



RESSLER GUITARS

"finger pickin' good"



**BUILDING AN "A" STYLE MANDOLIN WITH JOHN RESSLER
Sept 19-26, 2020 (8 DAYS)**

Please note: There is a \$600.00 material fee payable to John when you are here for this class. Please bring a check with you to pay John directly.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Building your own musical instrument is an experience of a lifetime. And building a mandolin is an adventure that will take you to the next level of your instrument building skills. In this course, you will learn to build the mandolin from start to finish.

Building a mandolin is a completely different process than building a guitar. You will learn many new ideas and techniques in this class. The top and back will be hand carved and you will learn to make the complex tapered dovetail neck joint.

Very little will be made ahead of time. You will be constructing the instrument from start to finish. Our goal is to complete the mandolin and have it strung up when you leave.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Building a mandolin can be very intense, especially when compressed in a 8-day class. All of the steps of the process will be demonstrated. 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 I will have 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!

This is designed as an advanced level class. Please take the time to have your chisels, planes and scrapers razor sharp prior to class. You will waste precious class time and will be behind from the beginning if you arrive with dull tools. We will be carving curly maple which requires very sharp tools!



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INTENDED ITINERARY

DAY 1

- Fit sides to form
- Glue end blocks
- Start top fabrication

DAY 2

- Carve top
- Cut sound hole
- Glue top braces

DAY 3

- Carve Back

DAY 4

- Glue on top
- Top Binding
- Cut out neck

DAY 5

- Carve Neck, Install truss rod and head plate

DAY 6

- Continue carving
- Glue on neck and back
- Glue on fingerboard

DAY 7

- Inlay
- Fretting
- Install & slot nut

DAY 8

- Stringing and final set up

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

Bring a Mandolin Case or Gig Bag to take it home in. You can purchase at Elderly Instruments or Musicians Friend. Any "A Style" case will fit.



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TOOL LIST for GUITAR BUILDING CLASS

The following is a list of tools that you should bring to the mandolin class. This class is designed for the advanced woodworker. It is most helpful if you know how to tune a mandolin and learn the string names. We look forward to an exciting week!

The following tools will be necessary for successful completion of your mandolin. 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 
- 1/8", 1/4", 1/2" & 3/4" Straight chisels Flexible cabinet scrapers, including gooseneck shape
- 6" Square (any style is OK)
- Awl or scribe
- 12" Center point rule (available at Woodcraft, Lee Valley, etc.)
- 12" Rule
- 24" machinist straight edge (with knife edge)
- #6,7 OR 8 sweep gouge (18 – 22 mm wide)
- Dragon hand cut rasps (both the Large Course and Large Fine #4151 & # 4152 from StewMac) or equivalent
- Dial or digital caliper (6" or 8")
- Thickness caliper (StewMac #5193) 
(You can easily make your own – google it)
- Side cutting pliers
- Magnifier (visor type or glasses type)
- Small phillips screwdriver
- 2 small quick grip clamps (12")
- 3" soft paint brush
- Pair of scissors
- 1 roll 3/4" binding taper (StewMac #0678)
- Snark ST-8 instrument tuner (StewMac #0808)
- String Winder (StewMac #0259)
- MicroMesh soft pads (StewMac #3790)
- Dremel tool with StewMac Router base (StewMac #5260)
- Fret Hammer (StewMac #4895 OR #1296)
- Wood River Finger safety tape (Woodcraft #140905)
- PPE (Dust Masks, Hearing protection, Safety Glasses)
- An old bath towel
- Hawaiian shirt (wear on Tues☺)
- Any other favorite hand tools for measuring, cutting and marking
- **PLEASE HAVE ALL CHISELS, PLANES AND SCRAPERS SHARPENED AND HONED AND READY TO GO**

OPTIONAL TOOLS (that you will be really glad you have when you start carving!) (we will have some to borrow as well)

- Grinder with Holy Galahad head (Round / Medium) – make sure it fits your grinder – you may need to purchase an adapter depending on the brand of grinder you have.
- Compass Plane – Highland Hardware #471141 or something similar
- Festool Rotex Sander

All materials are provided, including strings and tuning machines

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