try to keep your bass ukulele in 40% to 60% humidity whenever possible.
- If the air does not have enough humidity (too dry) it could cause the wood to crack.
- Do not place your bass ukulele next to a source of dry heat, especially during dry winter months.
- Too much humidity or moisture in the air could cause the wood to expand, which could ultimately cause structural issues.
- Another indication of too much humidity is the neck might bow which causes the string action to raise slightly and affect the playability.
- There are several types of instrument humidifiers on the market. Some humidifiers attach directly to the sound hole. Case humidifiers are stored in internal case compartments and there are room humidifiers for home or studio use. You can select from a variety of styles of humidifiers online or at your local music store.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY (CONT.)

OVERALL

To better control the environment around your bass ukulele, store it in a case with a humidifier inside the case if you prefer, since it is easier to control the temperature and humidity in smaller spaces.

If you prefer to display your bass ukulele on a wall hanger or floor stand, be aware of the temperature and overall humidity in the room and make sure it is not in direct sunlight or in front of heating or cooling ducts.

STORAGE AND TRAVELING

When storing your bass ukulele for a short period of time, it is not necessary to loosen the strings. However, if you plan on not playing it for an extended time (a few months or longer) loosen the strings to ease the constant neck tension.

Before storing, we strongly suggest thoroughly wiping down all hardware and polishing with instrument polish to remove any chemicals or skin oils that may react with the instrument while in storage.

If you don't play your bass ukulele for an extended time, keep it in the gig bag in a comfortable climate as covered earlier in this booklet.

If traveling in a car, keep the bass ukulele in the back seat, rather than the trunk, since there is less chance of damage and it is temperature controlled. But as covered earlier, do not leave the instrument in a hot or cold car.

If traveling by plane, do not "check" your bass ukulele without adequate flight case protection and packing.

When traveling, remember to provide the best protection possible for your instrument and utilize the best case and bag options available to you. Lanikai offers several bag and case choices for purchase. Visit any authorized Lanikai dealer for more details.

STRING ACTION

The “action” on a stringed instrument refers to the height of the strings off of the fingerboard. A higher action decreases the playability and action that is too low can result in buzzing from the strings touching the frets.

Each Lanikai bass is set up with optimum action before it is sent out, but if you prefer a lower action, we recommend taking it to where you purchased it or to an experienced repair person who can adjust the action to your playing preference.

The humidity and temperatures in your area may slightly affect the action. It may take a while for your ukulele to adjust and settle into its new surroundings. Monitor it and have it professionally adjusted if needed. This is a standard part of string instrument care and maintenance.

STRING CARE & WHEN TO CHANGE

From the factory, your Lanikai bass ukulele is equipped with **D’Addario XTB3790GS** strings for optimal tone, projection and intonation. This set is Phosphor Bronze wrapped for intonation stability and provides a traditional tactile feel that bass players appreciate, but have a nylon core which creates a warm, full low-end foundation. We suggest you continue to use this D’Addario string set to maximize your Lanikai bass ukulele performance and feel and also to preserve the unique musical tone.

After each practice or performance, thoroughly wipe down the strings to remove skin oils and/or sweat with a soft dry cloth. This habit will prolong the life of your strings. However, depending on how much you play, the life of your strings will eventually fade.

You may start to notice a dull or flat tone, sustain becoming shorter, or even notes that sound out of tune on some chords but not on others. These are all signs that your strings should be changed.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR STRINGS

Our bass ukuleles use traditional large-scale bridge pins to secure the string ends.



STEP 1: STRING END / BRIDGE PIN • The bridge has 4 oversized bridge pins. The strings have a large ball end.



STEP 2: STRING BALL & BRIDGE PIN • Insert the string ball end into the hole of the bridge and slide the bridge pin in behind it. (Note: there is a groove in the bridge pin for the string.)



STEP 3: BRIDGE PIN SEATED • Press the bridge pin firmly into position and apply gentle upward pressure to seat the string into place. (Sometimes it is necessary to keep some pressure on the bridge pin top while turning the tuner until the string end gets seated.)



STEP 4: TUNING MACHINE • Cut the string end approximately 3 to 3 1/2 inches past the tuning post. Insert the end directly into the center of the tuning post. Turn the tuner in the proper direction to allow the string to feed into the nut slot from the center of the headstock.



STEP 5: STRING WINDINGS • It is best to maintain continuous pressure on the string as the tuning machine collects a few windings around the post. (Note: it is best to keep the windings neatly spooled onto the post. This helps keep the string from slipping and changing tuning. Plus, it simply looks better.)



FINAL • When completed, the strings should be securely seated at the bridge and the windings on the tuning posts should be clean with no ends to clip. Naturally, it will take a few tunings for the strings to stretch and settle into position. Gently pulling the strings away from the instrument between a few tunings will help stretch the strings.



