



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H1Y2 12

Superclass: LJ

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to correctly position and insert complex inlays, and to cut soundholes without tutor input. The Unit investigates materials used for inlay, and advanced inlay techniques are studied and applied. The Unit examines different types of instrument soundholes and the methods of producing these.

This is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair at SCQF level 6.

Outcomes

- 1 Select and prepare a complex inlay.
- 2 Inset a complex inlay into an instrument.
- 3 Cut out and shape a soundhole.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Woodworking Skills* (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (SCQF level 5)

General information (cont)

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 6)

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 6)

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

Select and prepare a complex inlay.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Complex inlays are selected that are suitable for inlaying into musical instruments.
- (b) Complex inlays are correctly prepared for inseting.
- (c) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (d) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 2

Inset a complex inlay into an instrument.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Accurately plan the position of the complex inlay.
- (b) Accurately mark the inlay position.
- (c) Correctly cut the timber to receive the inlay.
- (d) Correctly fit and glue the inlay.
- (e) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 3

Cut out and shape a soundhole.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Accurately mark the soundhole position.
- (b) Correctly cut the soundhole.
- (c) The soundhole shape is correctly finished.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (e) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Candidates will produce product evidence in which a minimum of four inlays will be inset and a minimum of one soundhole cut out. The inlay and soundhole will conform accurately to a pre-determined size and position

Note: the inlays will exhibit advanced properties compared with inlays at SCQF level 5. They will be of a more complex nature and/or be completed in such a way as to display advanced craft skills, indicated, eg by the lack of gaps and the overall finish to the work.

Candidates will produce performance evidence which demonstrates that:

- ◆ candidates use the appropriate tools and machinery in the correct manner to suit each task
- ◆ candidates adhere to the health and safety regulations and guidelines applicable to the workshop environment and use of hand-tools and machinery

Product and performance evidence may be recorded on a checklist.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 6)

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

A range of purfling, binding, end grafts, rosettes, fingerboard inlays and inlay techniques should be identified and the methods of constructing them determined. Different types of soundhole should be identified and the process for cutting them demonstrated. Soundholes can be cut by hand or machine. Advanced techniques such as the manufacture of herringbone and tiles rosettes can be explained and examples given.

Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 5) was an introductory Unit to the subject. At level 6 candidates will implement more advanced techniques or perfect previously learnt techniques to a more professional level.

New and more advanced types of inlay work might include the following;

- ◆ classical guitar tiled rosettes,
- ◆ abalone or mother of pearl rosettes,
- ◆ herringbone and other advanced types of purfling,
- ◆ inlay work using abalone and other similar materials

Generally candidates will be advancing their knowledge and understanding of inlay techniques, where the candidate wishes to concentrate on perfecting techniques already learnt such as might be the case with someone making a violin then the quality of work produced will be higher and the speed at which it is achieved faster than at level 5.

It would also be expected that candidates would require less tutor input at this level where candidates are perfecting techniques such as cutting sound-holes.

The range of tools used might include the following; plane, saw, coping saw, chisel, gauge, marking gauge, jeweller's saw, fret saw, file, cabinet scraper and dividers. A woodworking bench with vice are also required. Candidates should have satisfactory woodworking skills prior to beginning the Unit.

Workshop health and safety must be adhered to.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 6)

Candidates completing this Unit will be working towards aspects of the following National Occupational Standards (NOS) from Creative and Cultural Skills:

- ◆ Craft: CR13 Select and use techniques, materials, tools and equipment for craft
- ◆ Craft: CR14 Prepare and maintain materials, tools and equipment for craft
- ◆ 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 to examine a range of inlays and inlay material together with practical demonstrations on inlay techniques and soundhole cutting can be given prior to embarking on the practical work.

Visits to instrument collections will enable candidates to explore techniques and designs used by other makers.

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.

When taught as part of the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 6) there are opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment with the following Units:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Design Project* (SCQF level 6)

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 social software. 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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will correctly position inlays and inset them. They will also cut out a soundhole. Candidates will:

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

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

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	08/10/2012

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