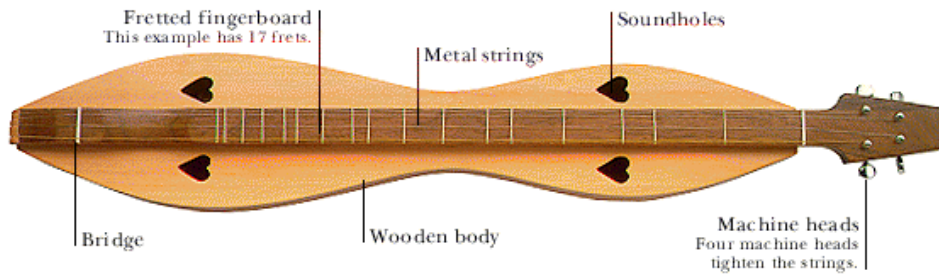


# World music

## Appalachian Dulcimer



**T**HE APPALACHIAN DULCIMER is an elegant figure-eight-shaped string instrument. To play the instrument you press the strings with the fingers of your left hand, and pluck them with your right. Originating in the late 18th century, the Appalachian dulcimer has been used for dance music. It has also accompanied ballads and songs since the 1950s.

VIEWS



## FACTS BOX

**NAME:** APPALACHIAN DULCIMER



STRINGS

**FAMILY:** Strings.

**PITCH RANGE:** Around two octaves.

**MATERIAL:** Wooden fretbox and body, with metal strings.

**SIZE:** Variable. This example is 3 ft 4 in (1 m) long.

**ORIGINS:** The Appalachian dulcimer was derived from the northwest European zither, and has been played in the Appalachian mountains of North America since the late 18th century.



GO TO MAP

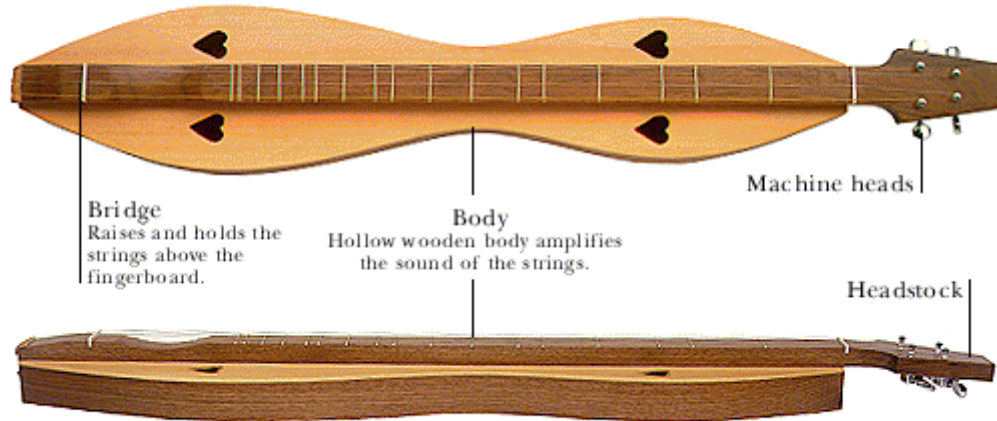
**CLASSIFICATION:** Chordophone: an instrument that produces its sound by the vibration of strings.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In the 1950s, American performers popularized the Appalachian dulcimer, establishing it as an accompaniment to ballads and dances.



