



Polk-a-lay-lee

Date

1960 ca.

Primary Maker

Petersen Products

Description

Produced as a marketing promotion by Polk Brothers, a discount electronics and appliance chain in Chicago. Similar to the Kooky ukes marketed by Swaggerty Specialities Co., San Clemente, California, in the 1950s and 1960s. Ukulele of modified form with pentagonal body and long hook-shaped head. Stringing: four nylon strings. Soundboard: three-ply maple plywood; strings recessed into top. Back: three-ply maple plywood. Ribs: three-ply maple plywood; pine blocks at all corners. Head and neck: pine. Heel cap: none; edge of back slightly rounded at upper edge. Binding: none. Fingerboard: red plastic; curved extension on treble side, but without frets; 13 integral frets, including a 0-fret; recessed white-painted dots behind 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th frets, not including 0-fret. Nut: red plastic; integral with fingerboard; two red plastic string guides to direct strings to pegbox, which is far up the curved head. Bridge: red plastic with integral saddle, glued to top. Tuners: four red plastic pegs, with large, pentagonal heads. Endpin: red plastic. Rosette: none; eccentric, oval-shaped soundhole. Finish: medium, milky brown. Linings: none. Neck block: pine; ribs discontinue at joint with top block, so that it is visible from the outside of the instrument. End block: none. Top braces: none. Back braces: none. Straps: red synthetic rope neck strap; brown leather strip attached to upper two pegs for hanging.

Dimensions

Total ukulele length: 1287 mm (52-1/2") Back length: 346 mm (13-5/8") Upper bout width: 42 mm (1-21/32") Waist width: 221 mm (8-7/16") Lower bout width: 98 mm (3-7/8") Rib height (including edging) at heel: 39 mm (1-17

/32") Rib height, at waist: 40 mm (1-9/16") Rib height, at end block: 41 mm (1-5/8") Head length: 727 mm (28-5/8") Head width, top: 20 mm (21/32") Head width, bottom: 40 mm (1-9/16") Neck length (nut to ribs): 208 mm (8-3/16") Neck width, nut: 40 mm (1-9/16") Neck width, heel: 42 mm (1-21/32") Soundhole diameter: maximum width: 104 mm (4-3/32"); maximum height: 40 mm (1-9/16") Vibrating string length (0-fret to bridge edge): 460 mm (18-3/32")