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A Ukulele For A Gent (3 Viewers)

Micron

Mar 15, 2020

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M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:23

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 15, 2020

#1

As a result of my posts about making a guitar, Nautical Gent has asked me to build him a ukulele seeing as how I was thinking of building another one anyway. This time, it will be pretty much from scratch instead of a kit. We both thought it would be cool to document the build in a water cooler thread and that way, he can watch its progress. Maybe y'all will find it interesting too.

PULLEEZE KEEP ANY POSTS ON TRACK!! I don't want to see this thread polluted with comments about religion, politics, etc. etc. the way some other threads end up.

NOTE: If you're dropping in at any time, if something doesn't make sense immediately, hang tight. I may be posting and it is likely that I can't put too many pictures and/or text in at any one time.



Last edited: Mar 15, 2020

strive4peace, MickJav, Jon and 3 others

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:23
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 15, 2020

☐ #2

First, a paper template of one half of the instrument is made and taped to 1/8" hardboard. The outline is traced and the piece cut out close to the lines. Then it is drum sanded to the line. Because this represents the outside dimension, I take a compass set to 2 mm in width and scribe a new line 2mm inside the edge and sand to that new line. Now I have a template that conforms closely to the inside surface of where the inside of the uke sides will be.



The 1/8" thick template is used to draw an outline on 2 pieces of 3/4" thick plywood and they are rough cut with a jig saw. The template is then double side taped to the plywood and the router table is used to shape the plywood into 2 identical form halves.



5/8" holes are drilled close to the contoured edges of the form halves and then joined with glue and dowels.



The reason for building the form will be shown later...

Last edited: Mar 15, 2020



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:23

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 15, 2020



#3

The top is going to fit within a single board of Sitka Spruce that was originally sized for a classical guitar. This means it doesn't have to be joined, so it will actually be stronger than 2 pieces that are glued together as is normally done.



The back will be African Mahogany taken from slats that were meant for guitar sides.



Here I show how the 2 sides are stacked in a book mark fashion and placed on a 1/2" thick board, backed up by a 3/4" thick board (against the radial arm saw fence). At the end is a thick board that provides a lateral stop. This ensures that the back plates will always register in the same place during the joint preparation phase. The edges are planed (this method is called shooting) and the halves brought together and held up to the light. If you can see light peeking through, more planing is required.



When ready, the glue is applied to the thin edges of both plates. They are laid down so that the outside edges are raised slightly and special tape is applied in such a way that there is space underneath the tape at the joint. The supports that raised the edges are removed and the halves flattened out.



I lay down a 1/4" strip on either side of the joint and cap that with a board and apply light clamping pressure. The tape actually provides enough force on the joint that there isn't anything else you really need to do clamping wise. However, I place 2 wedges between the plate halves and a clamped board to apply just a bit more pressure, then clamp down a bit more on the board I referred to as the seam cap.



This will be allowed to set overnight, which is where I stopped for today's building session.

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OPEN



bob fitz
AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 05:23

Joined:

May 23, 2011

Messages:

3,660

Mar 15, 2020

☐ #4

Approximately, how many hours work would you expect to be needed to make a guitar?

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time:

Today, 06:23

Joined:

Apr 27, 2015

Messages:

2,673

Mar 15, 2020

☐ #5

Guess I need to learn to play it now. My poor dog...

strive4peace, Minty and Tera

The_Doc_Man
Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time:

Yesterday, 23:23

Joined:Feb 28, 2001


Messages:16,367

Mar 15, 2020

☐#6

So when you tune it, will your dog look at you accusingly? Or do you not tune using the old "My dog has fleas" method?

NauticalGent



moke123
AWF VIP

Local time:Today, 00:23

Joined:Jan 11, 2013

Messages:1,273

Mar 15, 2020

☐#7

My guitar met with an unfortunate accident about 15 years ago. This kinda makes me want to go shopping.
Looking forward to following this thread.

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time:Today, 06:23

Joined:Apr 27, 2015

Messages:2,673

Mar 15, 2020

☐#8

moke123 said: ☐

My guitar met with an unfortunate accident about 15 years ago. This kinda makes me want to go shopping.
Looking forward to following this thread.

