



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

**Unit code:** HN7K 34

**Superclass:** LJ

**Publication date:** June 2017

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This unit will provide learners with the knowledge and skills to produce and inset intricate inlays using advanced techniques. Learners will explore the use of jigs and power tools to develop accuracy, speed and consistency. The production of these components will further develop practical skills and allow for the rationalisation of working methods pertinent to those found in a small workshop situation.

This is a mandatory unit within the Higher National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 7). This unit is suitable for learners in education and those from industry who wish to extend their knowledge.

### Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Research, plan and design intricate musical instrument inlays
- 2 Prepare intricate musical instrument inlays
- 3 Inset intricate musical instrument inlays.
- 4 Cut out and shape musical instrument soundholes.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

## **Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, this unit is aimed at learners who have achieved *Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (SCQF level 6).

### **Core Skills**

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

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

### **Context for delivery**

If this unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

### **Equality and inclusion**

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

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, plan and design intricate musical instrument inlays.

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Design
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Materials

### Outcome 2

Prepare intricate musical instrument inlays.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Jigs
- ◆ Powertools
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

### Outcome 3

Inset intricate musical instrument inlays.

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Jigs
- ◆ Powertools
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

## Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

### Outcome 4

Cut out and shape musical instrument soundholes.

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Jigs
- ◆ Powertools
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

### Evidence requirements for this unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills across all outcomes by showing that they can:

#### Outcome 1

- ◆ research a minimum of four inlay designs.
- ◆ produce two inlay designs.
- ◆ identify materials.
- ◆ produce two full scale inlay plans.

Learners should produce evidence of research, completed design layouts and full scale plans which also identify the materials required.

#### Outcome 2

- ◆ produce inlay components from design plans.
- ◆ work safely.

#### Outcome 3

- ◆ accurately layout inlays for inseting.
- ◆ accurately inset inlays.
- ◆ work safely.

Photographic evidence should be presented to verify that inlays have been correctly positioned and inset.

## Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

### Outcome 4

- ◆ accurately layout soundholes for cutting.
- ◆ accurately cut soundholes.
- ◆ work safely.

Photographic evidence should be presented to verify that soundholes have been correctly positioned and cut.



## Higher National Unit: Support Notes

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

Unit support notes are offered as guidance and 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

This unit is a mandatory unit within the HNC Musical Instrument Making and Repair award.

The unit could be linked with units such as *Stringed Instruments: Jig Making*, *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components* and *Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining*.

This unit has been designed to develop the learner's ability to accurately layout and cut soundholes. Learners will research, design and inset intricate inlays.

Where appropriate learners will incorporate jigs and power tools to enhance the accuracy, speed and repetition of tasks. Emphasis will be given to construction methods utilised in small workshops where instruments are built in multiples.

Inlays styles might be chosen from the following:

- ◆ Purfling
- ◆ Herringbone
- ◆ Rope
- ◆ Tiled rosettes
- ◆ Shell inlay
- ◆ Wood inlay
- ◆ Stone inlay
- ◆ Plastic inlay
- ◆ Headstock inlay
- ◆ Fingerboard inlay
- ◆ Instrument body inlay
- ◆ Double purfling
- ◆ Other devised inlays

## Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

As the main emphasis of the unit is learner centred, space should be made for group discussion and interpersonal constructive dialogue to stimulate the process of learning. Practical tutor led demonstration can provide clarity to complex learning tasks, where an integrated Q and A session will help individuals to gain confidence in their problem solving abilities.

Learners should be encouraged to identify the feasibility and practical implementation of the inlay. The value of researching extant inlays and inlay techniques could be emphasised during discussions or lectures.

Lectures and discussion groups might help to identify methods of working to enhance production. Emphasis on production methods used in the small workshop environment would be relevant.

Referring to the unit *Stringed Instruments: Jig Making* and will be useful when giving consideration to production planning methods suitable for small workshops.

A visit to a small instrument workshop to see inlay methods would be useful.

### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

A checklist could be used to record completion of practical tasks and health and safety requirements.

A design folio including research materials, photographs, preparatory sketches and final dimensioned layout could be submitted as evidence.

### Opportunities for 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 learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the evidence requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

## Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

There are opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills components for *Communication*, *Numeracy*, *ICT* and *Problem Solving* that naturally arise through the learning and teaching approaches of this unit.



## History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 7)

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

In most cases you will have achieved *Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques* (SCQF level 6) or will have been working at an equivalent level, so will have a sound knowledge regarding inlay and soundhole cutting work.

This unit will provide you with the knowledge and skills to research and develop designs, produce full-scale drawings and inset your chosen inlays. Accurate soundhole layout and cutting is also an important element of this unit.

You will explore the use of jigs and power tools to develop accuracy, speed and consistency.