



Finished Instrument



MUSICMAKERS

651-439-9120

www.harpkit.com



Thank You for purchasing a Kantele from Musicmakers. Our instruments are handcrafted from quality woods and, with proper care, should last a lifetime.

Get to know the parts of your Kantele



Tuning Wrench

Caring for your Kantele

As with all musical instruments, the best thing you can do is to avoid exposing your Kantele to extremes in temperature and humidity. As a general rule of thumb - your Kantele is comfortable when you are. In other words, don't leave your Kantele in a car for 5 hours on a hot summer day or store it in the garage in January during a Minnesota winter.

You can clean and polish your instrument with regular furniture polish. We favor Old English because it has the added benefit of hiding any scratches that might have shown up over time.

If you want your instrument sounding its best - then you should change your strings at least once a year. A new set of strings will add life and energy to the tone. If you aren't all that concerned about the tone - then it is just fine to keep the same set of strings on your instrument for as long as you want. Should any rust start to show on the strings you can rub them with some fine steel wool to brighten them up.

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.
- Aldous Huxley

How To Replace Strings

This Kantele comes with loop-end strings. You can purchase replacement strings from Musicmakers. Ball-end acoustic guitar strings can also be used and are available at just about any music shop that sells acoustic guitars.

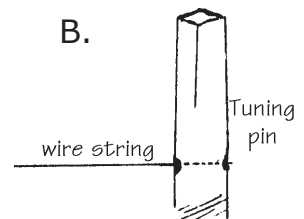
Note: Stringing is a bit of an art. It is important to do a nice job here so you don't end up with sharp ends of wire that can poke a finger or catch on clothing as people handle the instrument.

Slide the loop end under the bridge toward the TAIL and bring it back around the top. Then slip the string through the loop as shown in the picture.

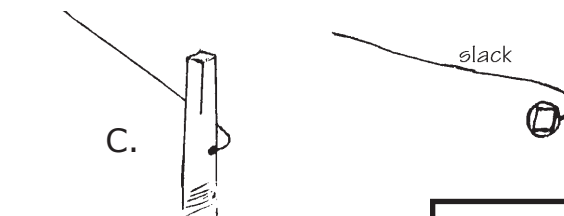


A. Begin by trimming the string about 2-3 inches longer than necessary to reach the tuning pin.

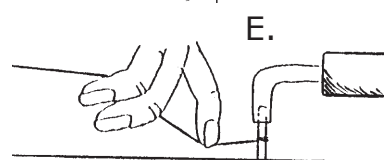
B. Pull the end of wire back and insert it into the tuning pin so it just barely shows through the other side of the pin, as shown.



C. Use the tuning key to turn the pin clockwise about 1/2 turn, leaving the string loose enough so it does not pull out of the little hole.



D. Then pull the string with your hand to kink the end where it enters the hole, much like "setting the hook" when fishing.



E. Turn the tuning key with one hand to finish winding up the slack as you hold the excess wire with your other hand. Don't over-tighten the string - you may break it. Just take up the slack so the string is taut.

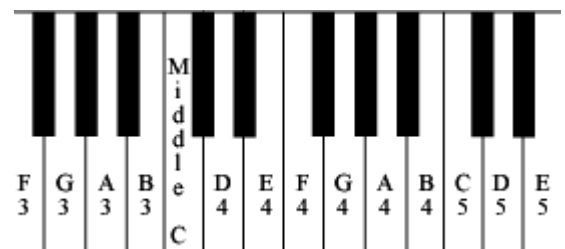
F. Repeat this procedure with all strings, checking the wire sizes against the string chart as you move in toward the center of the instrument.

G. Tune your strings according to the string chart.

Kantele Tuning		
STRING	NOTE	String Gauge
1	D5	.014" loop-end
2	B4	.014
3	A4	.016
4	G4	.016
5	F#4	.016
6	E4	.018
7	D4	.018
8	C#4	.020
9	B3	.020
10	A3	.020

*String #10 is the longest String and C#4 is the one by Middle C

Visit our website at www.harppkit.com/kantele for accessories, teaching materials and demonstration videos.



Playing your Kantele

Try laying the Kantele in your lap with the zither pins on your left side. Adjust the instrument so it is comfortable and try plucking some strings with the fingers of each hand. Try to pluck out some simple melodies like Twinkle Twinkle or Frere Jacques.

If you are interested in learning some technique we recommend the book [My Kantele is My Teacher](#) by Lani K. Thompson. You can order this from Musicmakers by phone or online. If you aren't looking to learn technique then just experiment and find a method of plucking the strings that works for you.

Here is a standard fingering chart for you to try.

String 10 - A	RH middle finger
String 9 - B	RH middle finger
String 8 - C#	RH index finger
String 7 - D	RH index finger
String 6 - E	LH ring finger
String 5 - F#	LH middle finger
String 4 - G	LH index finger
String 3 - A	RH thumb
String 2 - B	RH thumb
String 1 - D	RH thumb

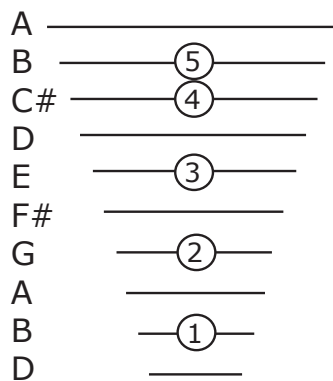
*String 10 is the longest string

How to Play Chords on the Kantele

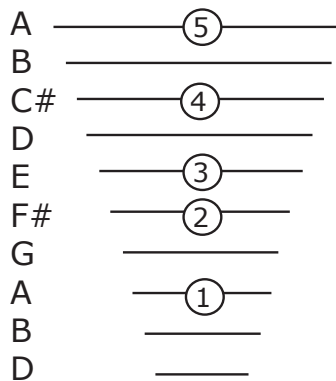
To play chords on your Kantele you will put fingers on the notes that you do NOT want to sound. In other words, you will mute all the notes that aren't in the chord. Below are some common chords for the standard D tuning. The circled numbers indicate which fingers mute which string.

- ⑤ = pinky finger
- ④ = ring finger
- ③ = middle finger
- ② = index finger
- ① = thumb

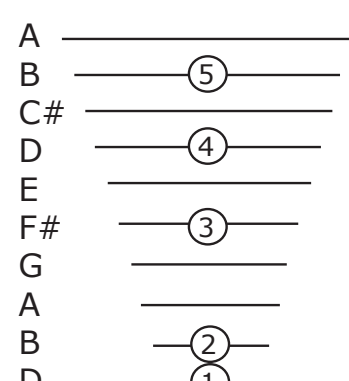
Key of D Major



D
I Chord



G
IV Chord



A7
V7 Chord