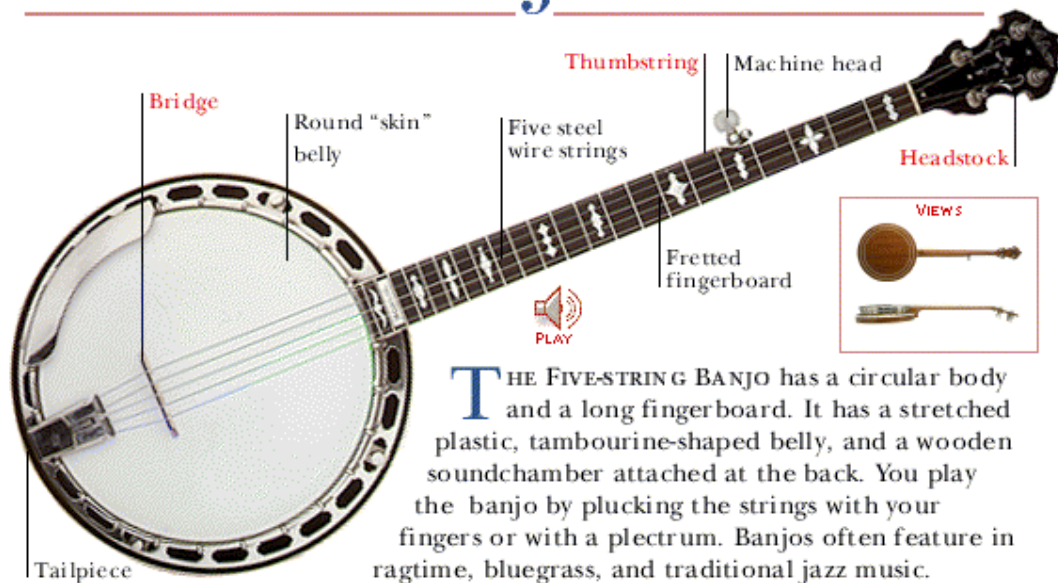
# VIEWS

TOP VIEW



SIDE VIEW

# Banjo



# FACTS BOX

**NAME:** BANJO

**FAMILY:** Strings.

**PITCH RANGE:** Two-and-a-half octaves.

**MATERIAL:** Wooden body, parchment or plastic skin, and gut or metal strings.

**SIZE:** 11 in (28 cm) in diameter.

**ORIGINS:** The modern banjo may have evolved from an instrument used by West African slaves in the "New World" (the American continent) in the 17th century.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Chordophone: an instrument that produces its sound by the vibration of strings.

**DID YOU KNOW?** There is a theory that the banjo was invented by slaves on plantations in America. It was created by putting a stick through a drum and then adding strings.