Dont go sniping Micron from me...wait your turn!

moke123



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:23

Joined: Oct 20, 2018

Messages: 2,122

Mar 15, 2020

#9

bob fitz said: □

Approximately, how many hours work would you expect to be needed to make a guitar?

That question is probably broader than you think. Many factors would be involved. From a complete kit, maybe as little as 30. At the extreme end, you'd buy back/side/top plates and make everything else from blanks and/or billets. If that includes binding, purfling, rosette, kerfed binding, headstock plate etc. and you make it quite intricate/fancy, not inconceivable that you could push that to 400 hours. A factory? Probably as little as 4 hours for a real cheap one, and by cheap I don't just mean inexpensive.

jdrow
Super Moderator

Staff member

Local time: Today, 00:23

Joined: Jan 23, 2006

Messages: 12,911

Mar 15, 2020

#10

FYI (I'd never heard the term so.....)

Purfling is a narrow decorative edge inlaid into the top plate and often the back plate of a stringed instrument. Inexpensive instruments may have no **purfling** and instead simulate the appearance with paint. **Purfling** was originally made of laminated strips of wood, often contrasting in color as a visual accent.

and this for orientation.

The_Doc_Man
Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time:	<u>Yesterday, 23:23</u>
Joined:	Feb 28, 2001
Messages:	16,367

Mar 15, 2020 □ #11

People talk about how I make them open the dictionary, but that one is new to me. Thanks for the new word!



Micron
AWF VIP

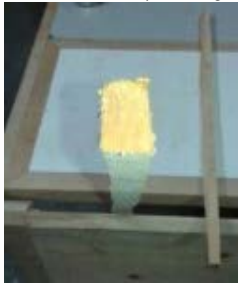
Local time:	<u>Today, 00:23</u>
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 15, 2020 □ #12

OK boys and girls, today I'll make bracing. First I drive a thin wedge between the grain of a billet of yellow cedar. I need about 6 mm but will start about 19 mm (3/4") from the edge as it will never split straight anyway.



After that, I plane/joint/rip (saw length-wise) to square it up. What I want are sticks with vertical grain running parallel to 2 sides.



The point of the mechanical pencil on the right provides some sense of scale as to the size of the plane used to transform the brace blank into a pyramidal shape (8mm) for x-braces and 6mm round over for the other braces.



A sample of the end profile on the short braces (these are about 3" long).



The full set for the top. Note that the x-braces are notched out so that they can cross each other. In between is a 4mm thick x-brace plate.



That's all for today I think. We're having company for dinner.

Minty, Tera and moke123

Dick7Access

Dick S

Local time:	Today, 00:23
Joined:	Jun 9, 2009
Messages:	3,532

Mar 15, 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> #13
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Very Interesting!

AccessBlaster



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:23
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 17, 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> #14
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Not a whole lot of progress today. Below are the back braces, constructed in the same fashion as the front ones. Many uke designs I've looked at don't call for a centre back brace but I made some just in case I go with it. These are about 2mm thick and

are crowned and would fit in between the cross braces.



The right side template (below) was introduced in post 2. The left one is new and is the outline for a body mold. It is taped to a small piece of 3/4" (19mm) plywood which is routed to match this new template, then flipped over and the other side is done. The second piece of plywood is taped to the first and routed to match. I separated them with 1/2" scrap material to give me a body mold about 2" (50mm) high and added a 1/4" thick hardboard bottom. See next pic for completed body mold.



Hard to see the white pencil mark but it denotes the orientation of the sides where they (hopefully) will meet at the lower bout. I say hopefully because if you don't orient one of them correctly when you bend the sides, there goes the match of the grain at the ends.



Below is the bending form from post 2 clamped in my WorkMate. Next phase is to figure out how I'm going to attach things I need that will make the bending assembly conform to the form's shape. I pretty much have the ends figured out - tomorrow I'll figure out how I'm going to apply pressure to the waist. Once I do that, I should be able to upload pics of bent sides in my next post.



kevlray
Registered User.

