



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)

**Unit code:** FX3K 11

**Superclass:** LJ

**Publication date:** November 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### **Summary**

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to apply a finish to a stringed musical instrument. Candidates will prepare an instrument surface for varnishing (including grain filling), apply varnish, level the surface and burnish the varnished surface to a matt or gloss finish. They will also gain an understanding of the tools and materials required to undertake the task and of the safety requirements applicable to preparing and varnishing an instrument.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5).

This Unit is suitable for candidates with no previous experience of applying varnish to musical instruments.

### **Outcomes**

- 1 Prepare an instrument surface for finishing.
- 2 Varnish an instrument surface.
- 3 Burnish an instrument surface.

### **Recommended entry**

There are no specific entry requirements. Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (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 4

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**

### **Unit title: Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)**

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**

Prepare an instrument surface for finishing.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) An instrument surface is correctly prepared for varnishing by scraping and sanding.
- (b) Ageing and staining of the surface to be finished is appropriate to the instrument.
- (c) Grain is filled correctly using appropriate tools and materials.
- (d) The surface is sealed properly using an appropriate sealer.
- (e) Appropriate tools and materials are used in the correct manner to suit each task.
- (f) Safety regulations and guidelines are adhered to.

#### **Outcome 2**

Varnish an instrument surface.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Initial varnish layers are correctly applied.
- (b) The instrument surface is correctly levelled between layers.
- (c) Final varnish layers are correctly applied.
- (d) Appropriate tools and materials are used in the correct manner to suit each task.
- (e) Safety regulations and guidelines are adhered to.

#### **Outcome 3**

Burnish an instrument surface.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) The instrument surface is correctly levelled.
- (b) The instrument surface is correctly burnished.
- (c) Appropriate tools and materials are used in the correct manner to suit each task.
- (d) Safety regulations and guidelines are adhered to.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

Product and Performance evidence produced under supervised conditions is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Product evidence will be produced holistically for all Outcomes in the form of an instrument surface that has been prepared, varnished and burnished to a standard acceptable for school instruments or those instruments at the lower end of the market.

Performance evidence will be required to demonstrate that:

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

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (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 Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a freestanding Unit.

In this Unit candidates are required to prepare, varnish and burnish an instrument surface. They will learn about wood preparation including how to sharpen and use a cabinet scraper. Explanations will be given regarding different types of varnish applicable for use with instruments. The different types of abrasive material available and the methods used to apply, level and burnish varnish can also be discussed.

Candidates will gain an understanding and practical knowledge of how to apply, level and burnish the appropriate varnish for the particular stringed instrument surface they will finish. One of the following finishing processes is likely to be used and applied with either a brush, French polishing pad (rubber) or rag:

- ◆ Applying spirit varnish using a brush or pad (rubber)
- ◆ Applying oil varnish
- ◆ Applying an oil finish.

Workshop health and safety guidelines should be covered with regard to the workshop environment and to preparation and application of varnishes and the storage and disposal of materials. Candidates are expected to adhere to these at all times.

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

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)

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**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

Initial tutor input will be required to identify methods materials and tools used for finishing an instrument and to highlight health and safety issues and practices associated with the use and disposal of materials used in the processes involved. Practical demonstrations in the workshop covering the preparation of surfaces and application and burnishing of varnish should be followed by individual practical work to prepare, varnish and burnish an instrument surface.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Finishing (SCQF Level 5)

Visits to an instrument making/repair business could be arranged to demonstrate workplace practices.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will prepare, varnish and burnish an instrument surface. Candidates will:

- ◆ select and use tools and materials
- ◆ apply a range of techniques
- ◆ identify health and safety issues
- ◆ carry out health and safety procedures

This means that the candidate will be developing aspects of the Core Skill of Problem Solving.

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The Unit will be assessed holistically via an instrument surface that has been prepared, varnished and burnished.

Evidence of practical work as detailed in the Performance Criteria, may be recorded by the assessor on an observation checklist and will be supported by product evidence in the form of a finished instrument surface.

### 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)*.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	28/11/2011

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