The Ukulele

These plans are to accompany *The Ukulele - An Illustrated Workshop Manual*, written by Graham McDonald and published by MusicBooks Press. ISBN 9780980476293
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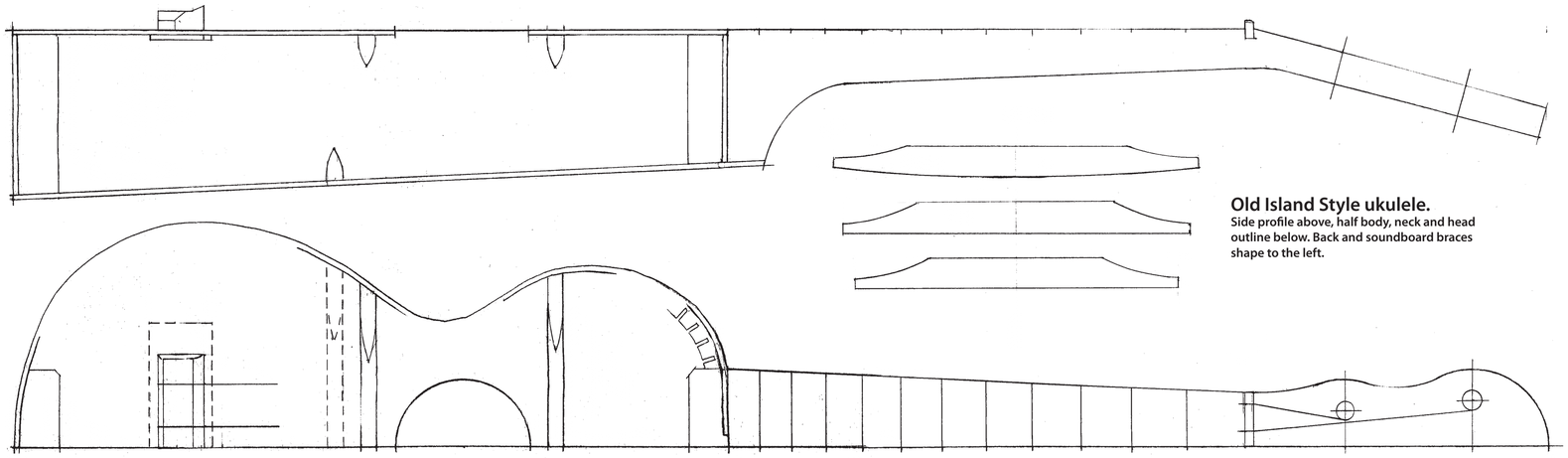
These plans should be printed at 100% on either A1 or 24x36" paper. This is Sheet 1 of 2

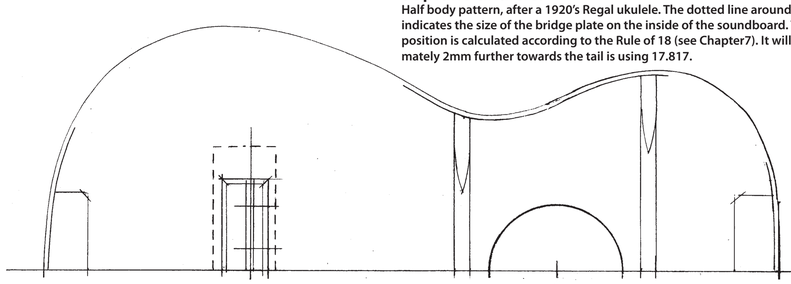


Old Island Style ukulele.

Side profile above, half body, neck and head outline below. Back and soundboard braces shape to the left.

Soprano ukulele.

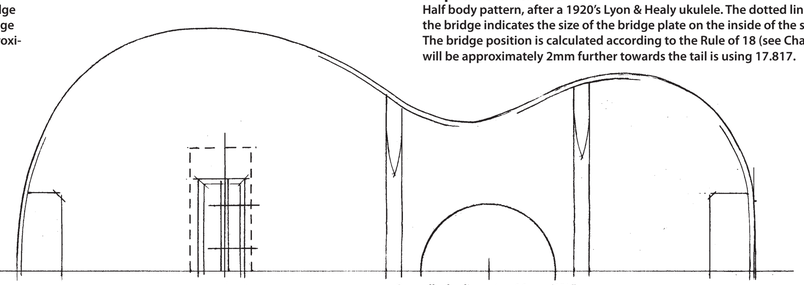
Half body pattern, after a 1920's Regal ukulele. The dotted line around the bridge indicates the size of the bridge plate on the inside of the soundboard. The bridge position is calculated according to the Rule of 18 (see Chapter7). It will be approximately 2mm further towards the tail is using 17.817.