Local time: Yesterday, 21:23

Joined: Apr 5, 2010

Messages: 759

Mar 17, 2020 ☐ #15

I have done a little bit of wood working (mostly some simple cabinets). This is way beyond my skill level, yet I find it very interesting and informative.

The_Doc_Man
Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time: Yesterday, 23:23

Joined: Feb 28, 2001

Messages: 16,367

Mar 17, 2020 ☐ #16

My usual product when working with wood is that I am very good at making splinters of all sizes.

NauticalGent





Local time:

Today, 00:23

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 19, 2020

□

#17

Well, the last couple of days have presented their issues for sure.

Background: the sides go into a sandwich of spring steel slat/instrument side/silicon heating blanket/top spring steel slat and you apply pressure to that stack where required. I have what I need for bending guitar sides, but it turns out that a uke form is too small to work in it. So I made something I thought should work, and in a dry run, I heard a crack while I was tightening down the bout clamp.

It seems I forgot to remove the side slat that I had left in 🤖🤖🤖

Here's what I had taken a pic of before that fateful screw-up: 2 foil wrapped spring steel slats, the side to be bent and the heating blanket.



After a break (yikes, I mean rest!!), I decided I'd use Cherry wood since I had some in stock and my research showed it is used on high end ukes

(saw one on line at \$2,300 USD). The rest of yesterday and today was spent on making and joining Cherry back plates, thinning out Cherry sides for bending and fashioning an apparatus for bending that would actually work. I won't bore you with the details, but it was surprising how much trial and error it took to fabricate something that would work with what I had.

Cherry back glued together (a wipe with a wet cloth brings out the grain for the pic).



The bending apparatus with a Cherry side in it. I'm NOT real confident that this was successful. Thought I heard a couple of pops even though I took about the right amount of time, had the right temp (295 F) and thinned it out to what should have worked (0.075"). I'll look later because I wanted to keep you in suspense.



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:Today, 00:23

Joined:Oct 20, 2018

Messages:2,122

Mar 19, 2020

☐ #18

ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO!!

NauticalGent

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time:Today, 06:23

Joined:Apr 27, 2015

Messages:2,673

Mar 19, 2020

☐ #19

Never a doubt! Going to keep all these posts so when others ask where I got the ukelele from, I'll have a cool story to tell...





Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:23

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 20, 2020



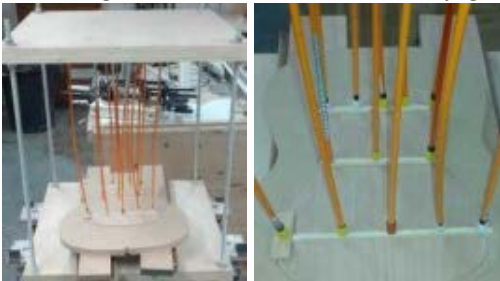
#20

Sides turned out real nice. Not a lot of spring-back and best of all, no cracks.

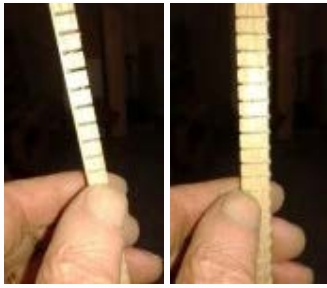
Head block needs an arc that conforms to the arc of the neck (block is sitting on top of neck in my vise). This is because the upper bout is not usually a straight/flat surface that is 90 degrees to the centre line. Pic after is the head and tail blocks being glued on to the inside surfaces of the sides.



Time to glue on the back braces in my go-bar deck while the blocks dry.



Lining is needed to join the top and back plates to the body. There are 2 basic kinds - laminated and kerfed and I've chosen kerfed and there is a reason for that. If you want a challenge, look up why you'd pick one or the other and that should give you a clue as to what I plan to do down the road. Since I have none and the nearest store that carries it is 20 miles away, I decided to make my own - 10 x 7mm with a slot about every 6mm that almost goes all the way through. Then I bevel it about 45 degrees.



A bit of glue and a couple of clamps will hold it in place. Got it in all the way around without any breakage!



I routed a channel down the back seam on the outside (you'll see why in a later pic) so this will add strength to the seam. These don't go all the way to the ends because of the head and tail blocks.



