

# Violin Making Class

**Teacher:** John Schmidt 910-276-4179

**Location:** Laurinburg, NC

**Goal:** Learn essentials of violin making. Make a violin that is acceptable in all respects for an advancing violin student. Time: approximately 200 hours.

**Tuition:** Free.

**Materials:** Purchased by students.

**Class schedule:** TBD, Flexible, will be decided by students and teacher.

## Lesson 1

Wood selection – density measurement, visual, get ready to place an order for your wood.

Activity: Measure the density of a a billet, Measure the speed of sound in the billet.

Tools

Knives, planes, gouges, files, scrapers

Activity: Use a sharp knife on spruce, then maple.

Activity: Sharpen a plane blade using jig on glass with mylar abrasives.

## Lesson 2

Your spruce billet:

Activity: Maple - separate, then flatten it. Prepare to join.

Activity: Spruce - separate, then flatten. Prepare to join

**Lesson 3:** Hide glue, jointing the plates

Activity: Sharpen the plane blade

Activity: Prepare joints on billets, then glue and clamp.

**Lesson 4:** The Pattern

Draw and make your own????? \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: Trace outline on plywood. Cut out on bandsaw and trim.

Use a pre-made mould. ???? \_\_\_\_\_

(note to self: Need to make some moulds)

**Lesson 5:** Blocks

Activity: Make and install blocks

**Lesson 6:** Trim blocks.

**Lesson 7:** Ribs of the violin – preparing

Activity: Cut blanks

Activity: Sharpen scraper, plane and scrape blanks.

**Lesson 8:** Ribs – Bending

**Lesson 9:** Ribs - gluing to blocks

**Lesson 10:** Linings – cutting, bending, glueing to ribs, trimming

**Lesson 11:** The back – Marking the outline, cutting the outline. Drilling holes for pins. Thicknessing the edge.

**Lesson 12:** Carving the outside of the back. Planing, shaping, scraping.

**Lesson13:** Cutting the purfling groove. Installing purfling.

**Lesson 14:** Hollowing out the inside of the back. Weighing, mode testing. Graduation.

**Lesson 15:** The top – Marking the outline, cutting the outline. Drilling holes for pins. Thicknessing the edge.

**Lesson 16:** Carving the outside of the top. Planing, shaping, scraping.

**Lesson17:** Cutting the purfling groove. Installing purfling.

**Lesson 18:** Hollowing out the inside of the top. Weighing, mode testing. Graduation. Cutting f-holes.

**Lesson 19:** Installing the bassbar. Tuning the bassbar. Install soundpost re-inforcement. Final tuning of top and back.

**Lesson 20:** Neck and scroll. Preparing the blank. Mark pattern. Bandsaw outline. Drill peg holes. Finish outline. Cut pegbox inside.

**Lesson 21:** Cut scroll. Finish scroll

**Lesson 22:** Finish fingerboard. Attach to neck temporarily.

**Lesson 23:** Remove ribs from mould. Glue back to ribs.

**Lesson 24:** Sand down upper block on the top side. Glue top on with very thin glue.

**Lesson 25:** Cut neck root to specs. Cut top block mortice. Glue in neck.

**Lesson 26:** Varnish.

**Lesson 27:** Fit pegs, cut bridge, saddle and end pin. Soundpost fit. Set up and test.