



Arrangements for:

National Certificate in

Stringed Musical Instrument Making

And Repair

at SCQF Level 6

Group Award Code: (GF6Y 46)

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the National Certificate (NC) in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (GF6Y 46), which was validated in June 2012. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair at SCQF level 6 has been developed under the Design Principles for National Certificates.

This NC offers practical experience, knowledge and understanding for candidates wishing to enter the stringed musical instrument making and repair industry.

2 Rationale for the development of the Group Award

The new Group Award in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (level 6) will present potential candidates, industry and education with a qualification that can be recognised as fulfilling the skills requirements necessary for progression within education, or entry into the musical instrument making and repair industry. The Group Award is a structured programme of Units providing skills and knowledge, which fulfils identified gaps in provision and learning to the benefit of both candidates and future employers. The Group Award will deliver a range of core and transferable skills to equip candidates for the future, contributing to the possibility of flexibility in employment throughout their working lives.

2.1 Consultation

A consultation canvassed opinion from stakeholders including employers, educationists, industry workers and past and present candidates.

It was ascertained that content, learning and Core Skills within Units met industry requirements, and were needed for those working in the stringed instrument making and repair sector.

3 Aims of the Group Award

This qualification aims to build upon the basic skills and knowledge gained on the NC in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (GE47 45). However, new subject areas have been introduced allowing candidates to develop a more professional approach to their work and to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the art of luthiery.

In addition to reinforcing and improving craft skills, it is assumed that within the proposed SCQF level 6 NC, candidates will be more involved in decision making, problem solving and research than at SCQF level 5.

The new NC endeavours to present a structured course that is fit for purpose and can be easily understood by both employers and candidates.

The proposed NC will provide a learning experience that is both enjoyable and challenging and equips candidates with the necessary skills and knowledge to continue in education or to enter the industry. The woodworking skills developed and the associated Core Skills will provide candidates with a flexibility of choice to progress to other academic areas or to compatible vocational industries.

3.1 Principal aims of the Group Award

The Group Award undertakes to provide the skills and knowledge to begin a career in Musical Instrument Making and Repair.

The principal aims of the qualification are:

- 1 To enable candidates to acquire practical skills and underpinning knowledge relating to Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair
- 2 To prepare candidates for entry into employment at an introductory level within the Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair industry
- 3 To develop candidates' Core Skills of *Numeracy, Communication, Problem Solving, Working with Others* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*
- 4 To give candidates a historical awareness of musical instruments which will include identifying the historical developments in construction and thus enable a better understanding of contemporary ideas related to instrument building
- 5 To enable candidates to continue into further and higher education, training or work, whether as luthiers or in a compatible vocation
- 6 To promote a good standard of craftsmanship through attention to correct workshop practices and woodworking techniques
- 7 To enable candidates to develop safe working practices.

For mapping of Principal Aims to the Units in the Group Award see Appendix 2.

3.2 General aims of the Group Award

- 1 To enable candidates to reach their full potential by using a range of learning strategies.
- 2 To encourage candidates to seek solutions to problems and develop independent working practices
- 3 To encourage candidates to take responsibility for their own development and learning
- 4 To develop candidates' confidence and personal skills such as time management, organisational skills, and project development and planning
- 5 To encourage candidates to develop a professional attitude to working and the workshop environment
- 6 To develop candidates' interpersonal skills and the ability to work with others within the shared workshop environment
- 7 To develop ideas regarding the sustainability of materials

3.3 Target groups

The Group Award is suitable for candidates who have completed the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair at SCQF level 5 (GE47 45) or have achieved an equivalent qualification. It is also suitable for adult returners and those already in the industry, who wish to gain further skills and/or a recognised qualification, and who can demonstrate a level of skills and accomplishment equivalent to those gained on the SCQF level 5 NC.

3.4 Employment opportunities

The majority of successful candidates will progress into the instrument repair industry, and some may become self-employed luthiers. Candidates who wish to become instrument makers will normally continue their studies to degree level, for example at the Metropolitan University of London, or study for a Diploma at Newark School of Instrument Making, or the instrument making course at Puurs in Belgium

Employment opportunities from Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair at SCQF level 6 may include self-employment as luthiers, working with musicians as instrument technicians and running a music business, such as instrument repair shops.