STRINGS



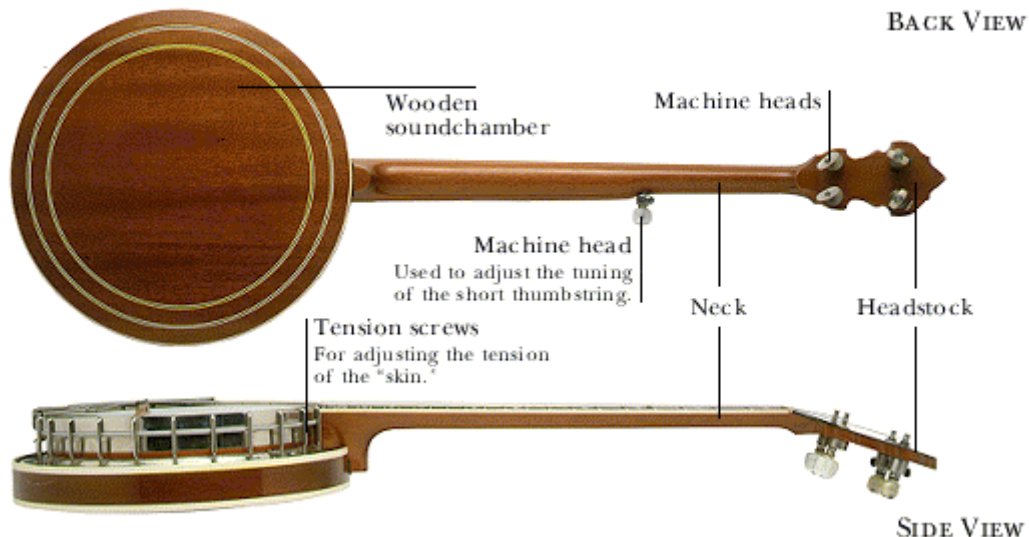
COMPLETE RANGE



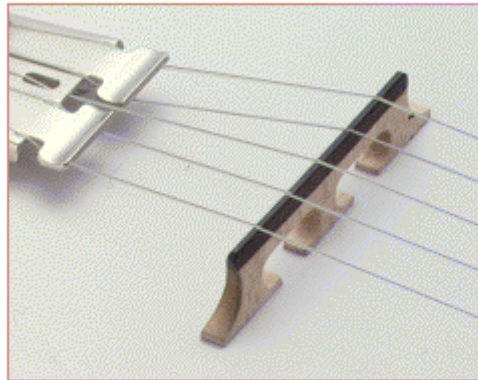
GO TO MAP



# VIEWS

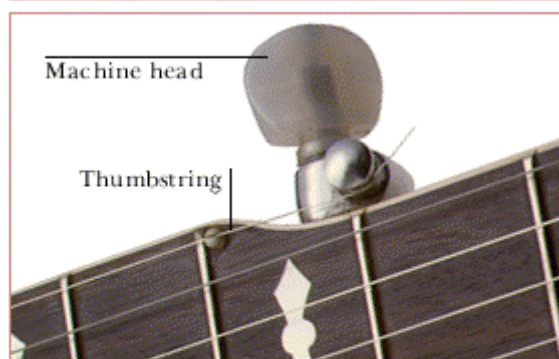


## BRIDGE



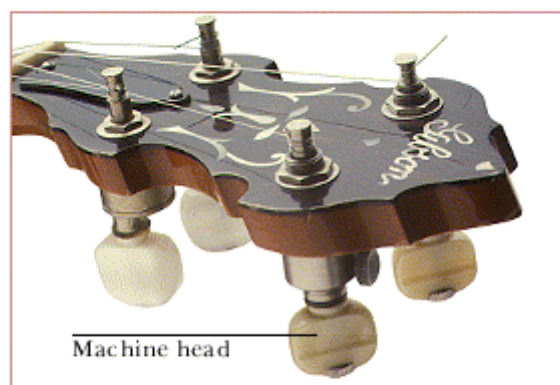
**T**HE WOODEN BRIDGE sits freely on the stretched plastic belly of the banjo, secured firmly by the pressure of the strings. A separate metal tailpiece holds the strings in place.

## THUMBSTRING



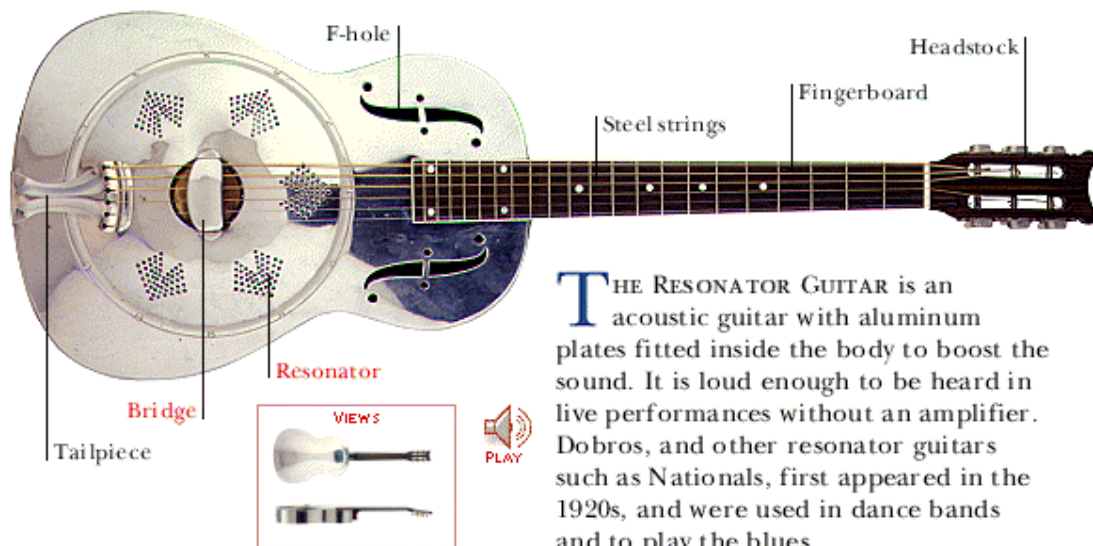
**T**HE THUMBSTRING is held in place and adjusted by a machine head situated part of the way along the fingerboard. It is a short, high-pitched string and is played by the thumb. It is usually used as a drone string, sounding constantly under the melody.

