Aloha ukulele shipmate!

I'm happy to hear you've signed up! After teaching ten beginner ukulele courses, I'm pretty confident to say that you'll REALLY enjoy the course and class members. Believe it or not, I'll have you playing and singing the first week!

I highly suggest you check out the ukuleles at Buckdancer's Choice Musical Supply on St. John Street in Portland. They have an excellent selection, the best in the New England area! They are extremely knowledgeable and not only stand by, but service what they sell. When people buy over the internet where deals may look better, it is always 'pot luck' in terms of an instrument’s set-up and quality.

When you go to Buckdancer's to purchase, they have a number of ukes in the $70 to $120 dollar range. I suggest a purchase somewhere in the middle at $100. You can get a good uke at the lower price range, but for a few dollars more, you can get a REALLY nice uke you'd be proud to play for years! Look for the Kala, Lanakai, or Amahi brand ukes, but I would not discount any brand Buckdancer's sell.

The salesperson will ask you if you want to buy a soprano, concert, or tenor sized uke. Soprano is the smaller (by only an inch in all directions) of the three. I personally like all sizes and all sizes would be fine for any player, regardless of ability. If you forced me to make a decision regarding uke size, I'd say buy a concert sized uke. They are a little larger, giving the fingers a little more room on the instrument.

While there, you'll need to purchase an electronic tuner. I'd recommend the Snark brand of tuner. These are generally priced at about $15.00. They might have a different suggestion for a tuner and I'd be open to what the salesperson's thinking, but most times a Snark tuners does just fine.

I typically make a trip to Buckdancer’s Choice before the first class to check out and play all their ukes. Please do not hesitate to write (dana.c.reed@roadrunner.com) or call me on my cell (207-653-6593) for my take on the ukuleles I play that day. From my visit I generate a list of my Top 10 hand-picked ukes!

Mahalo, nui loa! (Thank you, very much! in Hawaiian)

Dana (aka, Captain Ukulele)