LANIKAI TRUSS RODS

To allow for maximum playability, your Lanikai bass ukulele is equipped with a single action adjustable truss rod (adjusts with a standard 4mm hex wrench). If you are familiar with truss rod functions, you can easily adjust the action. However, if you are not familiar with truss rod adjustments, we suggest you seek a professional luthier to avoid over adjustment and damaging your instrument.

A truss rod is a metal rod in the neck under the fingerboard in many types of string instruments. A truss rod helps keep the neck straight. We adjust each for optimum playability but climate, humidity changes, different string gauges can occasionally require a truss rod adjustment.

To play properly, string instruments need a slight bow (relief) in the neck to allow the strings to clear each fret. However, if the bow increases too much or reverses to a back bow (warp), the playability is affected. A truss rod corrects a string instrument's neck curvature slightly. On the bass ukulele, Lanikai uses a standard 4mm hex wrench adjustment located just inside the sound hole.

1) Bow (neck over-bending) • A bowed neck occurs when the neck has too much relief or curvature affecting playability.

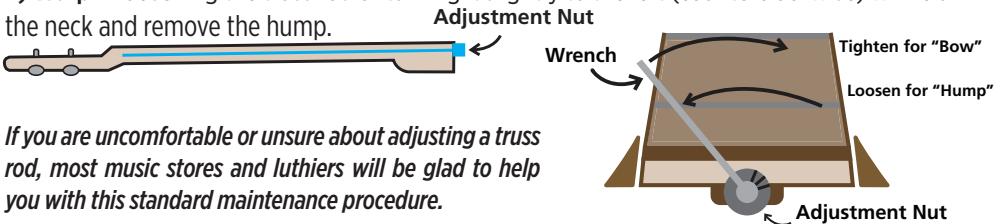
2) Warp (neck hump backward) • Warp occurs when the neck has a hump and in some cases causes strings to “fret out” or buzz when played.

Adjusting a truss rod is not difficult, but it should be done with **CAUTION**. Start with only a quarter turn of the truss rod nut and allow time for the neck to adjust. (Apply another quarter turn if needed). If the truss rod is tightened or loosened too much, the problem can be over-corrected and potentially create a worse problem.

Some players like a slightly higher action and others want a very close action. As a general rule, Lanikai bass action is set up close to **3mm** on the G string at the 12th and **4.5mm** on the low E string at the 12th.

1) Bow • Turning the truss rod nut to the right (clockwise) will straighten the neck and take out bow. But remember there should be a slight bow for proper playability.


2) Warp • Loosening the truss rod or turning it slightly to the left (counterclockwise) will relax the neck and remove the hump.

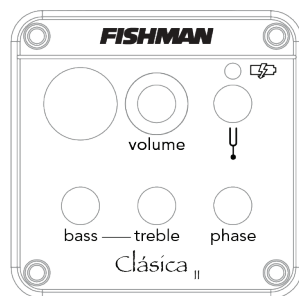


If you are uncomfortable or unsure about adjusting a truss rod, most music stores and luthiers will be glad to help you with this standard maintenance procedure.

FISHMAN PREAMP AND TUNER

CLÁSICA II QUICK START

- 1. Set the controls** • Set volume off and bass and treble controls to center.
- 2. Plug in** • Connect the Clásica II to your amplifier or PA with a ¼-inch instrument cable. The  light will flash once quickly to indicate it has switched on.
- 3. Tune up** • Press the tuner button. When it's on, the tuner mutes the signal. Press again to exit.
- 4. Turn up** • Raise the volume and adjust the bass and treble controls to your liking.



CONTROLS

Volume • For the cleanest signal, set the volume knob as high as possible, without causing distortion or feedback.

Bass • Boost here to add depth and weight to the sound of the bass ukulele.

Treble • Boost to cut through the mix. Cut to mellow and subdue the sound.

Phase • Use the phase switch to improve bass response at low volume and suppress feedback at high volume.

Tune • Use the tuner lights as shown below to tune your instrument.



"A" note
below pitch




"A" note
in tune



"A" note
above pitch



"A#" note
in tune

When the  lamp lights steadily it is time to change the battery. To conserve the battery, unplug the instrument and turn off the tuner when not in use.

REPLACING THE BATTERY

The Fishman® preamp and tuner systems require a standard 9-volt battery. An Alkaline 9-volt is suggested for the best results. The 9-volt battery is simply replaced by opening the door by the output jack. To extend the battery life, disconnect the cable from the ukulele when not in use and confirm the tuner is in the off position.



BATTERY COMPARTMENT



Thanks again for choosing Lanikai. May you deeply enjoy your bass ukulele and share your music with the world.

We hope you will choose another of our instruments when you are ready to add to your ukulele collection.

Please suggest a Lanikai to family and friends!



Real Ukuleles for Real Musicians.

Be sure to follow us online at
lanikaiukuleles.com
and sign up for the newsletter
to stay in the Lanikai loop!

Tag us in your social media
posts with your Lanikai!
@lanikaiukes