After notching the kerfing where the braces intersect, and trimming back the braces, the back is ready for gluing onto the kerfing.



And here's why the back seam brace on the inside of the back. Hope you like that back seam inlay, NG!










moke123 and AccessBlaster

1 2 3 4

Next

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A Ukulele For A Gent (3 Viewers)

[Micron](#) · [Mar 15, 2020](#)

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Next

Minty

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 05:29

Joined:

Jul 26, 2013

Messages:


6,683

Mar 20, 2020

#21

Wowser - mighty impressive, and loving the amount of "toolage" involved.

I'm a complete dunce with woodwork, I have a chop saw, router and drills and screws, and a great deal of wonky homemade shelves in the garage.

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kevlray
Registered User.

Local time:Yesterday, 21:29

Joined:Apr 5, 2010

Messages:759

Mar 20, 2020

☐ #22

That is an interesting apparatus in the last picture. I have never seen anything like it before.



moke123
AWF VIP

Local time:Today, 00:29

Joined:Jan 11, 2013

Messages:1,273

Mar 21, 2020

☐ #23

If it wasn't bad enough that The Doc Man has us googling words, Micron has us googling tools.

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Minty



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:29
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 21, 2020

#24

moke123 said: □

If it wasn't bad enough that The Doc Man has us googling words, Micron has us googling tools.

Worked all day, doesn't seem like I accomplished much.
I trimmed the back close to the sides and installed the kerfing for the top. I'll flush trim the back when the side is on so that I can do both with one tool setup.



To get the top on, I at least have to create the sound hole because the top wouldn't lay flat if the braces were on. However, just

a sound hole would be too simple. Here's my plan for a simple rosette that I laid out with a compass. The wood strips are 0.032" thick and will be going into circular slots...



and the palm sized router on my circle cutting jig.



Part of this glue up has to set overnight, so I decided to make the bridge from Black Walnut (80mm x 25mm x 54mm high).



Looks bigger/thicker in the picture than it really is, I think, because that thin edge is only 2mm thick. The left slot is for the saddle.

Will have to figure out where the holes go for the strings.



Back to the top tomorrow.

The_Doc_Man

Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time:

Joined:

Messages:

Yesterday, 23:29

Feb 28, 2001

16,367

I'm watching this but avoiding too many comments. Let me say this, though: My dad would have been fascinated to see this. He sometimes made balsa-wood scale models for a 3D rendition of architect's plans. He did that two or three times for Jefferson Parish to show what a particular building would look like if it were built. He even made it to match one of the smaller model railroad scales so that he could put a couple of people and a couple of cars in the model to provide size references. This was before it was possible to make a virtual image based on plans. I think he would approve of what you have shown us.

AccessBlaster

Local time: Yesterday, 21:29

Joined: May 22, 2010

Messages: 1,612

Mar 22, 2020

#26

Awesome series.



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:29

Joined: Oct 20, 2018

Messages: 2,122

Mar 22, 2020

#27

AccessBlaster said: □

Awesome series.

Thank You!

Will post pics tomorrow as there isn't a whole lot of interesting stuff tonight. I have the top in the go-bar deck, gluing the top braces on. Looks like a forest of bamboo under there!

The circle cutting jig I showed above is meant for full size sound holes (for guitars, not ukes). I had to modify it to get down to the 2" range I need for a uke, but that caused issues that bedeviled me all day yesterday and most of today. The majority of the time on that part of the job was waiting for glue to set enough that I could safely work the piece with hand tools. Long story short, I'm going to have to lengthen the pivot pin because it's too short for this kind of work, but I'll have a challenge because it's epoxied in place. Unfortunately this issue allowed things to move around a bit, so I had to keep changing the design plan to fix screw-ups, and the screw-ups usually involved wood and glue as a remedy.

I tried bending African Mahogany binding tonight but they all broke. Seems each species has their own requirements and the learning curve is trial and error. Usually I rely on Google to cut down the rate of errors, but I guess this time I incorrectly figured that since it was such a low density wood that the usual 295 degrees would do the trick. WRONG! Google, here I come again...

