PINEAPPLE UKULELE BUILD CLASS — SESSION 1

Brace stock

Brace stock starts square, straight, and consistent. Today we plane the top braces that will shape the soundboard — the first half of the build's bookends.

> **Today's finish line**
> Each builder leaves with a complete, labeled set of top-brace stock, ready for layout and glue-up.



The destination: completed top bracing, built from today's stock.

WHERE TODAY'S WORK FITS

1. Brace stock + bridge	2. Join + thickness plates	3. Brace the top	4. Brace the back	5. Bend sides
6. Blocks, linings, rim	7. Close the body	8. Fit neck + fretboard	9. Finish	10. Bridge install + setup

STARTING MATERIAL

Spruce bracewood: straight-grained stock, enough for one full set of top braces.

Read the grain before cutting, and label each piece with its part name as you go.

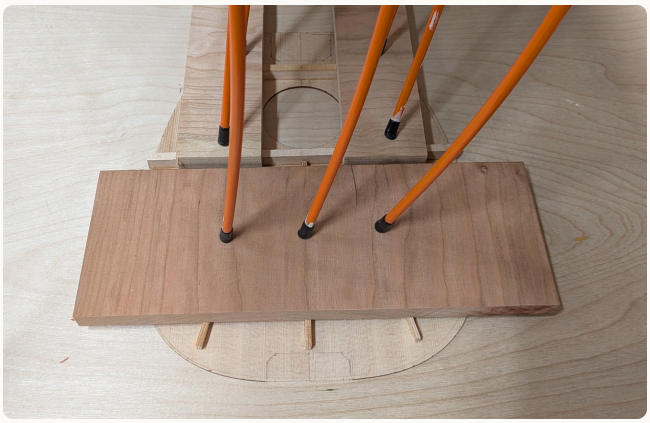
CLASS RHYTHM

- Brief tool or jig demonstration.
- Work with your build buddy.
- Measure, check, then cut.
- Stop at each checkpoint.
- Label every finished part.

BRACE STOCK

Plane the top-brace stock

Brace stock starts square, straight, and consistent. Later, these pieces will be laid out on the soundboard, glued flat in the go-bar deck, then carved and tapered.



Go-bars apply even pressure during brace glue-up.



Completed top bracing: the destination for today's brace stock.

ROUGH DIMENSIONS — PINEAPPLE TENOR TOP

PART	QTY.	INCHES (W X L X T)	METRIC (W X L X T)
Upper transverse brace (UTB)	1	1/4 x 6.75 x 3/8	6.4 x 171.5 x 9.5 mm
Main transverse brace (MTB)	1	1/4 x 8.5 x 3/8	6.4 x 215.9 x 9.5 mm
Fan braces	3	1/8 x 5.5 x 7/32	3.2 x 139.7 x 5.6 mm
Soundhole reinforcements*	2	3/16 x 3.25 x 2 mm	4.8 x 82.6 x 2 mm
Bridge plate*	1	1-1/8 x 5 x 3/32	28.6 x 127 x 2.4 mm

*Cut from spruce top offcuts. Dimensions are rough stock; final fitting and shaping happen later.

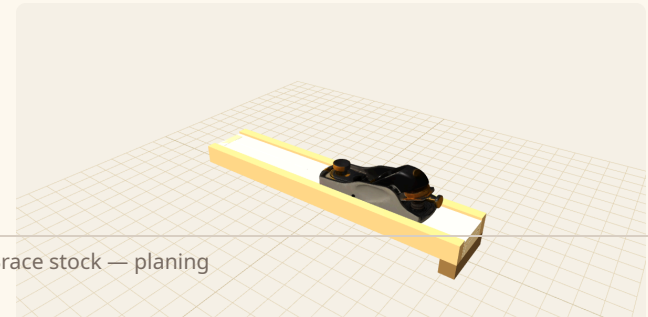
SEQUENCE

1. Read the grain and mark orientation.
2. Square one reference face and edge.
3. Use the planing jig to approach width and thickness.
4. Check along the full length — not only at the ends.
5. Cut to rough length and label each part.

CHECKPOINT

- [ ] Faces are flat; edges are square.
- [ ] Dimensions are consistent end to end.
- [ ] No severe grain runout or splits.
- [ ] Every piece is labeled.

THE BRACE-PLANING JIG



Brace stock — planing

- **Setup:** lay in the shim for your part's dimension (**none** for 3/8″); tape the blank in the channel, one end against the stop.
- **Plane toward the stop** — the milled rails fence the plane body so it can't wander.
- **Shim = 3/8″ – target.** Height passes with the blank flat; width passes with the blank on edge, snug against the channel wall.

WRAP-UP

Check, label, and store your brace stock

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- [ ] Count all pieces: UTB, MTB, 3 fans, 2 soundhole reinforcements, bridge plate.
- [ ] Compare key dimensions with your buddy.
- [ ] Every piece is labeled with part name and your name.
- [ ] Record anything that still needs correction.
- [ ] Bundle stored flat, dry, and protected.

BUILD LOG

What worked well today?

What should I check before the next operation?

NEXT SESSION

Prepare the top and back plates, transfer the patterns, and begin the simplified side-bending workflow.

COURSE SIMPLIFICATIONS

The instructor supplies the neck and fretboard. Rosette, binding, neck construction, and CNC inlay are optional advanced work.