



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Fret Replacement and Refurbishment (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FX3G 11

Superclass: LJ

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Version: 01

Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to acquire skills in fret replacement and refurbishing. The Unit introduces the key principles of correct playing action, string compensation and neck relief, specifies the specialised tools and jigs used to fret an instrument, and explains their function.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with no previous experience of instrument repair and will facilitate progression to further study in this area.

Outcomes

- 1 Make a neck rest.
- 2 Refurbish worn frets.
- 3 Replace life expired frets.
- 4 Set-up the playing action of a re-fretted instrument..

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have basic woodworking skills and the ability to tune a guitar. This may be evidenced by attainment of the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Woodworking Skills* (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ *EF8S 09 Music Making: Solo (Acoustic Guitar) 2* (SCQF level 3)

General information (cont)

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(SCQF level 5)

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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:

- ◆ 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

Make a neck rest.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The appropriate size woodblock is dressed accurately.
- (b) The woodblock is cut accurately to support instrument neck.
- (c) The neck support is adequately padded to prevent marking the instrument finish.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (e) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 2

Refurbish worn frets.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Fret wear is correctly identified.
- (b) Frets are stoned to eliminate wear.
- (c) Frets are refurbished to correct profile and playing action.
- (d) Frets are polished in accordance with recognised techniques.
- (e) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Outcome 3

Replace life expired frets.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Life expired frets are correctly identified.
- (b) Frets are removed in a manner causing the least damage to the fretboard.
- (c) The fingerboard is accurately dressed with the appropriate neck relief.
- (d) Neck is re-fretted ensuring all frets are seated in fret slots correctly.
- (e) Frets are furnished to the correct profile and playing action.
- (f) Processes are performed using appropriate tools
- (g) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Set-up the playing action of a re-fretted instrument.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Instrument is strung and tuned accurately to pitch.
- (b) Truss rod is adjusted for effective neck relief.
- (c) Instrument is correctly tested with regard to playing action.
- (d) Processes are performed using appropriate tools
- (e) Health and safety requirements are adhered to

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

A combination of product and performance evidence is required.

Product Evidence:

- ◆ a neck rest is manufactured that supports the neck correctly
- ◆ a stone and profile is completed to a standard acceptable within the musical instrument repair industry for school instruments.
- ◆ life expired frets are replaced to a standard acceptable within the musical instrument repair industry for school instruments.
- ◆ the playing action of a re-fretted instrument is setup to a standard acceptable within the musical instrument repair industry for school instruments

Performance evidence which demonstrates that:

- ◆ The candidate uses the appropriate tools and machinery in the correct manner to suit each task
- ◆ The candidate adheres to the health and safety regulations and guidelines with regard to the workshop environment and use of hand-tools and machinery

Product and Performance Evidence may be recorded on a checklist.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Fret Replacement and Refurbishment (SCQF level 5)

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Candidates will gain practical skills in fret work and recognise the requirements relating to correct playing action and intonation.

Candidates will become familiar with a range of truss rods, types of fret wire and specialised tools and jigs. Detailed information will be given on neck relief, playing action, scale length and intonation. Information regarding correct methods of tuning instruments should be given.

Workshop health and safety requirements must be adhered to.

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

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

National Unit specification: support notes

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This is a workshop based Unit. However, there should be tutor input on the subject of instrument setups relating to the following:

- ◆ scale length
- ◆ neck relief
- ◆ intonation
- ◆ playing action
- ◆ tuning

Demonstrations detailing all aspects of fret replacement should be given prior to practical sessions. Specialised software can be used to determine fret positions and to test intonation and tuning.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Evidence of practical work may be recorded on an observation checklist supported by product evidence as detailed in the Performance Criteria and Evidence Requirements.

Evidence could be accumulated holistically throughout the Unit for all Outcomes.

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 e-checklists. 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 complete fret work and set up one instrument.

Candidates will:

- ◆ read instruction material relating to fret replacement and refurbishment
- ◆ measure, mark and lay out
- ◆ select and use tools
- ◆ identify health and safety issues
- ◆ use software programs

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Problem Solving* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

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

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