



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FX3E 11

Superclass: LJ

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to assemble the components of a stringed musical instrument. It is suited to candidates who have experience of producing their own instrument components or those building a musical instrument kit. How the components fit together and the important relationships that constitute a professionally manufactured instrument are outlined.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5). Completion of this Unit will enable candidates to progress to further study in this area.

Outcomes

- 1 Assemble instrument ribs to the front.
- 2 Assemble instrument ribs to the back.
- 3 Attach the neck to the body.
- 4 Attach the fingerboard to the neck.

General information (cont)

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Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have basic woodworking skills. This may be evidenced by attainment of the following, or equivalent skills level:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Woodworking Skills* (SCQF Level 5)

Candidates not using an instrument kit will also require the following qualifications or equivalent:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF Level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 5)

Credit points and level

3 National Unit credits at SCQF level 5: (18 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Assemble instrument ribs to the front.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Rib bending is finalised accurately to the instrument shape.
- (b) The ribs are correctly glued to the blocks.
- (c) The front is correctly glued to the ribs.
- (d) All linings are glued correctly and accurately positioned.
- (e) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (f) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (g) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 2

Assemble instrument ribs to the back.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The sides are correctly trimmed to fit the back.
- (b) All linings are glued correctly and accurately positioned.
- (c) The back is correctly glued to the ribs.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (e) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 3

Attach the neck to the body.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The correct neck angle is determined.
- (b) The neck is fitted at the correct angle to the body.
- (c) The neck is correctly glued to the body.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (e) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Attach the fingerboard to the neck.

Performance Criteria

- (a) A fingerboard blank is correctly dressed to size and shape.
- (b) The fingerboard is accurately fitted to the neck.
- (c) The fingerboard is accurately glued to the neck.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (e) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. A combination of product and performance evidence is required. Written and/or oral recorded evidence is also required to demonstrate the candidate's understanding of the processes.

Product evidence:

- ◆ the completion of one instrument minus the varnish and bridge
- ◆ the neck joint is fitted to the correct angle without gaps exceeding 1mm
- ◆ each component is correctly positioned, fitted and glued in place
- ◆ the fingerboard is slotted (where appropriate), cut to the correct scale length and fitted to the neck without gaps exceeding 0.5mm

Performance evidence which demonstrates that:

- ◆ the candidate uses the appropriate tools and machinery in the correct manner to suit each task
- ◆ the candidate adheres to the health and safety regulations and guidelines with regard to the workshop environment and use of hand-tools and machinery

Product and Performance Evidence may be recorded on a checklist.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required which provides an accurate description of the manufacturing process being used by the candidate and demonstrates that the procedures being used have been understood.

National Unit specification: support notes

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This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 120 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5) and can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

This Unit is normally taught in conjunction with the following Units as part of the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making (SCQF level 5):

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Jigs and Templates* (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF Level 5)

This Unit will enable the candidate to demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of stringed musical instrument manufacture and to assemble all necessary components required to make an instrument. It is necessary that candidates clearly recognise the relationship between the neck and body to ensure that they are correctly fitted to suit the scale length, neck angle and bridge position.

Demonstration of how to make and use a neck angle gauge will be required.

The range of tools used to construct the components might include the following; plane, saw, coping saw, chisel, gauge, marking gauge, spoke shave, rasp, file, cabinet scraper and dividers. A woodworking bench with vice are also required. Candidates should have reasonable woodworking skills prior to beginning the Unit.

Candidates completing this Unit will be working towards aspects of the following Creative and Cultural Skills National Occupational Standards.

Craft: CR13 Select and use techniques, materials, tools and equipment for craft

Craft: CR14 Prepare and maintain materials, tools and equipment for craft

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Craft: CR15 Use safe working practices and spaces for craft

Craft: CR16 Complete the craft making process

Craft: CR17 Document and record craft work and work practice

Craft: CR51 Maintain and repair craft work

Craft: CR52 Restore, conserve and reconstruct work in craft

Craft: CR56 Make sure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This is a workshop based Unit, however tutor input outlining construction techniques and demonstrations relating to component assembly can be given prior to embarking on the practical work.

The relationship between the body, strings, neck and bridge should be clearly understood in order to assemble an instrument that corresponds correctly to the string height and scale length.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Evidence of practical work may be recorded on an observation checklist supported by product evidence as detailed in the Performance Criteria and Evidence Requirements. Written and/or oral evidence detailing the assembly process will be used to ensure candidates' understanding — this could be in the form of a logbook.

The logbook and checklist evidence could be accumulated holistically throughout the Unit for all Outcomes.

When taught as part of the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making (SCQF level 5) there are opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment with the following Units;

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF Level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (SCQF Level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Jigs and Templates* (SCQF level 5)

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will assemble the components of an instrument body.

Candidates will:

- ◆ read instruction material relating to the construction process
- ◆ measure, mark and lay out
- ◆ select and use tools
- ◆ identify health and safety issues
- ◆ record the manufacturing process

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Problem Solving*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck 1 (SCQF level 5)

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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