NauticalGent

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:29
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 23, 2020

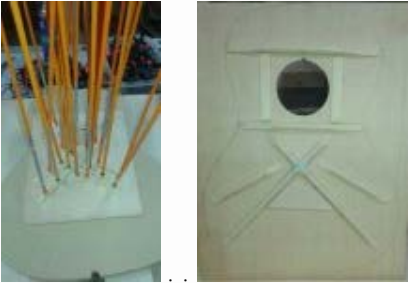
☐ #28

The following post contains images of extreme toolage. Viewer discretion is advised....

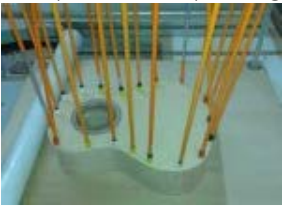
Well I tried 5 times to bend African Mahogany for binding by using various temperatures and techniques but no luck. I even brought out the heavy artillery for the 4th and 5th tries - the steam box! Alas, every set cracked; some of them badly. I guess when this species is so narrow (2mm) there just isn't enough meat there to make the grain hold together.



Meanwhile, the rosette is done and here we have the top in the go-bar deck to glue the braces on. In the finished view you might be able to see that there is a linen patch that adds strength (glue soaked cloth). I'm not sure that it's a common technique anymore as it hails from the old days.



Last pic is the top being glued on.



Tomorrow I will see if my last attempt to bend binding was successful or not after leaving it in the bender overnight to cool and set. I gave up on the Mahogany and switched to Black Walnut and I didn't hear any cracking, so fingers crossed!

Minty



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:29
Joined:	Oct 20, 2018
Messages:	2,122

Mar 24, 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> #29
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Black Walnut is a breeze to bend - so that's what this is getting for binding. I mentioned elsewhere that I had a few spare parts from a kit, and one of them was a neck. Check out this off center factory located placement of the dowel pins for joining to the head block. I filled them with hardwood dowel and relocate them.



Decided to add a headstock plate of Black Walnut; here's where I marked off 1/16th of an inch to take off, then glue a plate on that's equal to the thickness that is removed. This plate will be visible in the next pic.



I have no fret wire, strings or tuners, which will be a problem because of this Covid thing, but here's how it's looking right now. The fret board is just taped on for this pic because it's easier to install fret wire before gluing the fret board on. The bridge is also just taped on because it doesn't get located until the fret board is installed permanently. You can see the headstock plate in this pic - looks better than just plain mahogany I think. Hopefully the Black Walnut binding will 'pop' a bit more when a finish is applied.



A view of the back side. I have a Black Walnut heel cap roughed out which will go on when the neck has been fixed in position (arrow points to location). The heel is the part of the neck where it meets the body at the bottom. Some are flush with the back, some lower. This one will probably be flush.



Well, I have to see what I can do about my missing materials without going crazy over pricing. This Covid thing has knocked the crap out of the Canadian dollar, so anything that I order from US will cost me about 45% more just for the material, then duties and import fees on top of the converted cost if the items are not made in U.S. . Bad enough that this is done at all, but after the dollar conversion? It adds insult to injury. I will have to look for a more local supply, but forget about going out to get it as non-essential businesses were mandated to close today until further notice.

isladogs and make123

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time:	<u>Today, 06:29</u>
Joined:	Apr 27, 2015
Messages:	2,673

Mar 25, 2020

#30

Looking good Micron!! I sent you an email about a possible logistics work-around...

AccessBlaster

Local time:	Yesterday, 21:29
Joined:	May 22, 2010
Messages:	1,612

Mar 27, 2020

#31

One badass Ukulele! Maybe a video demo when finished? Do you also make acoustic guitars?

NauticalGent

isladogs

CID Moderator
Staff member

Local time:	Today, 05:29
Joined:	Jan 14, 2017
Messages:	12,622

Mar 27, 2020

#32

It really looks stunning. You make my woodworking skills look feeble by comparison. I look forward to each new update that you post and am learning lots from this thread. Perhaps serenade us all when it is finished... 😁

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time: Today, 06:29

Joined: Apr 27, 2015

Messages: 2,673

Mar 27, 2020

□ #33

isladogs said: □

Perhaps serenade us all when it is finished... 😊

I hope that was meant for Micron and not me. I have blessed with the ability to retain useless facts about music and I'll wager I know more lyrics and their meanings than the vast majority of people. That ability comes with a price...I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket...

