



# RESSLER GUITARS

"finger pickin' good"



## **BUILD A CUTAWAY GUITAR: COMTEMPORARY GUITAR DESIGN**

**August 13-18, 2012 (Mon – Sat)**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This class is designed to take you to the next level as we explore a number of non-traditional guitar building construction techniques. The main focus will be on the guitar body itself. Some of the things will be doing are X-braced backs, optional steam bent arched back (no bracing), bending a Venetian (rounded) cutaway side, side sound ports, custom rosettes as well as carbon fiber re-enforced necks.

How much you get completed in class will depend on how many different items you want to try. Our goal will be to complete the guitar body, but the guitar will not be completed in class. However, all of the parts will be supplied to be able to complete the guitar later. The guitar shape will be the Prima (acoustic class guitar); however, you will have the option of making it deeper if you wish. If you want to do a different shape, you will need to bring your own form or bring materials to make one in class. If you bring your own form, I will show how to make the cutaway portion of the form in class.

### **CLASS STRUCTURE**

This class is designed as an advanced guitar building class. It would be most helpful if you have attended a previous guitar class with me or its equivalent. Otherwise, very good woodworking skills will be needed. For this class, very little will be completed ahead of time. We will be bending the sides and binding in class, cutting the side profile, routing the neck mortise, etc.

### **INTENDED ITINERARY**

Itinerary is subject to change

#### **DAY 1**

- Bend sides
- Fit sides to the form

#### **DAY 2**

- Install Kerfed linings
- Glue backs & tops
- Brace backs
- Option steam bend arch back

#### **DAY 3**

- Make rosettes
- Brace tops

#### **DAY 4**

- Fit backs and tops to sides
- Glue backs and tops

#### **DAY 5**

- Route and install bindings and purflings
- Layout and route neck mortise
- Install carbon fiber in necks

#### **DAY 6**

- Begin to fit necks

**2:00 Wrap up and Class Evaluation – You should be able to leave around 3:00 PM**



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## TOOL LIST for GUITAR BUILDING CLASS

The following is a list of tools that you should bring to the guitar building class. This is pretty much the same list as the Acoustic Class.

Let me know if you have any trouble finding sources for these or if you have questions about which to purchase.

### Everyone needs to have their own ...

- "Stanley" or "Record" Block Plane (low angle cut, 12 degree)
- Convex Finger Plane (47mm body/18mm blade) (available from Stewmac\*\*)
- Japanese type pull saw (with back support)
- X-acto Knife
- Razor blades
- 1/4", 1/2" & 3/4" Straight Chisels (1/8" chisel is useful as well)
- Flexible Cabinet scrapers – rectangle shape
- 6" square (any style is OK)
- Small flat file or needle file set
- Awl or scribe
- 12" Center Point Rule (available at Woodcraft, Lee Valley, etc)
- 6" or 12" rule with 1/32" graduations
- Magnifier (Visor type or glasses type) 3-4 power
- Dremel Tool
- Precision Router Base (for the Dremel tool available from Stewmac\*\*)
- 1/16" & 1/32" router bit (end mill) to fit Dremel tool (available from Stewmac)
- Drill bits (1/16", 3/16", 1/4", 9/32")
- Cordless drill (If you are flying, you can use one from the school)
- 3" soft paint brush (cheap one for cleaning off parts)
- An old bath towel
- Hawaiian shirt (wear on Tues☺)
- Drinking straw
- Dial or Digital Caliper (6 or 8" OK)
- 1" Paring chisel for carving braces (I like the Sorby chisel)
- Any other favorite hand tools



NOTE: If you have a side bender and if it is convenient, bring it with you. I will have several there, but it would be good to have about 6 total. Other fixtures that would be helpful to bring if you have them: Spanish Tourniquet glue device, Neck holder for carving.

### All materials are provided, including strings and tuning machines (guitar case not included)

If you would like to purchase a guitar case, let me know before class time and I will make a group purchase from Guitar Center where they will give us a group discount. We should be able to purchase for approx. \$90. If you bring your own case, you will need a case that will fit an OM size guitar (14 fret). (It will fit in a Dreadnought size as well; it just won't fit quite as well.)

For questions about the class or technical questions, please feel free to contact me direct:

John Ressler

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