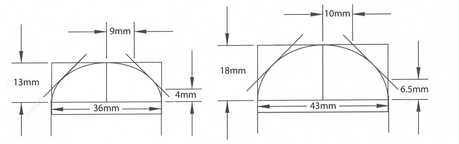
Soundhole diameter 44mm/1¾"

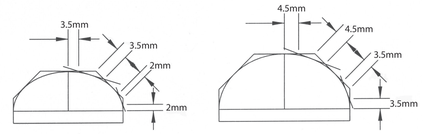
Soprano ukulele.

Half body pattern, after a 1920's Lyon & Healy ukulele. The dotted line around the bridge indicates the size of the bridge plate on the inside of the soundboard. The bridge position is calculated according to the Rule of 18 (see Chapter7). It will be approximately 2mm further towards the tail is using 17.817.

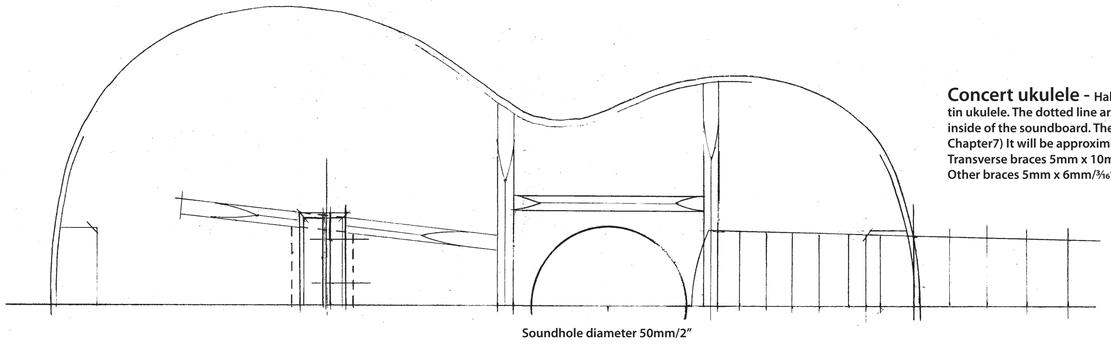


Soundhole diameter 44mm/1¾"



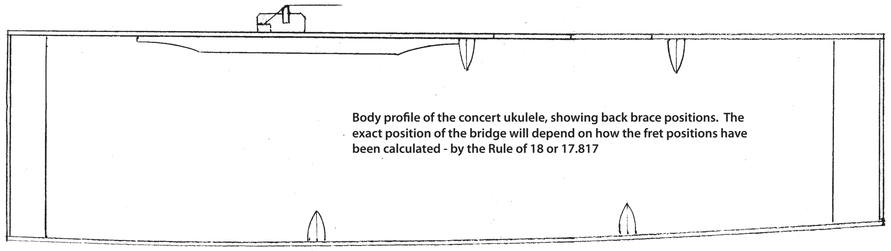


Measurements for cutting facets in the neck shaft as the first stages of shaping the neck. This should be used in conjunction with the instructions on page 109.

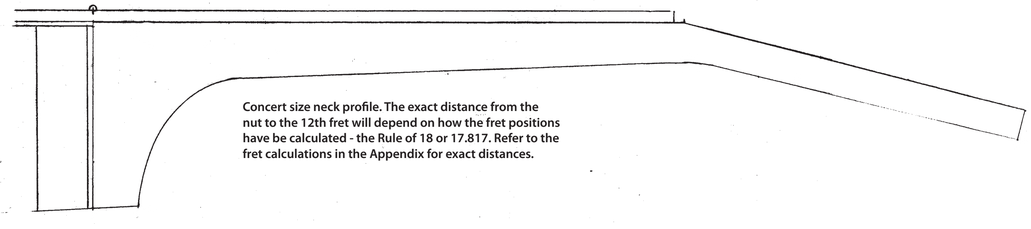


Soundhole diameter 50mm/2"

