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Acoustic Guitar Making: How To Make Tools, Templates, And Jigs



Synopsis

This book contains everything I wish I knew when I started making acoustic guitars over fifteen years ago. It is not an ABC book, but a companion that teaches many of the things that the other books leave out. In these pages are instructions for making tools, cutting blanks, inlaying exotic woods, and hand finishing guitars. The methods described revolve around doing more with less, and getting more out of the tools already in the shop. For the thrifty guitar maker who would rather build something than buy it, this book is the right choice. • Over 500 pages of text, with more than 1600 pictures and diagrams to thoroughly and completely explain more than 200 guitar making topics. • How to use small shop tools to re-saw blanks for guitar making instead of buying them, saving money and expanding wood choice. • Instructions for almost 50 tools, templates, and jigs that can be made right in the shop, saving thousands of dollars in tool costs. These include an electric side bending iron, fret slot duplicating jig, four different types of clamps, an inexpensive hide glue pot, and more. • An explanation of the use and abilities of several common shop tools, including several specialty tools that are specific to guitar making. • A detailed section on guitar making theory, which will expand the understanding of how a guitar works, and how small changes to the structure can have big effects on tone. • Several step by step guitar making methods that make some of the more difficult processes easier and smoother in the shop. • How to make inlaying easier by using a few common shop tools, and how to make several different styles of custom inlay. • Step by step instructions for making a custom soundhole label using a powerful free program called Pixlr, to add the final touch to any guitar. • A thorough finishing section that teaches anyone how to apply an amazing finish without having to buy expensive spray equipment. • A guitar making and wood working glossary with thorough definitions and explanations of more than 600 terms.

Book Information

Paperback: 508 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition (September 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 149220644X

ISBN-13: 978-1492206446

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (53 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #330,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #559 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects #10324 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies

Customer Reviews

I'm a lutherie student just finishing up my first classical guitar build. I have the benefit of in depth instruction on fine wood working and a classical guitar instructor with years of experience and hundreds of builds performed by himself and his students. All told I'm still very much a beginner but I'd like to think I'm off on a much more solid foundation than the average beginner. That said I think this book has much to teach someone starting out, but may be a little basic for an expert. I also think the title of this book is misleading because it includes a whole lot more than just tools, jigs, and templates. Honestly many of the jigs and tools aren't all that innovative or unusual if you do any kind of web research. What I found most useful were the sections that talked more about techniques and approaches. Before I hit a few highlights be advised that this book is NOT telling you how to build a guitar. Think of it more as a notebook of discoveries, techniques, and ideas that can help you build a guitar. This book is also focused more on steel string construction, though I'd say 85-90% of it can apply to steel or classical. There are tons of photos throughout the book. In many ways you might compare it to Bogdanovich's defining text on classical guitar building, however I think the photo quality isn't nearly as good (all black and white) and don't illustrate all the concepts quite as clearly. You definitely have to read and think through everything much more so than Bog's book. For me I found the following sections useful: - Finishing. A very nice overview of some basic techniques, how they can be used together or separately, and how to apply them.

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