The skills gained also offer opportunities to enter other compatible vocational areas of employment such as furniture restoration, French polishing and cabinet making.

4 Access to the Group Award

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

National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5).

The suggested minimum level of Core Skills for accessing the course is level 5 for Problem solving, level 3 for ICT and Level 4 for Communication, Numeracy and Working with others. The Core Skills that are signposted within the award are all in units where the likely exit level is level 6.

5 Group Award structure

The new Group Award will provide a well structured course of Units delivered in a logical sequence that will provide the building blocks of skill and knowledge required to make and repair musical instruments.

The Group Award offers two pathways, allowing for candidates to choose between fretted and non-fretted stringed instrument making and repair (See Section 6.3). Candidates successfully completing 12 National Unit credits (72 SCQF credit points) will gain the Group Award. This range and diversity of Units ensures that candidates from various backgrounds bringing a variety of prior knowledge and skills will each find a course structure that is both challenging and suitable to their individual requirements.

5.1 Framework

The framework is composed of 4 mandatory and 10 optional Units. Candidates will be awarded a National Certificate on successful completion of 12 SQA credits (72 SCQF credit points). Candidates must achieve all 6 Unit credits (36 SCQF points) at SCQF Level 6 from the mandatory section and any 6 optional Unit credits (36 SCQF points).

Mandatory Units – Candidates must complete all 6 SQA Credits

Unit Title	Code	SQA Credit value	SCQF Level	SCQF Credit Points
Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics	H1Y012	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments	H1Y912	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components	H1Y312	3	6	12
Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	H1Y212	1	6	6

Optional Units - Candidates must complete 6 SQA Credits

Unit Title	Code	SQA Credit value	SCQF Level	SQA Credit value
Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	H1Y812	3	6	18
Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up	H1Y712	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up	H1Y412	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck	H1YC12	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck	H1Y612	2	6	12
Stringed Instruments: Finishing	H1Y112	1	6	6
Stringed Instruments: Design Project	H1Y512	1	6	6
Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments	H1YB12	1	6	6
History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern	H1YA12	1	6	6
Working for Yourself*	J5CP 45	1	5	6

*Refer to history of changes for revision details

The Group Award can be delivered as two different pathways, allowing for candidates to work on either fretted or non-fretted stringed instruments (see Section 6.3). The essential difference between the two pathways is in the choice between the Units covering set-up work, which relate specifically to either fretted or non-fretted instruments.

Candidates are asked to choose between one of the following two repair Units:

- ◆ Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up Stringed (H1Y412)
- ◆ Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up (H1Y712)

5.2 National Occupational Standards

Through Units on the National Certificate, candidates will be working towards aspects of the National Occupational Standards established by Creative and Cultural Skills. For details, please see Appendix 3.

5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

Candidates may continue to degree level at the Metropolitan University of London or study for a Diploma at Newark School of Instrument Making.

Onward destinations from further study at SCQF level 6 may include self-employment as luthiers, working with musicians as instrument technicians and running a music business, such as instrument repair shops.

The skills gained also offer opportunities to enter other compatible vocational areas of employment such as furniture restoration, French polishing and cabinet making.

6 Approaches to Delivery and Assessment

6.1 Content and Context

The NC in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 6) will provide the practical experience and information required to advance skills, knowledge and understanding in the making and repairing of stringed musical instruments, advancing the experience from the NC at SCQF level 5 (or equivalent experience).

At SCQF level 6, the structure will provide candidates with a more professional approach and outlook to methodology and working practices. In so doing, advanced techniques in construction, inlay, jig making and tool/machine use will be taught. Whereas there is an emphasis on hand-tools at SCQF level 5, it will be appropriate at SCQF level 6 to explore additional possibilities for the use of machinery in production, as this is often found in professional workshops.

Instrument design may be provided as an option for the majority of candidates and will explore the possibilities for design on both a practical and aesthetic level.

On completion of the NC, candidates will have enhanced their practical skills and knowledge relating to repair work and instrument construction and will have developed a more professional outlook on their work. They will also be aware of the practical implications of relating acoustic science and material science, to luthiery.

As with the SCQF level 5 NC, the SCQF level 6 NC allows for delivery across two recommended pathways. These allow candidates themselves to choose between the disciplines of fretted stringed instrument making and non-fretted stringed making. The majority of the Units develop techniques which can be applied to a range of stringed instruments but the Units covering set-up work relate specifically to fretted or non-fretted instruments.

