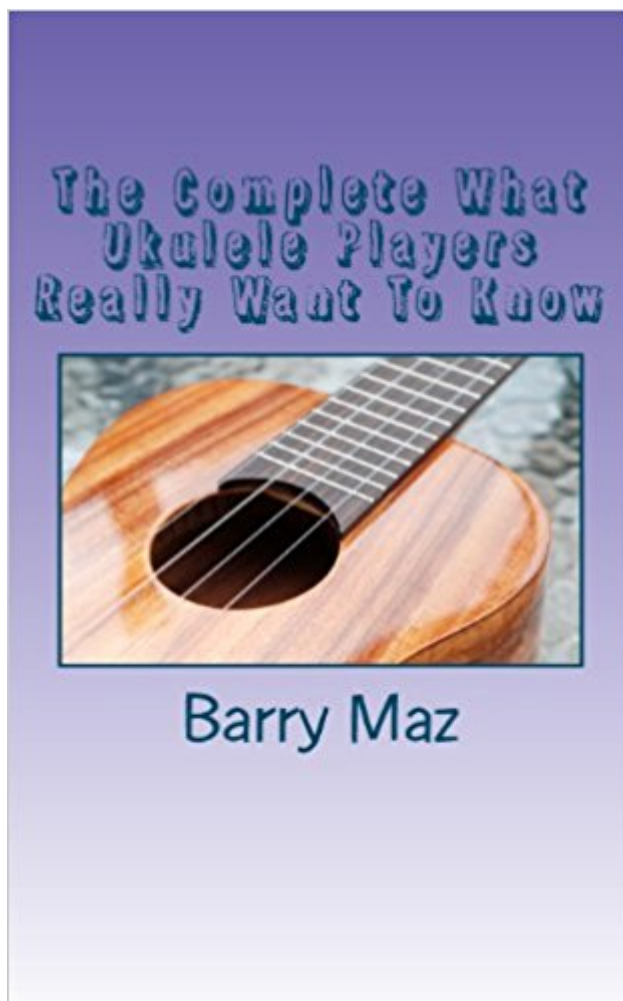


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# The Complete What Ukulele Players Really Want To Know



## Synopsis

TWO BESTSELLERS NOW AVAILABLE IN ONE COMPLETE VOLUME! Bringing together the bestselling ukulele beginners guides, 'What Ukulele Players Really Want To Know' and 'More Of What Ukulele Players Really Want To Know' in one handy volume. The Complete What Ukulele Players Really Want To Know! Over 50 detailed chapters aimed at advising new ukulele players on the things that most tutor books leave out, with everything from how to hold the uke, fingernail care, to basic theory and advice on practice regimes. Want advice on cases, on performing, on types of wood? Look no further. What about electronics, how to tune up, advice on strings - that's covered too. In fact, just about everything a new player will think about is in here. Learning how to play the ukulele? Look no further! This is NOT a how to play book or a song book, but has been called an 'owners manual for new players' -an answer to all those niggling questions that will hit you when you first start playing. Barry recommends that his guides are read alongside traditional tuition (whether you are learning online, from books or with a teacher) as a means to supplement your all round knowledge of the uke! And don't worry! If you prefer one or other of the original books they are still available and always will be!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barry is a well known personality in the worldwide ukulele community and founder of the website Got A Ukulele, now one of the most popular resources for new ukulele players. For the past 30 years he dabbled with acoustic and electric guitar, but was switched on to the ukulele some years ago on account of a number of his musical heroes championing the uke (the likes of George Harrison and

Loudon Wainwright III amongst others). Â Like most beginners, Barry started with a cheap and nasty ukulele which was a struggle to play, so he started to explore better quality instruments and learned along the way. The more he played, the more he enjoyed this little instrument and decided to start sharing his experiences on the internet and in print. The response was massive with the site being hugely popular today and considered to be a key 'go to' resource for impartial beginners advice. He doesn't so much write about 'how to play', but rather shares his love of the instrument and provides advice to new players on how to live with a ukulele. He has played an enviable number of ukuleles and reviewed many of them on his website in great detail, making his site a regular resource for people looking for opinions on their next instrument. He doesn't class himself as a great player, but someone who has been around the ukulele for quite some time with a desire to help other new players who are just starting out. Following the ongoing success of the blog he was persuaded to put down his best tips and advice for new players into a series of books. They hit the shelves at just the right time with great success (his first book going on to become the best selling music book on Kindle at one point in 2011) The ukulele really is an instrument for everyone - its quick to pick up the basics (most beginners can easily be playing a simple song in 30 minutes) and it really gets people talking. But like all good instruments, it will take a lifetime of enjoyment to master! Keep strumming!