Concert ukulele - Half body shape of a concert size ukulele, based on a 1920s Martin ukulele. The dotted line around the bridge indicates the size of the bridge plate on the inside of the soundboard. The bridge position is calculated according to the Rule of 18 (see Chapter7) It will be approximately 2mm further towards the tail is using 17.817.
Transverse braces 5mm x 10mm/3⁄16" x 3⁄8"
Other braces 5mm x 6mm/3⁄16" x 1⁄4"

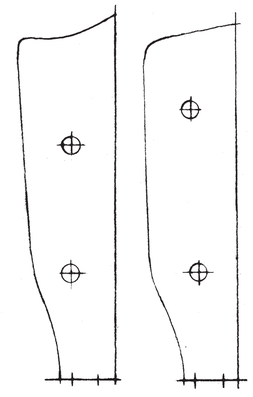


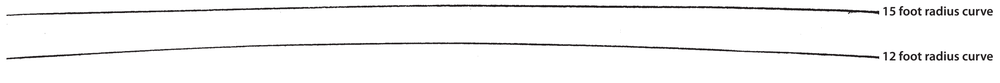
Body profile of the concert ukulele, showing back brace positions. The exact position of the bridge will depend on how the fret positions have been calculated - by the Rule of 18 or 17.817



Concert size neck profile. The exact distance from the nut to the 12th fret will depend on how the fret positions have be calculated - the Rule of 18 or 17.817. Refer to the fret calculations in the Appendix for exact distances.

Two head outline shapes. The one on left is based on a Martin design and the other is after a 1920s Regal shape. There are full size photos of these head shapes on page 53.





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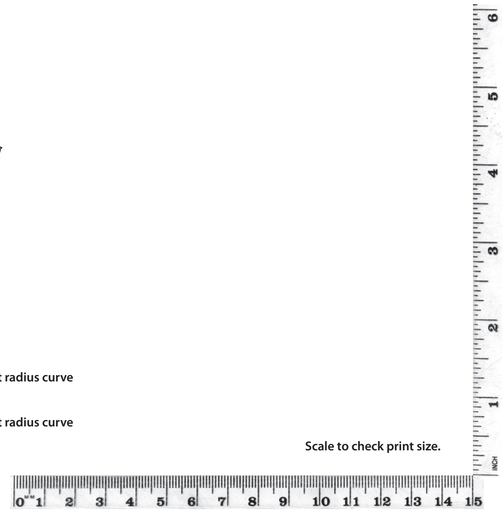
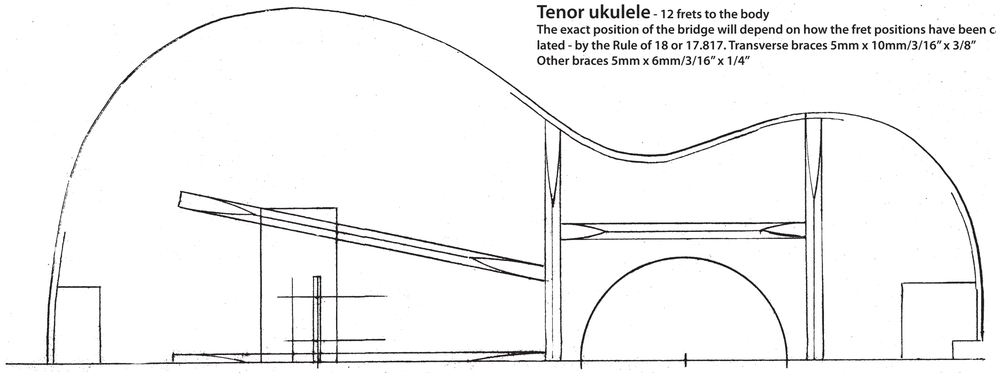


Tenor ukulele - 12 frets to the body

The exact position of the bridge will depend on how the fret positions have been calculated - by the Rule of 18 or 17.817. Transverse braces 5mm x 10mm/3/16" x 3/8"
Other braces 5mm x 6mm/3/16" x 1/4"