The_Doc_Man
Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time: Yesterday, 23:29

Joined: Feb 28, 2001

Messages: 16,367

Mar 27, 2020

□ #34

I can relate, Gent. My fingers can play stuff from Bach to the Beatles, but I can't carry a tune in a #5 washtub.


Micron
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:29

Joined: Oct 20, 2018

Messages: 2,122

Mar 27, 2020

#35

Thanks for the compliments. I'm not a uke player, so I will leave it to NG to play it for us when he gets it! Maybe even one of his grandkids could learn to play a tune and then he can upload that. But who knows, maybe I will come up with something along that line . My issue is that I know where to put my fingers for D chord on a guitar for example, but on a uke it's totally foreign to me so I'd stumble for sure.

As for guitars, sort of. There are some pics in the [thread name removed] thread (I think) of one that I'm working on. I've started another and have another set of tonewood waiting for me after that. I wouldn't call myself a luthier though as I think you'd have to build at least 5 or 6 before you could make that claim. The reason for starting one when the first is unfinished is because I want to spray on the final finishes but can't really do that until it warms up because I don't have a heated spray booth and it's too cold here to risk it right now.

I thought about posting pics of the new build as a thread, but then that's not really what this forum is for I guess, and I'm not sure I want to bother joining a luthier forum just so I can do that.

I will post some new pics soon because the fret wire and tuners showed up yesterday, much to my surprise. I have installed the frets, glued on the fretboard and brushed on a sealer coat onto the neck and body. All I'm waiting for now is the strings. Looking good to me!

Last edited: Mar 27, 2020

NauticalGent

isladogs
CID Moderator
Staff member

Local time:	Today, 05:29
Joined:	Jan 14, 2017
Messages:	12,622

Mar 27, 2020

#36

NauticalGent said: □

I hope that was meant for Micron and not me. I have blessed with the ability to retain useless facts about music and I'll wager I know more lyrics and their meanings than the vast majority of people. That ability comes with a price...I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket...

That's an illusion shattered. I thought you had led the crowds singing from the balconies in Naples 😊

Minty and NauticalGent



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time:

[Today, 00:29](#)

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 30, 2020



#37

Fret wire installed, here is a pic of the side dot markers going in to 1/8" drilled holes. The rod sticking up is the last one to be cut for this side. Not a lot of room for error on a uke fretboard!



Fretboard is installed, neck is on and I have applied several coats of finish to the whole thing. I think I have it as best as I'll be able to get. Not factory perfect, but pretty good. It has been warm enough to spray in the garage, then I bring it into my little shop to dry.

The bridge has to be glued on next. I had a clamp that I fabricated for the last uke, but I cannibalized the flat bar portion of it to make a permanent scale tool for locating frets and bridges, etc. so now I have decided to fabricate something more permanent. It needs to be able to reach from the sound hole to where the bridge is to be located. I have much deeper clamps for guitars for this, but there's no way they'll fit into a uke body. This will probably take me the rest of the time I have left for today, so perhaps I can post a pic of the bridge being glued on tomorrow at the latest.

AccessBlaster

Local time:

[Yesterday, 21:29](#)

Joined:

May 22, 2010

Messages:

1,612

Mar 31, 2020



#38

Your next project should be on YouTube with voice over.



moke123

AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:29

Joined: Jan 11, 2013

Messages: 1,273

Mar 31, 2020 #39

AccessBlaster said:

Your next project should be on YouTube with voice over.

Agreed. I'll subscribe!



jdrow

Super Moderator

Staff member

Local time: Today, 00:29

Joined: Jan 23, 2006

Messages: 12,911

Mar 31, 2020 #40

Your next project should be on YouTube with voice over.

10-4!

