

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SMI08645 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING – CLASSICAL OR STEEL STRUNG ACOUSTIC GUITARS

Tutor: PETER BARTON

Dates: 9 DAYS FRIDAY 12 APRIL – SUNDAY 21 APRIL

West Dean College has run musical instrument making courses for more than 35 years. This nine-day and supplementary five-day courses run in the Short Course Programme for amateur makers. It can provide an insight to those considering applying for full-time study on the College's FdA Historic Craft Practices – Musical Instruments.

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Learn traditional methods of making classical guitars, steel strung acoustic guitars and ukuleles. You will learn about the design and construction of your chosen instrument. The course will cover all aspects of guitar making: drawing plans, making moulds and jigs, selection of tone woods, correct use and sharpening of hand tools, working wood to fine tolerances, inlays and decoration, differing construction techniques, finishing and setting up.

If you have prior experience of instrument making you can use this opportunity to develop your skills to a higher level. If starting a new instrument, the model agreed with the tutor. Please note that typically the completion of a guitar or ukulele will take more than one nine-day course, although for advanced students with some pre-course preparation it may be possible to finish an instrument, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Materials and techniques covered are as appropriate to individual requirements. You will work in wood (spruce, maple, ebony and fruit woods). Techniques covered in making the instruments include: planing wood to fine tolerances, using cabinet scrapers, jointing and clamping, using a bending iron, carving, making and fitting decorative inlays, fret work and finishing.

Teaching is generally on a one-to-one basis catering for each student's individual needs and dictated by previous experience, knowledge and ability. There are group demonstrations where appropriate. As the course takes place in a large workshop, adjacent to the other courses in this series, interaction with fellow students and other tutors also plays a valuable role in the learning process.

Please note: HUMIDITY LEVELS in the workshop are variable to dry; whilst the College has addressed this, some factors are beyond our control, therefore instruments are brought and left in the workshop at your own risk.

LEVELS:

BEGINNERS INSTRUMENTS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to making fretted instruments. For those with no woodworking experience it will take at least two long (9 day) courses to complete a guitar and a long and short course to complete a ukulele. A number of students have completed very fine instruments having started the course with no woodworking experience. If you have any concerns about your suitability for the course please let us know and we will put you in touch with Peter Barton before you book.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED INSTRUMENTS

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Peter Barton studied stringed instrument making on West Dean's full-time Making Stringed Instruments Diploma programme. In 1986 he set up his own workshop as a professional luthier, making classical and acoustic guitars.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 12 April

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. You should bring all tools/materials to the workshop.

Other days: Saturday 13 April – Saturday 20 April

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – workshops are open each evening to 10pm and you may work on with your instrument with the tutor's agreement. Tasks which involve higher risk activities, or those which require constant tutor supervision, may not be possible outside core teaching hours (9.15am–12.30am and 2pm–5pm).

Other optional evening activities:

Informal music making with tutors and other course participants is encouraged, as is participation in the highly enjoyable informal concert on the final evening – an opportunity for finished instruments to be played, alongside enjoying the wide ranging musical talents drawn from across the whole course. If you play a musical instrument please bring it with you!

Please note: Each tutor will take a half-day break, in rotation with the other tutors, to be decided during the week. They will discuss suitable work for that session with you if you wish to continue working.

Departure day – last day: Sunday 21 April

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.30pm	Classes finish
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00–3.30pm	Pack tools and work to vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

As soon as you receive confirmation of your place, please tell us which instrument you wish to work on by emailing bookingsoffice@westdean.org.uk or return the form attached with this information.

If you are new to the course, give details of your past experience in instrument making and woodworking. **We will pass this information to the tutor who will contact you** to discuss this and materials required. Alternatively if you are bringing a part-made instrument, bring materials and information relating to this or inform the tutor what you need.

REQUIRED PREPARATION continued:

Please return the equipment training form overleaf, if applicable to you.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

Additional Charge:

On this course the tutor will supply most of the materials to you individually and will agree the specific requirements with you before the course starts. The charge should be paid to the tutor before the end of the course by cash or cheque.

The following is a guide price for a set of wood (e.g. Indian rosewood or maple back and sides, spruce or cedar soundboard, mahogany neck, ebony fingerboard, fretwire, bridge blank, head veneer, struts, linings, bindings, purflings and rosette):

Classical guitar	£265#
Acoustic guitar	£285#
Ukulele	£110

The timber costs listed are approximate, to give a guide only, and final costs will depend on individual choice and grade of timber. Costs of strings, machine heads and finishing materials are not included.

You should be aware that it is not possible to complete instruments marked # in one nine-day course.

Please bring:

TOOLS: This is not a definitive list so you should bring as many tools as you think you will need.

Some woodworking tools are provided by the College include a variety of planes, gauges, mallets, face sander, lathes, drills etc. however numbers are limited, so you should ideally bring your own if you have them, to include the following; but please remember that ALL PERSONAL TOOLS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR NAME.

- 300 or 150mm steel rule*
- Marking knife or scalpel*
- Chisels
- Cabinet scrapers*
- Engineers small square
- Straight edge
- Smoothing plane
- Low angled block plane
- Flat thumb plane
- Spoke shave
- G clamps (4 if possible 3" Or 4")
- Sharpening stone
- Small glue brush*
- Pencils*

*The College Shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm, may have a few of these items, but don't rely on it. If you have queries on which tools you need, ask the tutor.

Please remember to bring clothing which is safe and suitable for the workshop, it is also ESSENTIAL that you wear stout covered footwear shoes (not sandals).

PLEASE NOTE:

If you wish to use the band saw, fret saw and lathe (sited in the Stone Room) you will need to undergo training organized by Nick Benham, Head of Workshops, at the start of your course – PLEASE REQUEST THIS TRAINING ON THE ATTACHED FORM. Only trained users will be permitted to use this equipment and access will only be given while tutors are present in the workshop.

Woodworking machinery is available in the College Machine Shop (planer thicknesser, rip saw, cross-cut saw, bandsaw), but these may only be used by qualified staff or tutors.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

Any electrical equipment brought in must be PAT tested by one of the workshop technicians before it is used on the course.

Please complete and return the attached form.

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COURSE REPLY FORM

Title: MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING – CLASSICAL OR STEEL STRUNG ACOUSTIC GUITARS SMI08645

Tutor: PETER BARTON

Level: BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

Dates: 12–21 APRIL 2019

Your NAME:

Your CONTACT EMAIL:

Your TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Your INSTRUMENT CHOICE:

GIVE BRIEF DETAILS OF YOUR RELEVANT INSTRUMENT MAKING/WOODWORKING EXPERIENCE

EQUIPMENT TRAINING:

I wish to use the:

Band saw	[]
Fret saw	[]
Woodturning lathe	[]
Drum sander	[]

I am attending course(s) on 26–31 October 2018 and/or 12–21 April 2019 []

I am bringing electrical equipment []

Please email this information to bookingsoffice@westdean.org.uk or return by post to:
Bookings Office, West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ

The above information will be passed to the tutor.