



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF level 7)

**Unit code:** HN7N 34

**Superclass:** LJ

**Publication date:** September 2017

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 2

### Unit purpose

This unit is designed to provide learners with the broad knowledge and skills required to achieve high quality finishes to instrument surfaces. Learners will gain understanding of surface preparation, finish compatibility and working methods. The finishing of more than one instrument at a time will allow for the rationalisation of working methods in a similar way to the production methods used 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. This unit is suitable for learners in education and those from industry who wish to extend their knowledge and practical application of finishing techniques.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Produce relevant finishing schedules.
- 2 Prepare all instrument surfaces.
- 3 Finish all instrument surfaces.
- 4 Burnish all instrument surfaces.

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SQF level 7: (18 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

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

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF level 7)

### 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: Finishing* (SCQF level 6) and 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

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

### 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: Finishing (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

Produce relevant finishing schedules.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Evaluation

## Outcome 2

Prepare all instrument surfaces.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Practical hand skills
- ◆ Materials selection
- ◆ Health and safety

## Outcome 3

Finish all instrument surfaces.

### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Practical hand skills
- ◆ Health and safety

## Outcome 4

Burnish all instrument surfaces.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Practical hand skills
- ◆ Health and safety

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

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (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 finishing schedules.
- ◆ consider timescales, drying times, finish quality and end use.
- ◆ quantify materials.

Evidence should be presented as completed schedules detailing materials, timescale and end use factors.

#### Outcome 2

- ◆ select and use relevant preparation materials and tools.
- ◆ prepare instrument surfaces in readiness for appropriate finishing materials.
- ◆ adhere to health and safety working requirements.

Evidence should be presented as completed product preparation.

#### Outcome 3

- ◆ apply finishes to a commercial standard.
- ◆ properly clean and maintain equipment.
- ◆ adhere to Health and Safety requirements.

Evidence should be presented as completed practical task.

#### Outcome 4

- ◆ select suitable burnishing materials.
- ◆ burnish finished surfaces to a commercial standard.
- ◆ adhere to Health and Safety requirements.

Evidence should be presented as completed practical task.



## Higher National Unit: Support Notes

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF level 7)

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

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.

This unit is intended to enhance the knowledge and skills obtained from *Stringed Instruments: Finishing* (SCQF level 6).

Finishes selected should be applicable to those used in a small workshop. Commercial standards vary with pricing and learners should be encouraged to achieve standards that are apparent in premium quality instruments. Preparation should include wood treatment, staining and grain filling.

Application could be by spray, brush or rubber and carried out to finishing schedules. Safe working practices should be emphasised at all times as learners need to be aware that in the case of a self-employed instrument maker, most of the working day is spent in solitude and in the case of an accident help is not available. Working practices need to reflect this situation.

Finishing materials can include any of the following:

- ◆ Oil varnish
- ◆ Spirit varnish
- ◆ Cellulose lacquer
- ◆ Waterbased lacquer
- ◆ Rubbed oil

Techniques can include any of the following:

- ◆ French polishing
- ◆ Brush application
- ◆ Sprayed finish
- ◆ Rubbed finish
- ◆ Sunburst and antiqued finishes

## Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF level 7)

Preparation and burnishing materials can include any of the following:

- ◆ Abrasive papers
- ◆ Abrasive compounds
- ◆ Abrasive powders
- ◆ Horsetail grass
- ◆ Stains
- ◆ Grain fillers

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

It should be emphasised that the quality of the final result is dependent upon meticulous preparation, with the final finish quality always the core objective. It would be useful to have lectures and group discussions with samples of commercially produced instruments of varying qualities available. This would highlight the range of acceptable standards in commercial finishing.

Interaction between learners should be encouraged to expand knowledge and understanding. Tutors should discuss any practical issues with learners and where possible include the whole class in developing solutions, guiding the learners through the process of problem solving.

### 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.

Assessments should consist of completed schedules of finishing with an estimate of the timescale for each process, material quantities should be estimated and included, the type of finish should be justified by its end use and drying times should be stated.

Physical and photographic evidence could be presented to the tutor who can complete a checklist.

### 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: Finishing (SCQF level 7)

### Opportunities for developing Core 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.

There are also opportunities to develop Core Skills components for *Communication Working with Others* 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
2	Core Skills Component Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5 embedded.	11/09/2017

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## General information for learners

### **Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (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: Finishing* (SCQF level 6) or will have been working at an equivalent level, so will have a sound knowledge of Instrument finishing.

This unit enables you to adopt a more professional approach to finishing introducing an element of time management, the creation of schedules and consideration of the type of finish relevant to production in a small workshop environment. You will learn how to prepare finishing schedules and from the schedule, prepare the instrument surfaces. You will learn how to finish and burnish these surfaces to a commercial standard. This unit will help prepare you for employment where finishing skills are essential.

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.