## HEADSTOCK



**T**HE FOUR MAIN STRINGS are threaded into the machine heads situated on the banjo's headstock. The tension on each string is adjusted by turning the individual machine heads until each string is correctly in tune.

## Resonator Guitar



**T**HE RESONATOR GUITAR is an acoustic guitar with aluminum plates fitted inside the body to boost the sound. It is loud enough to be heard in live performances without an amplifier. Dobros, and other resonator guitars such as Nationals, first appeared in the 1920s, and were used in dance bands and to play the blues.



# FACTS BOX

**NAME:** RESONATOR GUITAR



STRINGS

**FAMILY:** Strings.

**PITCH RANGE:** About three octaves.



COMPLETE RANGE

**MATERIAL:** Wooden, plastic, or metal body, with aluminium resonating cones.

**SIZE:** About 3 ft 4 in–3 ft 6 in (1.02-1.07 m) long.



GO TO MAP

**ORIGINS:** The resonator guitar developed in 1920s and 1930s, in California and the Midwest in the USA.

**CLASSIFICATION:** Chordophone: an instrument that produces its sound by the vibration of strings.

**DID YOU KNOW?** This instrument was given an internal resonator in order to increase its volume. Apart from being popular with dance bands, the resonator guitar was also used by jazz and blues musicians in the 1930s.



# Rattle Drum



**Drum head**  
Animal skin stretched over wooden hoop.

**Decoration**  
Varies according to the tribe or region.

**Handle**  
Covered in tightly wound leather.

**Wooden rattle**  
This is also a Native American tribal instrument.



**T**HIS RATTLE DRUM comes from a tribe of Native American People. It is called a drum because it has a stretched skin head, but the sound is produced by tiny pellets that rattle inside the drum when it is shaken. Rattle drums and rattles are widely used by Native American People, especially for ceremonial purposes.



TYPES



FACTS

# FACTS BOX

**NAME:** RATTLE DRUM



PERCUSSION

**FAMILY:** Percussion.

**MATERIAL:** Wooden frame, with skin heads and rattling pellets, commonly seeds or maize kernels.

**SIZE:** 18 in (46 cm) long.

**ORIGINS:** The rattle drum is a Native American instrument. Since prehistoric times, the rattle drum has been played by the Plains Indians during fertility rites, which were designed to promote the growth of corn.



