

Hello everyone I'm Avery Cole president of the Kentucky 4-H state virtual ukulele club now some of you may be saying I didn't realize Kentucky 4-H had a ukulele club but we do and are having so much fun sharing and learning to play this amazing little instrument one of the good things that has come out of this pandemic is the virtual opportunities that have been made possible through Kentucky 4H and because of Jennifer Tackett's insight that ukulele club came to be and she is the extension specialist for Kentucky 4H youth development and is the leader for our club and the director of the Kentucky 4-H performing arts truth leadership board learning to play any musical instrument can be a bit overwhelming at first especially when you see other people playing existing were born with it in their hands if you always wanted to play some type of instrument a ukulele E is a great one to start with and with just a few pointers you can be on your way to making beautiful music let's get up close and personal with the ukulele and get to know the different parts why do you want to know the different parts simple understanding what parts of the ukulele will help you with the important tasks such as tuning restringing and even general maintenance OK let's start at the top of our ukulele this is called the headstock and it's used for holding the tuners the headstock is the furthest piece away from the body of the ukulele and it's made of a solid piece of plastic or wood this part is designed to be hard and strong to support the tension from the tuners and strings the tuners or tuning pegs are located on the headstock as you may have figured out by now they are used for tuning the strings there are two common types of tuners those that point out the sides and those bit point backwards nine point out to the sides the top end of the string is threaded through and go around the tuners so that the tension on the strings can be changed for tuning purposes and not is a Ridge between the fret board and the headstock that the strings rest up on and nut has notches that help keep the strings in place at the top of the nuts are also used to raise the strings off the fret board allowing you to change notes by pressing down on different frets the neck sits behind the fret board and is designed to curb from side to side allowing the ukulele E players hands to cut around the finger fretboard and the neck this part is also strong to support the tension from the strings sitting on top of our fret board you'll find frets hearts are small bars placed into the fret board with the lowest pitch fret closest to the ukulele ease head stop and nut and the highest position next to the sound hole there's a highest and our lowest Fret when you press down on a string you'll see that it touches a fret the body is the central part of the ukulele and consists of the front piece the sides and the back it is used to amplify the sound from the vibrating strings the body is usually made out of solid wood from laminate piece all of which have a dramatic effect on the tone the sound hole is situated under the strings right here in the center of the body of the ukulele E and project the sound that reverberates inside the body of the uke strumming or plucking the strings directly above the sound

hole produces the loudest sound whereas if you move away from the sound hole towards the neck or down the body it reduces the sound most strings on the ukulele or either nylon or metal wound strings and or what you pluck or strum to create vibrations that are sent through the soundhole to make the ukulele sound an interesting fact is that the first ukulele strings were made from catgut I think I'll stick to nylon the saddle is a strip of material placed on the side of the bridge it is nearest to the soundhole its purpose is to keep the strings in the correct position kind of like a saddle keeps us horseback riders in proper position the bridge is the part of the UK where the strings are attached to position behind the saddle this piece is normally glued into the body of the ukulele OK so let's go over the parts again we have the headstock that's where the nut the neck has frets the body the soundhole strings the saddle and the bridge OK so now we have the parts down let's get ready to jam right well maybe not one important thing to work on before having a jam session is learning how to make sure your ukulele is in tune if it's not into the chords and notes will sound pretty bad and you won't enjoy playing and people will definitely not enjoy listening it's very important to develop the habit of tuning your ukulele before playing the easiest way to make sure it's in tune is to use an electronic tuner like this one and online tuner or a ukulele tuning app which you can get on your phone once you think you have your new clearly tuned there's a fun little exercise up strumming your strings from top to bottom singing my dog has fleas which is also your gene CE and a strings you heard that right folks my dog has fleas well he really doesn't have fleas but that's OK a fun little jump into playing we need to learn how to properly hold our ukulele hold the ukulele against your chest but their right forearm across the top edge of the lower bout your strumming finger should be able to comfortably reach almost across toward the nut needs the body this is the best place to strum if you try and strum with the strings are closer to the bridge it gets harder the strings and the sound isn't as nice let's start out today with one super simple note the C major or C ukulele chord and the good news is that it only requires one finger remember that the open circles represent open strings so no fingers are needed on the G or E string place your third finger or your ring finger on the A string or our bottom string at the third fret 123 your hand should look similar to this and there you have it see our first chord I know it's wrong a lot of different terms you today in order to play a ukulele however here's another one let's get you familiar with strumming and plucking so what's the difference when you strum an instrument you stroke the strings of the instrument touching several strings at once which together make up a chord when you pluck or pick you pull individual strings either separately or together and immediately detach your finger from the instrument like strumming when you pluck strings together it makes a chord in its simplest form strumming add balls of broad movement of the thumb or plectrum which is also sometimes called

the pig however for a ukulele you need to have a felt left row while picking or plucking involves a more precise movement of individual fingers or plectrum against individual strings the ukulele E is a fun little instrument which is made a great comeback in the past few years you probably heard it featured in several songs on the radio and artists like grace vanderwall have really made it popular choice for people wanting to try out a musical instrument if you're debating on whether or not ukulele E is something you may be interested in here a few reasons to start number one it's so easy to learn the ukulele is easier than the guitar and other stringed instruments it's strings are gentler on your fingertips and don't create finger pain like guitars do or a double bass believe me I know from experience the small size reduces wrist tension because the notes are reachable without stretching plus it only has four strings which makes chord shapes and scales easier to learn the ukulele E is affordable I think ukulele E won't string your wallet the way other instruments do you can buy a nice new one for around \$100 or less and there are different body sizes you have soprano concert tenor and baritone to fit your needs and budget so you don't have to stress about it getting damaged it's portable it's the ultimate travel instrument you can take it virtually anywhere tossed in the back of your car take it to 4H events bring it on a plane it's much easier to haul than other instruments like a tuba it's fun and friendly the ukulele E is miss credibly social instrument because it's not intimidating at all and can be played by anyone young or old musician or not musician it's happy joyful tone makes it a delight to play and accessible everyone they just sound great the ukulele E has a rich warm sound that is sure to put a smile on your face and those around you it's a perfect pick me up whether you're in your bedroom by herself or at a party with your friends songs easily adapt to the ukulele you can play most popular songs on your ukulele E in a variety of genres yes even heavy metal and even those songs with complex chords can be simplified for the ukulele E to make them easier to play because of the instruments for strings I hope that I encouraged you to perhaps learn more about the ukulele E and discover a hidden talent that you may have sending happy notes your way for a wonderful day