

# Altoids Ukulele



## Plans

Build a concert scale ukulele with an Altoids Tin!



## Supplies:

- Altoids tin
- 1/4 inch by 1.5 inch by 36 inch wood (for fretboard and neck)
- 1/2 inch by 1.5 inch by 5 inch wood (for headstock)
- 4 small eye screws
- Nylon ukulele strings
- 4 geared tuners
- 30 inches of fret wire
- 1 regular sized nail (for bridge)
- Polyurethane finish
- Super glue or epoxy
- Wood glue (Titebond or similar)
- Sandpaper

## **Tools:**

- Electric drill (A drill press works best)
- Various drill bits
- Clamps
- A thin bladed saw (for the fret slots)
- Hand saw
- Rasps, files, or spokeshave (to shape neck)
- Miter box
- Tin snips



1. Cut the 1/4 inch by 1.5 inch wood into a 15.25 inch piece and a 16.75 inch piece.
2. Cut the 1/2 inch by 1.5 inch wood into a 4.25 inch piece.
3. Cut one end of each of the three pieces off at a 45 degree angle.



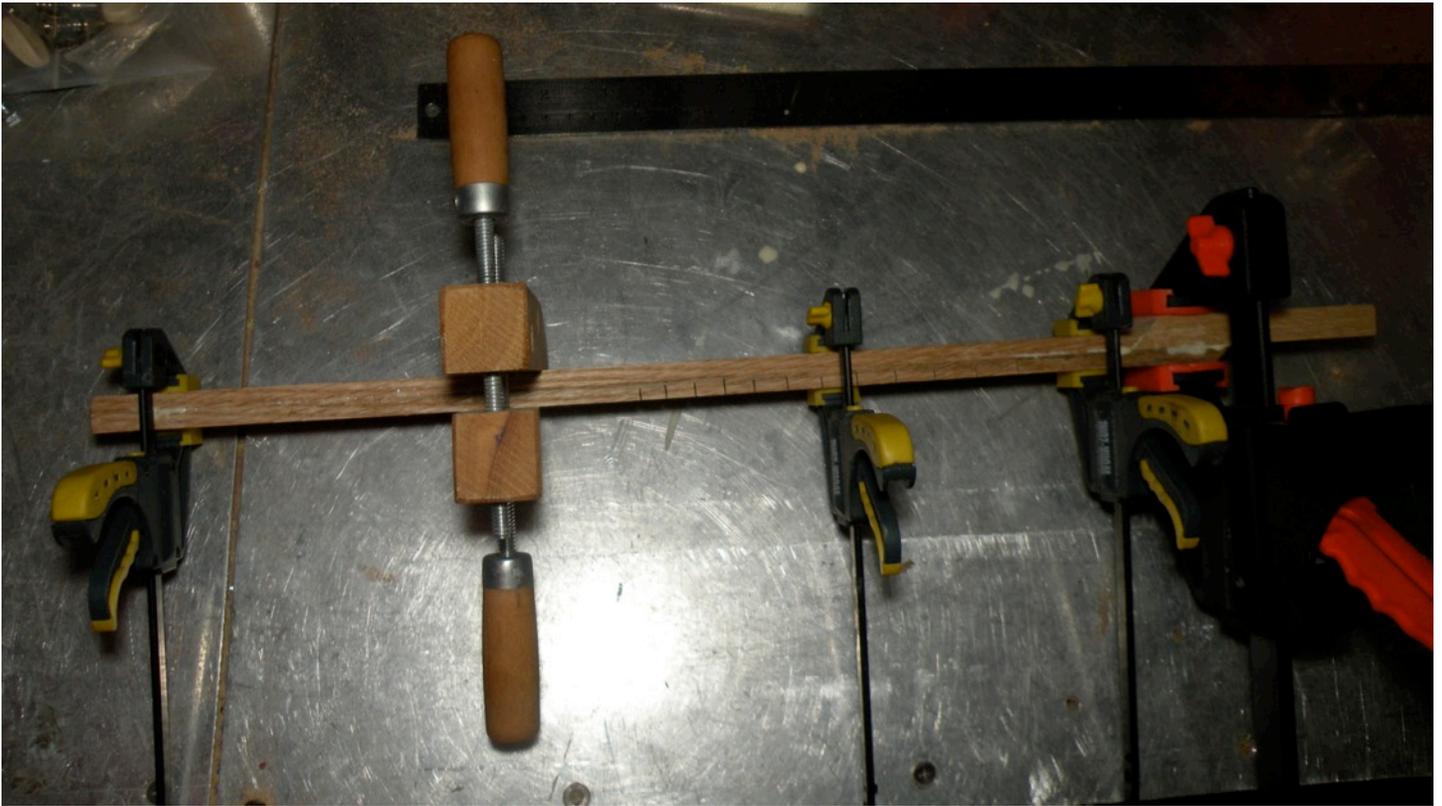
4. Print off the fret guide located on the last page of these plans. Tape the fret guide to the 16.75 inch piece of the 1/4 inch by 1.5 inch piece of wood. Make sure that the line on the left is about 1/4 inch from the edge of the 45 degree taper. The 45 degree taper should slope away from the zero fret slot.