Outwith the dedicated History Unit (H1YA12), History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern should be considered across delivery of the NC as a whole. For example, historical background may inform the Design Project with the history of creativity considered in terms of how it can

influence current design work. Historical background is also highly relevant to the majority of practical Units, such as Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs (H1Y812) in terms of how techniques and ideas relating to instrument repair and preservation have changed or developed.

6.2 Approaches to delivery and assessment

Assessment criteria and suggested forms of assessment are detailed in each unit and where possible this has been integrated across Outcomes and Units to provide a holistic approach. For example an integrated assessment can be used for the design unit together with all of the units that relate to making an instrument. In this case the units which relate to manufacturing an instrument require the same research as the design unit, this may be provided by the presentation of one piece of evidence submitted in a logbook/folio.

Suitable modes for delivery include full-time and part-time. The part-time course would normally be achieved over two years.

6.3 Pathways

The majority of Units develop disciplines which can be applied to a range of stringed instruments but the Units covering repair work and instrument repair relate specifically to fretted or non-fretted instruments. The NC may be delivered as two pathways, allowing for candidates to choose between fretted and non-fretted, stringed instruments.

The two recommended pathways are exemplified in the table given below, using a structured combination of mandatory (M) and optional (O) Units.

Below is an example of two possible pathways in which to achieve the award using a structured combination of mandatory and optional Units.

Route 1			Route 2	
	Fretted	Credit	Non-Fretted	Credit
Block 1	Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics (M)	1	Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics (M)	1
	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs (O)	3	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs (O)	3
	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (M)	1	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (M)	1
Block 2	Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments (M)	1	Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments (M)	1
	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck (O)	1	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components (M)	3
	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components (M)	3	Stringed Instruments: Finishing (O)	1
Block 3	History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern (O)	1	History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern (O)	1
	Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up (O)	1	Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up (O)	1
	Total Credits	12	Total Credits	12
Alternative optional Units				

	Stringed Instruments: Finishing (O)	1	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck (O)	1
	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (O)	2	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (O)	2
	Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments (O)	1	Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments (O)	1
	Working for Yourself (O)	1	Working for Yourself (O)	1
	Stringed Instruments: Design Project (O)	1	Stringed Instruments: Design Project (O)	1

(M) = Mandatory Unit, (O) = Optional Unit

6.4 Integration of Assessment

Assessment criteria and suggested forms of assessment are detailed in each Unit and where possible this has been integrated across Outcomes and Units to provide a holistic approach. There is considerable scope for such integration of assessment, for example, the research required for the design Project can be integrated with the research required for three of the practical units.

Together, the following four Units provide the knowledge and skills required to design instrument components and build a stringed musical instrument. The practical assessment for these units could be the construction of one stringed instrument, while the written or oral assessment could be a logbook giving details of the research and additional technical information required.

Stringed Instruments: Design Project (H1Y512)

Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck (H1YC12)

Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components (H1Y312)

Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (H1Y612)

7 General information for centres

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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these Group Award(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair is a creative and challenging course designed to help you to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding you will need to make and repair stringed musical instruments. You will have completed the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5) or an equivalent course or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of skills and accomplishment. You will choose one of two pathways and train either as a maker and repairer of fretted (guitar family) or non-fretted (violin family) instruments. The skills you learn can be applied to a range of stringed instruments.

You will develop the practical skills and knowledge in woodworking and instrument making and repair that you have previously attained. You will be taught major repair techniques, advance your knowledge of setting up and produce one stringed instrument. The woodworking skills developed are transferable to other similar vocations such as furniture making, antique restoration, the construction industry and teaching and training.

To support the practical elements of the course you can also complete studies in design, material science, acoustic science and music history. The course is mainly workshop based practical work but Core Skills are developed as an essential part of instrument making and repair, these include Numeracy, Problem Solving and written and oral Communication.

Assessment is mostly based around the practical tasks involved in making and repairing stringed musical instruments but there will also be some written/oral tests or log books or essays to complete.

Successful candidates will progress into the instrument repair industry, some may become self-employed luthiers. The majority of candidates who wish to become instrument makers will continue with further studies to degree level at the Metropolitan University of London, the instrument making course at Puurs in Belgium or study for a Diploma at Newark School of Instrument Making.

