

How To:

Use A Capo

What is a Capo?



A capo is a small device that clamps onto the neck of a ukulele and shortens the length of the strings, thus raising the pitch. A capo is usually fastened across all the strings (like playing a bar chord). The word "capo" is taken from the Italian word for "head". The purpose of using a capo is to allow playing in a different key while still using the original non-capo chord shapes.

It is recommended that the capo be placed directly behind the fret but this may hinder your hand and fingers with their positioning for chords. I usually leave a bit of a gap behind the fret. Even with doing this I still find using a capo a bit uncomfortable.

Types of Capos

There are many different types of capos. On this page I've shown the 4 different capos that I own. A capo can cost anywhere between a couple of dollars and perhaps \$20. They can be made of plastic or metal.

I prefer to use the Meideal Capo. It's priced around \$10 and is quite sturdy.

All capos do basically the same thing except for the SpiderCapo Mini. It is something that is unique in the sense that it can do more than just bar strings. It lets you choose which strings across a fret you wish to hold down. I haven't found a use for this capo, yet.



When do I use a Capo?

Typically there are not a whole lot of reasons to use a capo for a ukulele player. The pitch of a ukulele is already quite high (for me anyway) and it's not often that I would want to sing or perform in a higher key. Below is my list of reasons to use a Capo:

1. You want to accompany or practice a song that's being played in a higher key.



2. You want to play-along with someone else and they are playing in a higher key.

3. A song you are playing doesn't sound right unless it is played in a different key. I can only think of one song that I use a capo regularly for and that's "Everybody Wants To Rule The World" by Tears For Fears.