5. Using a miter box and a thin bladed saw, cut shallow slots along the lines. The slots only need to be as deep as the tang of the fret wire.



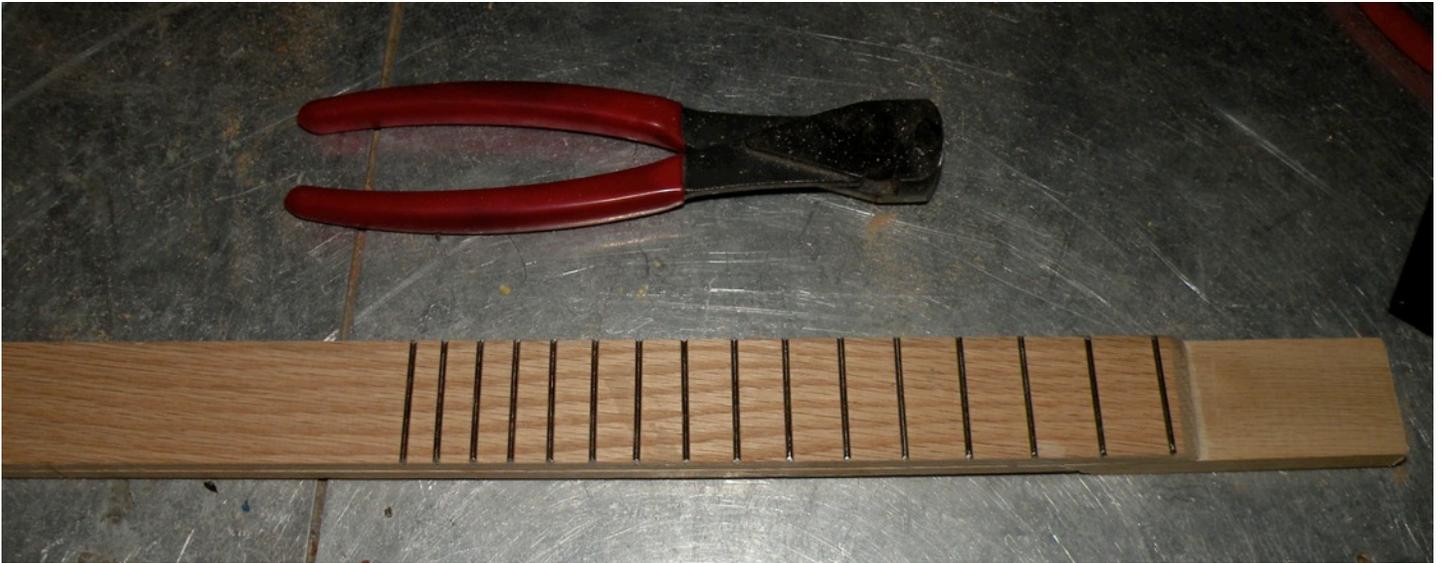
6. Ensure that the pieces fit properly together. The non-tapered ends of the 1/4 inch by 1.5 inch pieces should even with each other.



7. Glue the three pieces of wood together with wood glue.



8. Use tin snips to cut a 1/2 by 1.5 inch hole in the lid and box of the tin. Make sure the tin is oriented the right way.



9. Once the glue has properly dried, carefully tap the fret wire into the slots. Use a file to make the edges of the frets comfortable for sliding up and down the neck.



10. Sand and shape the neck until it feels comfortable in your hand.



11. Drill holes for the tuners. Drill small holes for the eye screws on the headstock near the edge of the fretboard. Use the fret guide to place the holes evenly apart.



12. The position of the tuner holes and screws will need to be adjusted for different styles of tuners.

13. Epoxy the neck into the tin. Make sure that the tin can still open and close.

14. Give the neck a protective coat of polyurethane (or similar).



15. Once the finish has dried, install the tuners.



16. Install the eye screws into the headstock



17. Drill string holes through the wood and tin. Use the fret guide to place the holes evenly apart. Tie knots in the strings and feed them through the holes.



18. Place a nail the under the stings. The middle of the nail should be exactly 15 inches away from the zero fret. Adjust the nail if the intonation is not right.



19. Once the intonation sounds correct, trim off the head and tip of the nail, if desired. Glue the nail in place.



20. Tune up the strings and rock! **Make a YouTube video about your instrument and/or take pictures of it. Share the link or pictures to [CircuitsAndStrings@gmail.com](mailto:CircuitsAndStrings@gmail.com).**

