



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** FX3H 11

**Superclass:** LJ

**Publication date:** October 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to correctly position and insert inlays, and cut soundholes. The Unit investigates materials used for inlay, and simple inlay techniques are studied and applied. The Unit examines different types of instrument soundholes and the methods of cutting these out.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with no previous experience of instrument making.

## Outcomes

- 1 Select and prepare an inlay.
- 2 Inset a simple inlay into an instrument.
- 3 Cut out a soundhole.

## Recommended entry

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

- ◆ *Musical Instrument Technology: Woodworking Skills* (SCQF Level 5)

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (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**

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (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**

Select and prepare an inlay.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Inlays are selected that are suitable for inlaying into musical instruments.
- (b) Inlays are correctly prepared for insetting.
- (c) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (d) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (e) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

### **Outcome 2**

Inset a simple inlay into an instrument.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Accurately plan the position of the inlay.
- (b) Accurately mark the inlay position.
- (c) Correctly cut the timber to receive the inlay.
- (d) Correctly fit and glue the inlay.
- (e) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (f) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (g) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

### **Outcome 3**

Cut out a soundhole.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Accurately mark the soundhole position.
- (b) Correctly cut the soundhole.
- (c) Processes are performed using appropriate tools.
- (d) The correct processes are accurately described.
- (e) Health and safety requirements are adhered to.

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

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 5)

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

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. A combination of product and performance evidence is required.

Additional written and or/oral recorded evidence is also required to demonstrate the candidate's understanding of the processes.

Product evidence:

- ◆ a minimum of four inlays will be inset and a minimum of one soundhole cut out. The inlay and soundhole will conform accurately to a pre-determined size and position

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.

Written and/or oral evidence is required:

- ◆ To provide evidence that suitable inlays have been chosen and correctly prepared for inlaying.
- ◆ To provide an accurate description of the manufacturing process being used by the candidate and demonstrate that the procedures being used have been understood.

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

### **Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (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**

A range of purfling, binding, end grafts, rosettes, fingerboard inlays and inlay techniques should be identified and the methods of constructing them determined. Different types of soundhole should be identified and the process for cutting them demonstrated. Sound-holes can be cut by hand or machine.

This is an introduction to the subject and it is envisaged that candidates will cut a simple soundhole and perform simple inlays using manufactured inlays or where they are constructed by the candidate, keeping the methods as straightforward as possible.

Pre-made bindings could be used but it is useful for candidates to make their own purfling from veneer. Rosettes can be composed of wooden rings with the addition of purfling.

The range of tools used might include the following; plane, saw, coping saw, chisel, gauge, marking gauge, jeweller's saw, fret saw, file, cabinet scraper and dividers. A woodworking bench with vice are also required. Candidates should have some basic woodworking skills prior to beginning the Unit.

Workshop health and safety 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 tutor input to examine a range of inlays and inlay material together with practical demonstrations on inlay techniques and soundhole cutting can be given prior to embarking on the practical work.

### **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. Written and/or oral evidence detailing the manufacturing process will be used to ensure candidates' understanding — this could be in the form of a logbook.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (SCQF level 5)

When taught as part of the National Certificate in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5) there are opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment with the following Units:

- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of an Instrument Neck (SCQF level 5)*
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture Instrument Body Components (SCQF Level 5)*
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Body and Neck (SCQF level 5)*
- ◆ *Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Jigs and Templates (SCQF level 5)*

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will correctly position inlays and inset them. They will also cut out a soundhole.

Candidates will:

- ◆ read and interpret diagrams
- ◆ read instruction material relating to the construction process
- ◆ measure, mark and lay out
- ◆ select and use tools
- ◆ identify health and safety issues
- ◆ record the manufacturing process.

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

### 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

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