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moke123 ,

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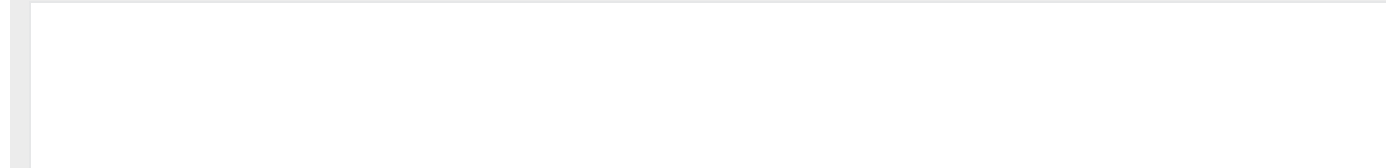
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A Ukulele For A Gent (2 Viewers)

[Micron](#) · [Mar 15, 2020](#)

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M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:30

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 31, 2020

#41

Hmm, that's a lot of work. You need a camera man otherwise the vid will be crap. Then when you stumble, you have to do it over again. Then there's vid and sound editing; lapel microphone (which I don't have) otherwise you can't hear the audio, and so on. I appreciate the sentiment though. Now for my progress....

On the left is one of the bridge clamps I made - something I may never use again. I made a caul (on the right - it is upside down here) that was the 'opposite' profile of the bridge. This is so that clamp pressure is spread over the bridge rather than being localized. Note the very slight curve so that it will conform to the bridge wings.



Best I DO NOT forget to drill holes in the bridge for the tie-on strings before gluing on!! With trial and error, I determined the angle of the hole had to be 10 degrees, so I cut a small block with that angle on one face. Maybe it's not obvious here, but the hole has to "rise" as it passes through, otherwise you'd be drilling into the plate on the other side. That is only a 3/32" bit - looks larger here.



After removing the tape that covered the bridge area (so that I would not have to remove any finish) I made a last minute check for location accuracy. Seemed spot on, so I taped around the outer perimeter. This helps to locate the bridge when glue is applied and keeps glue off of the finish. After clamping down and removing any squeeze-out I removed the outer tape and there she'll sit overnight.



Tomorrow I will fit the saddle into the bridge but without strings, I cannot set the height of the saddle or the nut at the top of the neck. NG is a lucky guy because I lost the spare nut, which is some kind of composite material, so I'm going to have to substitute one of my bone blanks instead. I guess that means the only right thing to do is ditch the composite bridge and use one of my bone blanks for that too, otherwise they won't match. 😭

AccessBlaster

Local time:

Yesterday, 21:30

Joined:May 22, 2010

Messages:1,612

Mar 31, 2020

#42

What's the issue with the strings.

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:Today, 00:30

Joined:Oct 20, 2018

Messages:2,122

Mar 31, 2020

#43

I don't have any. I ordered 2 sets from Amazon.
Or is that not what you're asking?

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AccessBlaster

Local time:Yesterday, 21:30

Joined: May 22, 2010

Messages: 1,612

Mar 31, 2020

☐ #44

Micron said: ☐

I don't have any. I ordered 2 sets from Amazon.
Or is that not what you're asking?

Yeah, I wondering if there was an issue with the supply. Maybe members could help? Sounds like they are ordered tho.

NauticalGent

Executive Troll

Local time: Today, 06:30

Joined: Apr 27, 2015

Messages: 2,673

Mar 31, 2020

☐ #45

That I am...your diligence is inspiring!

☐

moke123

AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:30

Joined: Jan 11, 2013

Messages: 1,273

Mar 31, 2020

☐ #46

Another bonus for NG is having screenshots of the build to show friends while you serenade them with your best Don Ho impression.

MickJav, Uncle Gizmo and Minty

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time: Today, 06:30
Joined: Apr 27, 2015
Messages: 2,673

Mar 31, 2020 ☐ #47

So I take it your request is "Never Forget Where I'm From"? Very well then...

Just remember, YOU asked for this.

☐
moke123
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:30
Joined: Jan 11, 2013
Messages: 1,273

Mar 31, 2020 ☐ #48

NauticalGent said: ☐

So I take it your request is "Never Forget Where I'm From"? Very well then...

