

***A small four-stringed guitar of Hawaiian origin made in Todd Korup's basement workshop in Port Washington**

Todd Korup has spent a decade making acoustic and electric ukuleles, the small, four-stringed member of the guitar family frequently associated with Hawaii.

But Korup, who calls himself the Uker of Oz, couldn't be farther away from Hawaii. He painstakingly builds each of his ukuleles in his basement workshop in Port Washington.

He has sold more than 70 of his ukuleles to people around the world, and among those who own them are a few celebrities.

In 2003, while buying his sister a gift at a music shop, Korup noticed a ukulele for sale. On a whim, he bought it.

"That was kind of the start. It just made sense playing it," said Korup, 42, who learned how to play the guitar in high school. "There's so much on the guitar so you can get discouraged easily, and the uke just makes sense. It has four strings. I have four fingers to put on it."

After a year of playing the ukulele, he decided to try building the small guitar himself.

