

U·BASS™

Owner's Manual



www.ubass.com

Introduction:

Congratulations on the purchase of your Kala Solid Body U-Bass! You are about to embark on a new musical journey with this portable yet powerful instrument. It is our goal to provide you with a versatile new instrument that is capable of producing remarkable bottom end in live and studio applications. The heart of the U-Bass tone lies in its polyurethane strings in conjunction with its size (21" scale length) and active pickup system. These create a sound that is both traditional and progressive. Paired with a high quality amplification or recording system, the applications for the U-Bass are limited only to your imagination. This owner's manual will give you an overview of the set-up, care and maintenance of your U-Bass as well as detailed specifications.



Setup, Care, and Maintenance

Set Up:

To achieve the fundamental tone and feel of the U-Bass, polyurethane strings are used. When you first open the case to your U-Bass, the strings could be slacked. Because the strings are polyurethane, they will go through a short period of stretching until they arrive at their final state. You can expedite this process by gently tugging on the strings, then tuning the strings to pitch several times until the strings no longer drop in pitch. Upon inspecting the instrument, you will notice that the string posts of the tuning machines are larger than your average bass guitar. This is to accommodate the large diameter of the U-Bass strings. The ideal number of wraps for each string should be between two and four, depending on the string. If, after stretching the strings, you have more than that, you may want to consider unwrapping the string and re-tuning it with fewer wraps. This may seem challenging but the time you spend on this crucial step will have considerable rewards.

Your U-Bass has its intonation preset. The saddle and bridge are positioned in such a way that proper intonation is achieved through use of a compensated saddle assembly. This means that each individual string saddle comes to its peak point at a different location than its adjacent string. This allows your U-Bass to play in tune on the lowest of lows and the highest of highs.



Changing Strings:

Changing strings on the U-Bass takes a little finesse. Looking at the back of the instrument, you will be able to see the crimped string endings. Before unwinding the strings, make note of how many wraps are on the individual posts. There should be no more than two winds on the B, E, A, and D strings and three winds on the G string. Unwind the strings and remove them from their posts. Gently pull the strings from the bridge holes until the string is all the way out. Now you are ready to install fresh strings. Carefully feed the new strings through the bridge hole and into the slots of the tuning pegs. Stretch the strings as far as you can around and through the string post. This is a critical step as too many windings around the post can lead to tuning and tension issues. Once the strings are tuned up (E, A, D, G), alternate between stretching and tuning them until they lock into pitch. Please note that this process takes some time but will reward you with stable tuning.

Whenever practical and possible, keep your U-Bass in its case or gig bag. Since the U-Bass is smaller than your average bass or guitar, you may want to purchase a hanging style instrument stand for breaks during recording, rehearsal, or performance. These allow the instrument to hang from the area where the neck meets the headstock. They usually have a support for the back of the instrument. Keeping your U-Bass in the case protects it from weather damage and other hazards that could void your warranty. Before placing your bass in its case, be sure to wipe the strings off with a soft cloth as well as other contact areas (neck, upper bout, bridge).

The fret board on the U-Bass should already be well conditioned. If after a period of time you see that the fret board looks dry, apply a thin layer of lemon oil or mineral oil to a cloth, then wipe the fretboard evenly. After a minute or two, wipe the excess oil with a clean cloth. This process should be done no more than twice a year. Of course, never leave your U-Bass in a hot or cold vehicle for a lengthy time. This leaves your bass vulnerable to theft as well as damage that could void your warranty.

As with any fine instrument, the U-Bass benefits from an intentional approach to maintenance. Unlike traditional electric bass strings that begin their lifecycle with a bright sound then gradually mellow, U-Bass strings are *designed* to have a warm, mellow tone, similar to an upright bass. It is not uncommon for these polyurethane strings to last several years after their initial break in period if you continue to keep your U-Bass clean.



Shadow Active Pickup and Equalizer

The Shadow active pickup system runs on two 3 volt, coin-style batteries. They are accessible through the magnetic cavity cover on the back of the bass. To change batteries, carefully remove the old ones using a small, flathead screwdriver. Replace by gently holding up the small metal tab and sliding the batteries into place, one at a time. Be sure to not bend or pinch the pickup lead as it is quite fragile.

Instrument Specifications:

Tuners: Hipshot

Neck wood: Maple

Fret board: Rosewood

Frets: Medium

Bridge: Custom Rosewood

Saddle/Pickup: Passive Shadow piezo

Preamp: Shadow active with volume, bass, and treble controls

Body wood: Poplar

String height at 12th fret: 5mm for optimum tone

Strings: ROAD TOAD MUSIC proprietary polyurethane

Case: Embroidered U-Bass gig bag

In our ongoing quest to provide players with the best instruments and accessories at the highest value, all prices and specifications are subject to change without notice.

For more information visit: www.ubass.com

For warranty information, please download our warranty registration form at kalaukulele.com