

TIM ALSUP & ALAN BRITTINGHAM



**BUILDING A PARLOR ACOUSTIC GUITAR
WITH ALAN BRITTINGHAM AND TIM ALSUP
July 29-Aug 4, 2019 (Monday through Sunday)**

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A \$575 MATERIAL FEE PAYABLE TO ALAN AND TIM WHEN YOU ARE HERE FOR THE COURSE.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Building your own acoustic guitar will be an experience of a lifetime. If you are a guitar player, you will appreciate the difference between a custom-built guitar and a manufactured guitar after building your own guitar.

In this course, you will learn to build the guitar from start to finish. (Some parts are partially made due to time constraints but will need to be completed by you) Some luthier skills you will learn include tap tuning tops, fretting and leveling the fingerboard, binding, and guitar set up (playability, neck angle, intonation, etc.). Our goal is to complete the guitar and have it strung when you leave.

The guitar style we will be building is a Parlor. The materials will be Sycamore back and sides with a Sitka spruce top and a Mahogany neck.

You will find that your skills will be challenged and elevated as we blend precision woodworking skills, creativity and music all in one package! Time will also be spent in discussing guitar set up and maintenance that will be valuable information that can be used on any guitar.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Guitar building can be very intense, especially when compressed in a 7-day class. This class requires us to all work together, and you will be expected to help the other students occasionally, as many steps require a second set of hands. Not everyone has the same level of woodworking skills, so we will need to work together to make sure that everyone is on schedule.

All steps of the process will be demonstrated and there will be illustrated handouts for some of the more detailed processes.

Please be prepared to work long days if needed. This is not an 8-5 class. How late you work will vary depending on your skill level, but past experience shows that most will need to work some late nights in order to complete the guitar. You will leave exhausted, but with a big smile on your face!

For questions about the class or technical questions, please feel free to contact either of us at:
Alan Brittingham alan.guitars@aol.com Cell: 812-528-3009
Tim Alsup tmalsup@yahoo.com Cell: 931-801-7229

RESOURCES

Luthier Supply Sources

** Stewart McDonald (www.stewmac.com, 800-848-2273)

Luthier's Mercantile International (www.lmii.com, 800-477-4437)

INTENDED ITINERARY

DAY 1

- Cut out back
- Install back reinforcement strip
- Cut out back braces
- Install braces on back
- Install sides in form
- Sand sides in bowl
- Glue in kerfed linings

DAY 2

- Cut out top
- Drill hole in center of sound hole
- Install rosette
- Cut out top braces
- Install "X" and transverse braces
- Sand sides with kerfed linings in bowl
- Carve "X" and transverse braces
- Install bridge plate

DAY 3

- Fit back and top to sides
- Install the remaining top braces
- Rout brace pockets in sides
- Glue back on
- Carve remaining top braces
- Glue on top

DAY 4

- Flush trim back and sides
- Cut and install end graft
- Sand sides
- Install binding and purfling (if desired)
- Shape neck
- Fit neck to body
- Glue fingerboard to neck

DAY 5

- Install head plate
- Polish fingerboard
- Drill tuner holes
- Shape end of headstock
- Install frets
- Inlay headstock (if desired)

DAY 6

- Install tuners
- Fit bridge, nut and saddle
- Final set up
- You will need to get your guitar strung up by the end of the day. You'll be surprised how fast the last day will go

DAY 7

- Discussion and very basic instruction on finishing (finishing is student's responsibility after class)
- Discussion on care and maintenance of the guitar
- Discussion of theories of what makes the guitar work

3:00 Wrap up and Class Evaluation – You should be able to leave around 4:00 PM

TOOL LIST for GUITAR BUILDING CLASS

The following is a list of tools that you should bring to the guitar building class. This class is designed for the intermediate woodworker; however, beginners will be successful as well. It is most helpful if you know how to tune a guitar. If you don't, perhaps you can find a friend to show you how. We look forward to an exciting week!

The following tools will be necessary for successful completion of your guitar. 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)
- 100 - Stationary / binder spring clips (3/4" wide) → 
- Flexible cabinet scrapers - rectangle shape
- 6" Square (any style is OK)
- Small flat file or needle file set (Harbor Freight)
- Awl or scribe
- Needle Nose Pliers
- 12" Center point rule (available at Woodcraft, Lee Valley, etc.)
- 6" or 12" Rule with 1/32" graduations
- 24" or 36" machinist straight edge
- Side cutting pliers
- Small Phillips screwdriver & standard straight screwdriver
- Magnifier (visor type or glasses type)
- 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)
- Jewelers saw (if you want to do an inlay) blades will be provided
- Drill bits regular (1/16", 3/16", 1/4", 9/32") Brad point (5mm, 1/4")
- Cordless drill (if you are flying, you can use one from the school)
- 6" Quick clamps (6)
- 1" Paring chisel for carving braces (I like the Sorby chisel)
- 3" soft paint brush (cheap one for cleaning off parts)
- 1 roll 3/4" wide blue painters tape
- An old bath towel
- Hawaiian shirt (wear on Tues☺)
- Drinking straw
- Any other favorite hand tools

OPTIONAL TOOLS

- Dial or digital caliper (6" or 8" is ok)
- Fret hammer and any other fretting tools you may have
- Nut Files
- Tapered reamer (5 degree)
- FZone® Tuner or other digital instrument tuner (available from Stewmac) Or download one on your phone

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

Please bring a guitar case or gig bag to take your guitar home in. You can purchase a case online using this description: [TKL 7875](#) which fits nicely.