8.1 Content of the National Certificate

The NC has 12 credits in total. You will study 4 mandatory Units, which will provide you with 6 credits, and a further 6 Unit credits will be chosen from the options. The Units and topics you will study are explained below.

Mandatory Units	Credit value	Topic
Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics	1	Basic introduction to the scientific principles of acoustics in relation to music making and the construction and maintenance of musical instruments.
Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments	1	Knowledge and understanding about the principal materials used to construct stringed musical instruments, including the study of timber growth, conversion and usage.
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components	3	The manufacture of instrument parts prior to assembling an instrument.
Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	1	Inlay and soundhole cutting techniques that produce a higher level of craftsmanship than level 5 and introduce advanced techniques.
Total Credits	6	
A further 6 credits are required from the optional units		
Optional units	Credit value	Topic
Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	3	Major repairs to a range of stringed instruments that will include a minimum of four repairs.
Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up	1	Setting up which will include a nut ,saddle, tuners and a test for playability and sound
Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up	1	Setting up which will include a bridge, soundpost, tailpiece and tailgut and a test for playability and sound.
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck	1	The manufacture of an instrument neck in readiness for assembling to an instrument body.
Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck	2	Assembly of body components, neck and fingerboard ready for varnishing
Stringed Instruments: Finishing	1	Instruments will be sprayed with lacquer, French polished or oil varnished.
Stringed Instruments: Design Project	1	A project to introduce the design concept, candidates will design a minimum of two instrument components, such as rosette and headstock.
Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments	1	An introduction to electric pick up systems for both electric and electro-acoustic instruments.
History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern	1	A continuation of the history of stringed musical instruments, looking at instrument developments from the classical to modern period.
Working for Yourself	1	An introduction to becoming self-employed

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2–6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1: Core Skills Mapping

Appendix 2: Mapping of aims to Units

Appendix 3: National Occupational Standards

Appendix 1: Core Skills Mapping

Unit title	Code	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Oral	Written	Using Graphical Info	Using Number	Accessing Info	Providing/ Creating Info	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative contribution
Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics	H1Y012	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments	H1Y912	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components	H1Y312	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	H1Y212	S	S	S	S			S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	H1Y812	S	S	S	S			S	S	S	S	S
Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up	H1Y712	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up	H1Y412	S	S	S	S			S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck	H1YC12	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck	H1Y612	S	S	S	S			S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Finishing	H1Y112	S	S					S	S	S		
Stringed Instruments: Design Project	H1Y512	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments	H1YB12	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern	H1YA12	S	S			S	S	S	S	S		
Working for Yourself	FM99 11	S	S			S	S	S	S	S		

Appendix 2: Mapping of aims to Units

Unit code	Unit title	Aim 1	Aim 2	Aim 3	Aim 4	Aim 5	Aim 6	Aim 7
H1Y012	Stringed Instruments: Introduction to Acoustics	✓	✓	✓		✓		
H1Y912	Stringed Instruments: Material Science for Stringed instruments	✓	✓	✓		✓		
H1Y312	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y212	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y812	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y712	Stringed Instruments: Fretted Instrument Setting-Up	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y412	Stringed Instruments: Non-fretted Instrument Setting Up	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1YC12	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y612	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1Y112	Stringed Instruments: Finishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
H1Y512	Stringed Instruments: Design Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
H1YB12	Servicing and Modifying Electric and Electro-Acoustic Stringed instruments	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
H1YA12	History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern			✓	✓	✓		
FM99 11	Working for Yourself		✓	✓		✓		

Appendix 3: National Occupational Standards

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

Stringed Instruments: Design Project

Design: DES5	Follow a design process
Design: DES10	Create visual designs
Design: DES11	Provide written information in relation to your design work
Design: DES14	Explore the history and social impact of creativity and how it can influence your own design work
Design: DES37	Originate and develop concepts for products or services
Craft: CR5	Create a design brief for craft
Craft: CR9	Produce a drawing or sketch, working stages or roughs, sample, model or prototype of craft

History of Stringed Musical Instruments: Classic to Modern

Design: DES14	Explore the history and social impact of creativity and how it can influence your own design work
Design: DES15	Research and evaluate the nature of design in a specific industry context

Practical Units (see table for below for more detail)

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