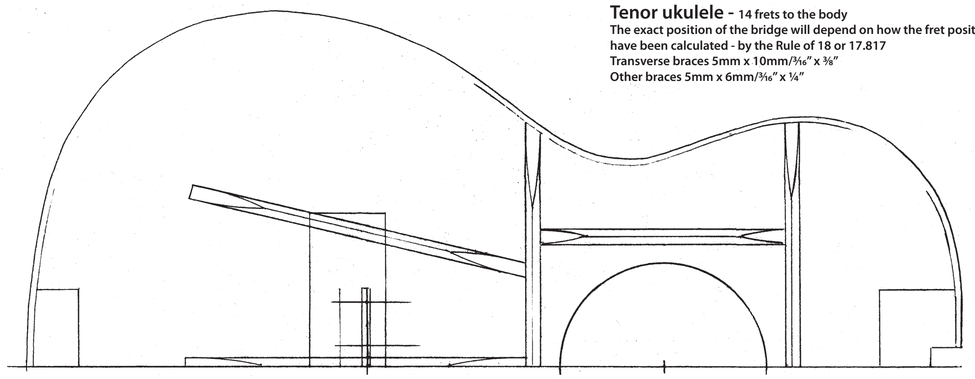


Neck block 50mm/2" wide x 25mm/1" deep and mortice 10mm/⅜" wide x 12mm/7/16" deep

Soundhole diameter 67mm/2⅝"

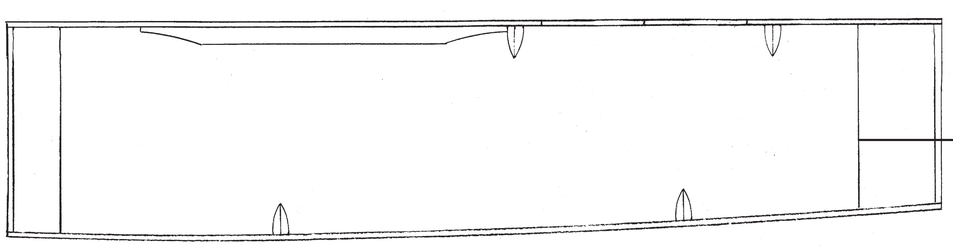
Tenor ukulele - 14 frets to the body

The exact position of the bridge will depend on how the fret positions have been calculated - by the Rule of 18 or 17.817
Transverse braces 5mm x 10mm/3/16" x ⅜"
Other braces 5mm x 6mm/3/16" x ¼"

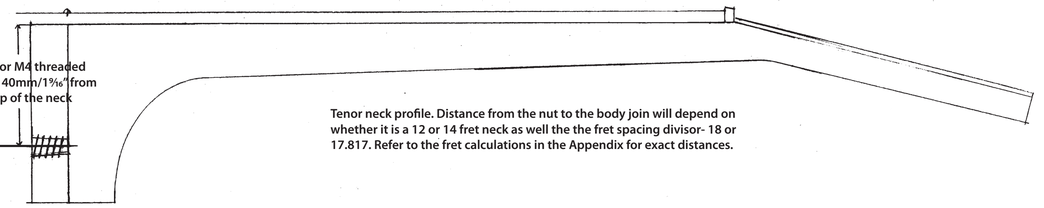


Neck block 50mm/2" wide x 25mm/1" deep and mortice 10mm/⅜" wide x 12mm/7/16" deep

Soundhole diameter 67mm/2⅝"



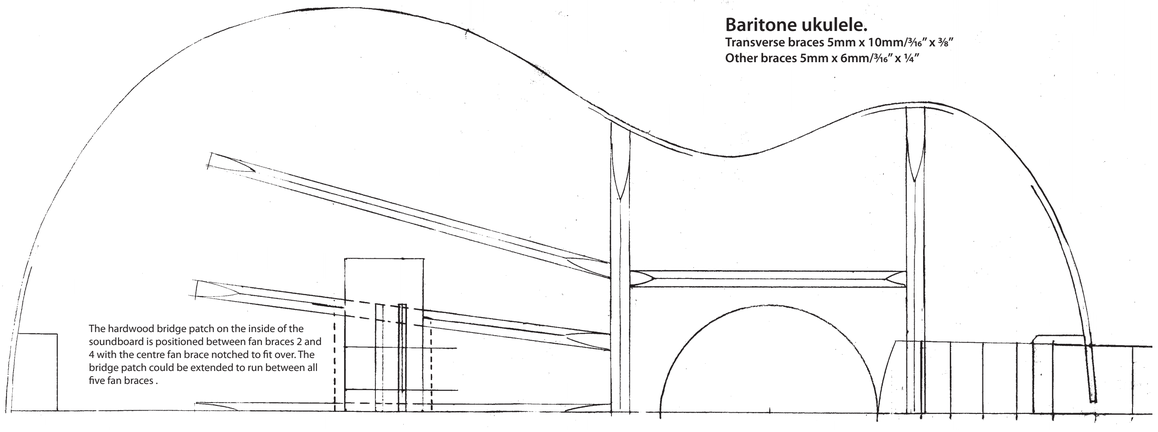
Hole for M4 threaded insert 40mm/1 9/16" from the top of the neck



Tenor neck profile. Distance from the nut to the body join will depend on whether it is a 12 or 14 fret neck as well the the fret spacing divisor- 18 or 17.817. Refer to the fret calculations in the Appendix for exact distances.

