



Higher National Unit Specification

General information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: HN7M 34

Superclass: LJ

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 2

Unit purpose

In this unit learners will assemble instrument body components. The assembly of components will further develop practical skills and allow for the rationalisation of working methods in a similar way to the production methods found in a small workshop situation. Learners will develop time and resource management skills whilst planning the production methods to a timescale.

This is an optional unit within the Higher National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 7), but can also be taken as a free-standing unit.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Plan the production methods and timescales for assembling instrument components.
- 2 Assemble instrument ribs to fronts and backs.
- 3 Assemble instrument necks to bodies.
- 4 Assemble instrument fingerboards to necks.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Recommended entry to the unit

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, this unit is aimed at learners who have *achieved Stringed Instruments Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck* (SCQF level 6) or those working at an equivalent level who wish to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Core Skills

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

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5

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.

Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (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

Plan the production methods and timescales for assembling instrument components.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Schedules of work
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Planning

Outcome 2

Assemble instrument ribs to fronts and backs.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Production specifications
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

Outcome 3

Assemble instrument necks to bodies.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Production specifications
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

Outcome 4

Assemble instrument fingerboards to necks.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Production specifications
- ◆ Practical woodworking skills
- ◆ Accurate layout skills
- ◆ Health and safety

Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (SCQF level 7)

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

- ◆ produce a schedule of work.
- ◆ produce a timetable for assembly.

Evidence should be presented as a completed work schedule and timetable for the assembly of instruments.

Outcome 2

- ◆ follow production specifications.
- ◆ accurately layout instrument body components for assembly.
- ◆ accurately assemble instrument bodies.
- ◆ work safely.

Evidence should be presented as completed instrument bodies assemblies made to the correct specifications.

Outcome 3

- ◆ follow production specifications.
- ◆ accurately layout necks and bodies for assembly.
- ◆ accurately assemble instrument necks to bodies.
- ◆ work safely.

Evidence should be presented as completed instrument neck and body units made to the correct specifications.

Outcome 4

- ◆ follow production specifications.
- ◆ accurately layout instrument fingerboards.
- ◆ accurately attach instrument fingerboards.
- ◆ work safely.

Evidence should be presented as a completed assembly of instrument fingerboards to necks and bodies to the correct specifications.



Higher National Unit: Support Notes

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this unit

This unit has been designed to develop instrument assembling skills in the context of a professional environment where time management and increased production are essential elements. This unit formalises planning and scheduling of work, giving learners time management skills thus enhancing employability.

The skills in Outcome 1 are relevant for much of industry irrespective of a particular field and these transferable skills broaden the prospect of employment for all learners. The practical element in Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 can enhance woodworking skills, again leading to broadening prospects.

Learners should interpret production specifications incorporating schedules of work and manufacturing and assembling timetables. Emphasis should be given to construction methods utilised in small workshops where two to five instruments are built at a time.

Accuracy of layout and assembly should be an important component in achieving the repeated production of an instrument design where the learner decides to make similar instruments. This is also an important component of the manufacturing process for consideration with regard to the use of jigs and machinery.

It is suggested that normally two sets of instrument components are assembled. The merits of building two the same or two different should be discussed and the production agreed between learner and lecturer.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

Although this unit is structured in a particular order, learners should be encouraged to take responsibility for their learning by working to their timetable and adjusting completion dates to account for challenges in the practical work with the agreement of the tutor. This reflects the reality of employment and prepares the learner with coping strategies. As the main thrust is student 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 question and answer session could help individuals gain confidence in their problem solving abilities.

Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)

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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 units *Stringed Instruments: Jig Making and Stringed Instruments* (SCQF level 7) and *Stringed Instruments: Machine woodworking Instruments* (SCQF level 7) could be beneficial when giving consideration to production planning methods suitable to small workshops.

A visit to a small instrument workshop to see at first hand the production 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.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by the submission of a written/oral/signed report. This should be assessed before undertaking Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 as the report will provide the production specification for the assembly of the bodies, necks and fingerboards.

A checklist could be used to record the practical work undertaken in Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other Essential Skills

This Unit has the Planning and Organising component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when learners achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date
2	Core Skills Component Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5 embedded.	12/09/2017

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General information for learners

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (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: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck* (SCQF level 6) or will have been working at an equivalent level, so will have a sound knowledge regarding the assembly of an instrument body, neck and fingerboard.

This unit enables you to adopt a more professional and ordered approach to assembling instruments in a small workshop environment. You will learn how to interpret and analyse production specifications. With regard to assembly, you will gain an understanding of systems of timetabling and planning work schedules.

Emphasis is given to the use of jigs relevant to production in a small workshop where you could be in employment or as a sole trader one person business.

You will be assessed on your ability to produce a schedule of work and to assemble the body, neck and fingerboards of two instruments.

This unit has the Planning and Organising component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when you achieve the unit, your Core Skills profile will also be updated to show you have achieved Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5.