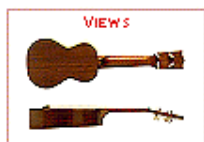
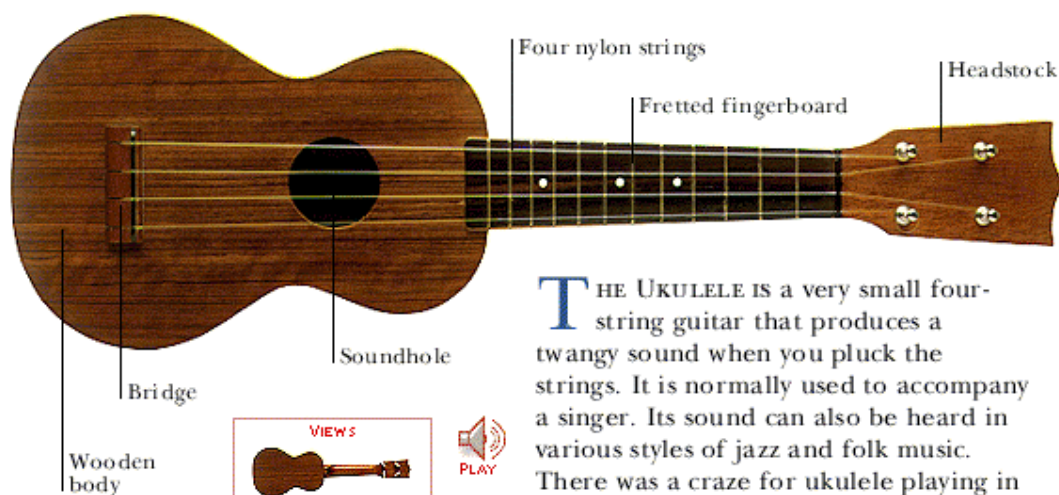
GO TO MAP

**CLASSIFICATION:** Membranophone: an instrument that produces its sound by the vibration of a stretched skin.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Many of the Native American rattle drums and rattles are so beautifully and elegantly decorated that they are widely regarded as objects of art in their own right.



# Ukulele



**T**HE UKULELE IS a very small four-string guitar that produces a twangy sound when you pluck the strings. It is normally used to accompany a singer. Its sound can also be heard in various styles of jazz and folk music. There was a craze for ukulele playing in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s but it is seldom heard today.



TYPES



FACTS

# FACTS BOX

**NAME:** UKULELE

**FAMILY:** Strings.

**PITCH RANGE:** Up to two octaves.

**MATERIAL:** Wooden body, with nylon or gut strings.

**SIZE:** Variable: this example is 21 in (53 cm) long.

**ORIGINS:** The ukulele is an Hawaiian instrument, descended from the Portuguese "machete da braça," which was brought to Hawaii from Madeira in 1879 .

**CLASSIFICATION:** Chordophone: an instrument that produces its sound by the vibration of strings.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The ukulele's name means "bouncing flea" in Hawaiian. It was also known as the taro-patch fiddle, from the Portuguese "machete da rajao."



STRINGS

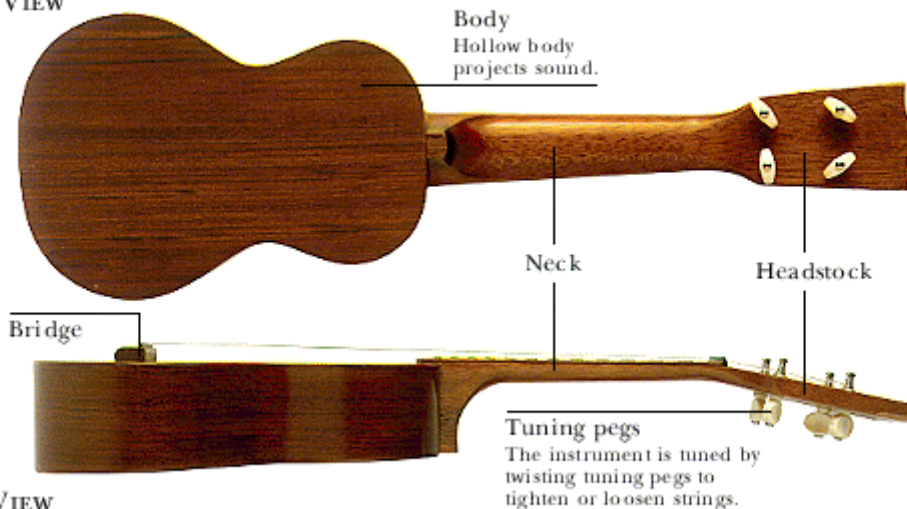


GO TO MAP



# VIEWS

BACK VIEW



SIDE VIEW