The best way to explain this book might be to first explain where I'm coming from with regards to the review. I've played guitar for nearly 30 years. I've dabbled with other instruments here and there. I love blues of all kinds...from Heavy Metal Scorpions, Iron Maiden, Metallica and Megadeth (I graduated in 1987...it's required!). To the classics of Pearl Jam, Floyd, Zep...to the blues of popular strains such as B.B. King, SRV, Clapton...to the jazz of Grant Green, Pat Martino, Jim Hall, and Ed Bickert...to lesser knowns such as Junior Watson and Rick Holmstrom. Some Dylan and Ray Lamontagne too. So...that's my musical background in crib-notes form. At this current day and age the ukulele has made an unprecedented resurgence in popularity. Or if you're around my age...it's first foray into the mainstream. The ukulele has permeated the pop culture and these little things are available in more places than guitars these days. One of the older gentlemen I work with kept bringing his in. I played with it. I was hooked. I wanted to buy myself a uke. But dubious of all the current offerings, and knowing many companies like to just make something to sell...vs. make a quality instrument to play, I wanted to do my research before I purchased my first uke. Not surprisingly, the sudden rush of popularity in ukuleles has produced a glut of mass produced instruments made to satisfy the casual purchaser. These should be avoided. In fact, like guitars, I'd

say 50% of what's out there will be built for a quick sale and not for actual playability. with 40% more being made as genuine instruments. And 10% catering to the discerning collector or actual practicing musician. With costs for customs commonly in the thousands. So with all this information you would think I was ready to buy. Well, all it did was give me more questions! lol In a long quest for information I stumbled across this book (via the author's blog). I was skeptical that a relatively private publish book, for a 3.99 ebook price tag would have much to offer. I was so very happily wrong. This book answered ALL of my questions. All those questions that anybody who already plays ukulele knows, and is bored to death answering are answered in candid and happy detail in this book. The author shares that he comes from a guitar background such as myself (and I suspect many, many others). He quickly dispels the myth that a ukulele is a cheap toy (unless you buy the cheap toy version), and in fact a serious instrument. The book explains what to look for and what to avoid in purchasing your first (few) ukes. I won't go into great detail of what the book covers, instead I'll say that it will answer your questions. Even the ones you would feel too basic to ask. I will say the topics tend to be a little disjointed. I might have grouped the chapters differently. I found myself saying, "yeah, but what if?" and then the book would answer that question in a slightly non linear fashion in a later chapter. But this is a minor problem, The book reads so easily you would think the author was writing an email to you. Very conversational. Very candid. His passion for the ukulele is transparent and genuine. And this actually enhances how fun and easy the book is to read. So in conclusion, buy the book if you're new to the ukulele. All of the staples that apply to buying a guitar simply apply to ukuleles (construction, quality hardware and components, setup, etc.) The difference is the companies are all different than guitar. That's right, it's not dominated by Fender, Gibson, or PRS. The book does allude to who the Fenders, Gibsons, and PRSs of the ukulele world are though. Which is great as I was clueless when it came to ukues. I will say that as a guitar player, especially if you're at all good, the transition to ukulele is fairly seamless. What was nice about this book, even if you're familiar with guitar, is the differences between the two that you simply won't know unless you read it. Various constructions, different sizes and the pros and cons of each. All of this for a lousy 3.99. The book would be worth it at 29.99. If you have not bought your first ukulele yet, or if you purchased a cheapie and are looking to upgrade to a real actual instrument, this book is going to save you a LOT of money and time. Barry, I don't know you but kudos for such a brilliant book. My first uke was a really nice acacia Kala...and I spent some pennies on a nice Pono based strongly on the information in this book.

This is an excellent book for beginning ukulele players. Lots of tips about buying a uke. What to look

for. What to expect. How to go about learning & playing. I wish I had this BEFORE I bought my first ukulele. Might have bought a different one. Lots of good tips and suggestions. Even for somewhat experienced players.

Great little Kindle book for a first time ukulele players. It will introduce you to every facet of the ukulele. Get this Kindle book first before you start building your ukulele book library. You will not be disappointed

I think this may be the best 5 dollars I have ever spent. The information given potentially will save me money, time and frustration when purchasing and playing in future years.

A very complete basic book that everyone will learn something from. If you love the uke, you'll love this book.

This is a really handy book for the beginning ukulele player. It has hints, tips and information that is not usually found in the standard instructional books. I found it to actually be an enjoyable read. I will probably read it again at a later date. It also has some good practice suggestions and all around tips. Very nice if you are not all that experienced at playing the uke. Recommended.

This is an easy read and talks from a musician's perspective. It contains great information. I also like the fact that Maz tells you not only the accepted mainstream way of doing things but also other alternatives. I can quickly and easily apply this book to the real world.

This book is an outstanding resource for beginners. As an old garage band guitarist with little musical education I was able to appreciate the small amount of music theory in the book. Much more useful was all the information about choosing a ukulele, caring for it, and tips for learning and appreciating the instrument. It is brief, but worth the few bucks and the time. (Kindle edition.)

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