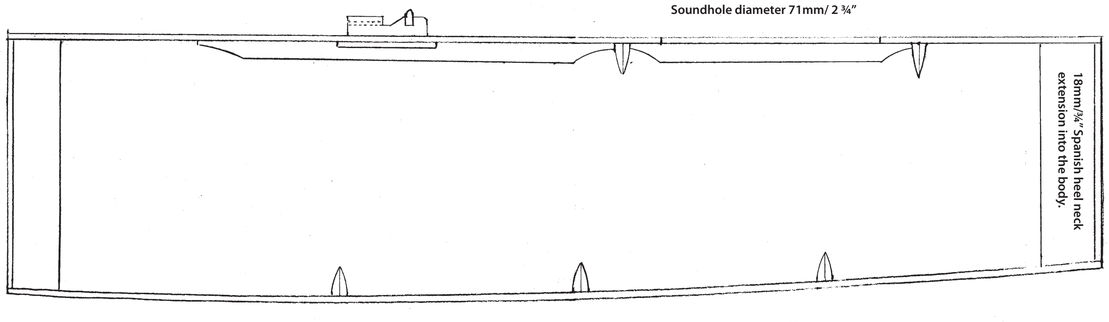
Baritone ukulele.

Transverse braces 5mm x 10mm/3/16" x ⅜"
Other braces 5mm x 6mm/3/16" x ¼"

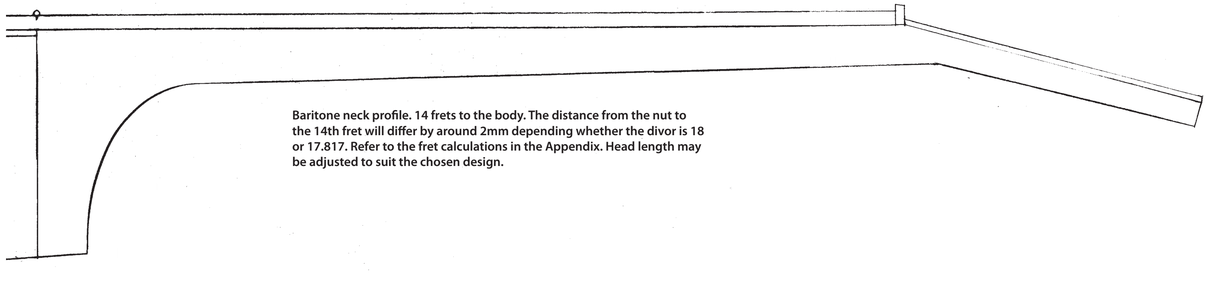


The hardwood bridge patch on the inside of the soundboard is positioned between fan braces 2 and 4 with the centre fan brace notched to fit over. The bridge patch could be extended to run between all five fan braces .

Soundhole diameter 71mm/ 2 ¾"



18mm/¾" Spanish heel neck extension into the body.



Baritone neck profile. 14 frets to the body. The distance from the nut to the 14th fret will differ by around 2mm depending whether the divor is 18 or 17.817. Refer to the fret calculations in the Appendix. Head length may be adjusted to suit the chosen design.

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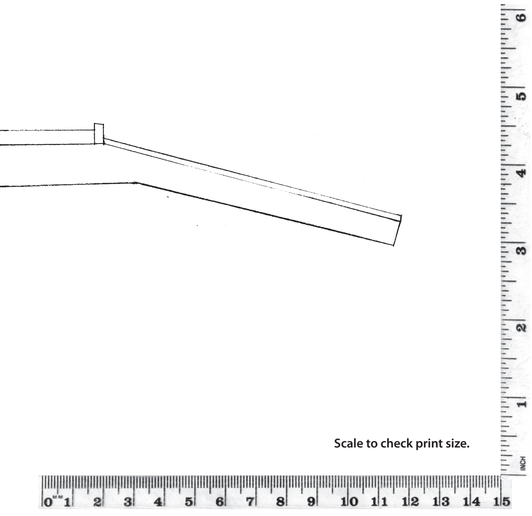
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