



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H1Y8 12

Superclass: LJ

Publication date: October 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Summary

This Unit introduces candidates to the major repair work commonly undertaken on stringed musical instruments. Candidates will be taught to detect and identify instrument defects. They will gain knowledge and understanding of the techniques used for repairing instruments and complete practical exercises to detect, diagnose and repair a selection of defects.

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.

This Unit is suitable for candidates in education and candidates from industry who wish to extend their knowledge and practical application of repair techniques.

Outcomes

- 1 Detect defects in stringed musical instruments
- 2 Describe repair procedures for stringed musical Instruments
- 3 Repair defects in stringed musical instruments

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: Woodworking Machinery* (SCQF level 5)

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

Detect defects in stringed musical instruments.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The defective components are located.
- (b) The defective components are correctly named.
- (c) The defects are correctly stated.
- (d) The reasons for the defects are correctly stated.

Outcome 2

Describe repair procedures for stringed musical Instruments.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The objective of the repair is accurately described.
- (b) The appropriate tools are specified.
- (c) The appropriate materials are identified.
- (d) The description of the procedure is technically accurate.

Outcome 3

Repair defects in stringed musical instruments.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Defects are repaired correctly.
- (b) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (c) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.
- (d) The description of each procedure is technically accurate.

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.

Written and/or Oral Evidence is required which demonstrates that candidates describe the defect and the repair procedures for a minimum of five repairs.

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have performed a minimum of five repairs from the following:

- ◆ Repair and stud work to a closed crack on front or back and repair of an open crack on front or back
- ◆ Headstock/peghead break, crack or replacement
- ◆ Neck re-set or replacement
- ◆ Brace repair or replacement
- ◆ Rib shatter patch
- ◆ Fixed bridge repair or replacement
- ◆ Make a fretted instrument floating bridge as a replacement
- ◆ Rib replacement
- ◆ Soundpost patch
- ◆ Missing corners, edging and half edging
- ◆ Fingerboard replacement
- ◆ Bridge plate repair
- ◆ Block repair or replacement
- ◆ Truss rod replacement

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

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

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

The Unit enables candidates to undertake repairs to a range of stringed instruments. Generally candidates will select repairs that are specific to either fretted or non-fretted instruments, depending on which discipline they intend to pursue. However, it may be useful in certain cases for candidates to perform repairs to both types of stringed instrument, especially if they intend to work with school instruments.

Examples of how the repair topics listed in the evidence section generally apply to fretted and non-fretted instruments are as follows:

Fretted Instruments	Non-fretted Instruments
Crack repairs	Crack repairs
Headstock repair	Peghead repair
Neck re-set	Neck re-set
Brace repair	Brace repair
Rib shatter patch	Rib shatter patch
Fingerboard replacement	Fingerboard replacement
Block repair or replacement	Block repair or replacement
Rib replacement	Rib replacement
Fixed Bridge repair or replacement	Missing corners, Edging and Half edging
Make a fretted instrument floating bridge	Soundpost patch
Bridge plate repair	
Truss rod replacement	

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates should also gain knowledge and understanding of repair procedures that relate to the following topics:

- ◆ instrument construction
- ◆ how to take instruments apart without damaging them
- ◆ identification of repair materials and techniques
- ◆ retouching of completed repairs
- ◆ accepted repair and restoration practice with regard to the integrity of stringed instruments
- ◆ types of glue used in repair work
- ◆ sustainability

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Candidates could work in small groups to identify common defects on different types of stringed instrument.

Tutor-led input will be required to complete the identification of defects and to describe the solutions and methods of restoring faults. Candidates can then undertake individual work.

Candidates will choose five repairs to undertake. Where possible, it is recommended that these are undertaken holistically to restore a complete instrument. This Unit could then be integrated with one or both of the following Units in order to restore an instrument to a playable condition.

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up* (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up* (SCQF level 6)

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Tutors should discuss individual projects to identify the five repairs to be undertaken. The same individual repair can range from simple to difficult, depending on the job. Tutors should ensure that each candidate has an even range of repair work with regard to difficulty.

Some repair work may require simulation but candidates should be encouraged to bring in their own projects as this is highly likely to aid motivation. Candidates will be more focused if working on a real job.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could comprise either a logbook or folio giving a detailed description of the diagnosed repair and the method of restoration. This should include photographs and/or diagrams of the processes. It would be useful for candidates to include a list of tools and materials used in the repair.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will detect and perform five instrument repairs.

Candidates will:

- ◆ identify defects
- ◆ read instruction material relating to repairing techniques
- ◆ describe defects and record the repair procedure
- ◆ repair defects
- ◆ measure and mark out repairs
- ◆ identify health and safety issues

As candidates are doing this Unit they may develop aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Problem Solving and Working with Others*.

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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