

Hand Made Acoustic Guitar

I started this guitar project in November of 2008 and completed it in March of 2009. It took almost 4 months of hard work. Most of the wood I used, I already had on hand in my shop. The only "special" wood had to be obtained was the ebony for the fretboard and the bridge.



In the photo above I have made the sides, made and installed the kerfing on the top edge of the sides, and have installed the top and bottom blocks. Here I am planing the back edges of the sides so that I can have a tapered overall thickness of the guitar. Sides - Black Walnut; Kerfing - Linden; Top and Bottom Blocks - Hard Maple



Above - I have created a domed top for this guitar and have used X-bracing to strengthen the soundboard. In this photo I am not carving scallops on the bracing to enhance the

final acoustics.



Above - The carving and scalloping of the bracing is complete. The final outline shape of the soundboard is yet to be done. I inlaid the herringbone rosette around the soundhole prior to adding the bracing. Soundboard - Western Red Cedar; X-bracing - Western Red Cedar; Soundhole bracing - Hard Maple; Bridge bracing - Hard Maple



Above - Here the back is complete. Bracing has been added as well as my label. Back - Black Walnut; Bracing - Western Red Cedar



Above - I have laminated the neck and here I am starting to carve a hand stop reinforcement at the vertex of the angle of the neck and headstock. Neck - Black Walnut; Decorative White Stripe - Hard Maple



Above - Here I am rough shaping the base of the neck. After this shaping is done I will carve a dovetail into this area.



Above - With the neck shaped up and the dovetail joint complete the neck is attached to the body of the guitar.



Above - Here I have carved a channel for the truss rod to run through. I threaded a steel rod to make the truss rod and anchored it by drilling and threading a piece of brass rod and threading the rod into it. Adjustment will be made by allen head nut through the sound hole.



Above - Here I have installed a strip of hard maple over the truss rod. I am in the process of planing in flush with the surface of the neck. After made flush, the fretboard will be installed over this area.

You have viewed the 1st page of photos in the progress of completion of the guitar. There are more pages to go. If you would like to see the next page click on the link below:

Part 2



Above - Here I have cut the fretboard to approximate size and sawed the slots in the appropriate locations. Fretboard - Ebony



Above - Here I have attached the fretboard to the neck and body of the guitar. You can see that I have inlaid herringbone trim around the perimeter of the body to match the trim around the sound hole. Binding - Hard Maple



Above - Now for the finish. It will take a lot of fine sanding.



Above - More sanding



Above - Several coats of laquer finish are applied. The sound hole and the fretboard are masked.



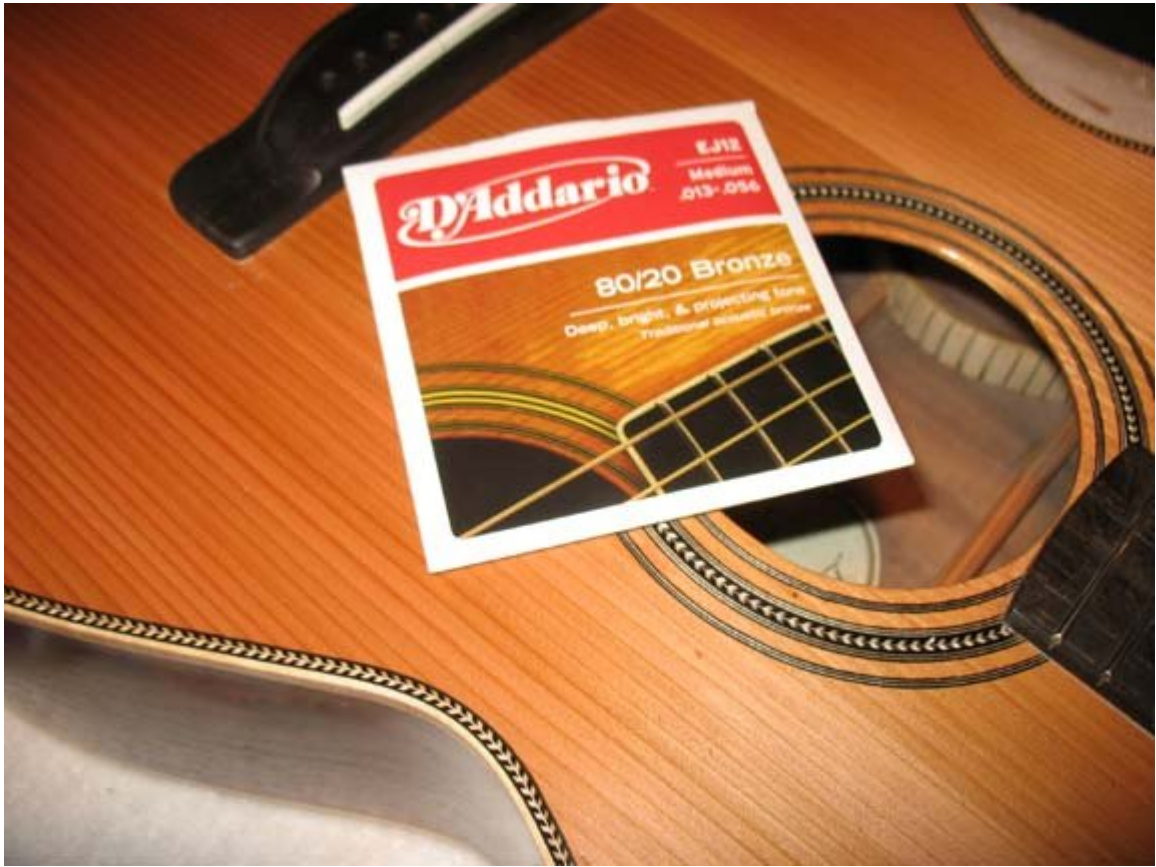
Above - Prior to applying the finish I inlaid my mother of pearl, "Lawrence" logo on the head of the guitar. I also inlaid diamond shaped mother of pearl position markers into the fretboard as well as marker dots into the side of the fretboard. You see here that I have also installed the tuners. The bone nut is yet to be installed.



Above - Here I have located the bridge position and am attaching the bridge. You can see that I have installed the frets. Bridge - Ebony



Above - After the bridge is attached to the body, the bridge pin holes must be continued through the soundboard and through the maple brace that I previously attached to the underside of the soundboard.



Above - Now I am ready for the strings. I like D'Addario mediums. You can see that I have also installed the bone saddle into the bridge.

Part 3



Above - The strings are on! No plastic pick guards for me. This one is solid Black Walnut. Putting the finishing shine on the pickguard.



Above - A close-up of the finished headstock showing the nut in place.



Above - All tuned up and it sounds pretty good! Project complete! Click the soundbar below to hear some sounds from my new guitar!..