



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H1Y6 12

Superclass: LJ

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Summary

This Unit enables candidates to assemble the components of a stringed musical instrument. It is suited to candidates who have produced their own instrument components. The Unit outlines how components fit together and the important relationships that constitute a professionally manufactured instrument. Candidates will also undertake research to provide a plan from which to assemble instrument body components.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair at SCQF level 6, but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Research and provide a plan from which to assemble an instrument body.
- 2 Select a plan from which to from which to assemble an instrument body.
- 3 Assemble instrument ribs to front and back.
- 4 Attach the neck to the body.
- 5 Attach the fingerboard.

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

General information (cont)

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Credit points and level

3 National Unit credits at SCQF level 6: (18 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 5

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

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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

Research and provide a plan from which to assemble an instrument body.

Performance Criteria

Investigate instrument neck designs, specifications and plans.

- (a) The scope and desired outcome of the investigation are identified correctly.
- (b) The investigation is appropriate to the type of instrument chosen for assembly.
- (c) The investigation is accurately documented.

Outcome 2

Select a plan from which to construct an instrument neck.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select an appropriate design for an instrument neck.
- (b) Select appropriate specifications for an instrument neck.

Outcome 3

Assemble instrument ribs to front and back.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The sides are correctly trimmed to fit the front and back.
- (b) All linings are glued correctly and accurately positioned.
- (c) The front and back are correctly glued to the ribs.
- (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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Outcome 4

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) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 5

Attach the fingerboard.

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) 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. A combination of product and performance evidence is required. Written and/or oral recorded evidence is also required to demonstrate candidates' understanding of the processes.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence is required, gathered under open-book conditions. Candidates must initially identify the requirements for their investigation. This must include:

- ◆ the instrument they have chosen to investigate
- ◆ the information they require to assemble the instrument
- ◆ where they will find this information
- ◆ how the information could be researched, gathered and recorded

Candidates must investigate a minimum of four designs and specifications relating to their chosen instrument which must be gathered from four different sources.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence is required which demonstrates that the plan selected is an appropriate design and specification for the type of instrument chosen for assembly.

A combination of product and performance evidence is required for Outcomes 3, 4 and 5.

Product evidence:

- ◆ the completed assembly of one instrument body minus the varnish and bridge
- ◆ the neck joint is fitted to the correct angle without gaps exceeding 1mm
- ◆ 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:

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

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 an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 6).

This Unit is normally taught in conjunction with the following Units as part of the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making (SCQF level 6):

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (SCQF level 6)

This Unit enables candidates 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 where necessary.

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 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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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.

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 (SCQF level 6) there are opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment with the following Units:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components* (SCQF Level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (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 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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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 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 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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 embedded.	09/10/2012

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