Just remember, YOU asked for this.

OK, but Micron didn't tell you about this . . .

Also included in Microns amazon order

NauticalGent

NauticalGent

Executive Troll

Local time:

Today, 06:30

Joined:

Apr 27, 2015

Messages:

2,673

Mar 31, 2020

☐ #49

That is going to warrant a HUGE discount...

And therapy...just sayin....

moke123

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:30

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Mar 31, 2020

☐ #50

You can't ask for a discount for therapy when we're the ones who will need the therapy!

As I'm writing this, mailman comes up the steps with a large envelope in his hands.

I get up, open the door and look in the mailbox and all I find is a bill. The package wasn't for me so no strings today.

Coffee first, then I'll take and post some pics with the fake bone saddle and the real bone nut, then it's back to work.

M

Micron
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:30

Joined: Oct 20, 2018

Messages: 2,122

Mar 31, 2020

#51

Well, I guess I'm done until I get strings. You can only post 10 attachments at a time, so I will have to break this up into 2 or more posts...
If you look closely you can see where I made a boo boo with the rosette. I forgot to tighten the knobs that lock in the circle cutting radius and the bit wandered a bit. Tried to fill it with a glue/sanding dusk mix but it came out more transparent. If I was smart, I would have used yellow glue. If I was more careful, this sort of crap wouldn't happen. Maybe it's a deal breaker.....



Last edited: Mar 31, 2020

strive4peace, AccessBlaster, Minty and 1 other person

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time: Today, 06:30

Joined: Apr 27, 2015

Messages:

2,673

Mar 31, 2020

#52

Micron said:

Maybe it's a deal breaker.....

Not even close. Its GD beautiful...

NauticalGent

Executive Troll

Local time:

Today, 06:30

Joined:

Apr 27, 2015

Messages:

2,673

Mar 31, 2020

#53

Dude...you have a real talent. Cant wait to play it...well...I have to learn first but I'm sure even my novice hacking at it will sound good.

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:30

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122


Mar 31, 2020

#54

Here are the rest...



strive4peace and moke123



moke123
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:30

Joined: Jan 11, 2013

Messages: 1,273

Apr 1, 2020

 #55

Just so you know Micron, My birthday is coming up soon and I miss my guitar.



Micron
AWF VIP

Local time: Today, 00:30

Joined: Oct 20, 2018

Messages: 2,122

Apr 1, 2020

 #56

moke123 said: 

I miss my guitar.

Me too (mine, not yours). I gave it to #2 son since he adores me and seemed smitten by it. That's one reason why I'm trying my hand at this. Don't think for one minute that it's a real money saver. I've paid over \$200 for back and side sets and that's not real extravagant. Here's the back plate for the one I'm working on while I wait for an opportunity to apply finish to the African Mahogany one in the other thread. Note: I wiped it with mineral spirits to make the grain and colour pop a bit, but it's not sanded so it's a little rough.



NauticalGent and moke123

NauticalGent
Executive Troll

Local time:	Today, 06:30
Joined:	Apr 27, 2015
Messages:	2,673

Apr 1, 2020 #57

That is some beautiful wood....

moke123
AWF VIP

Local time:	Today, 00:30
Joined:	Jan 11, 2013
Messages:	1,273

Apr 1, 2020 #58

Who wants to propose "The Mandolin Challenge"?

AccessBlaster

Local time: Yesterday, 21:30

Joined: May 22, 2010

Messages: 1,612

Apr 5, 2020

#59

Wow sweet! Gent is a lucky man!

strive4peace
Member

Local time: Yesterday, 23:30

Joined: Apr 3, 2020






Messages: 138

Sunday at 1:07 AM

#60

beautiful, Micron!!

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A Ukulele For A Gent (2 Viewers)

Micron

Mar 15, 2020

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M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:31

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

Sunday at 2:02 AM

#61

Thanks, y'all.

Been busy in my little shop of horrors working on my second guitar. First is still waiting for application of final finish, which has been waiting for warmer weather. The pandemic isn't helping either. Tomorrow I will have to break down and go out for stuff for this. At least they have a neat method of providing. I order on line, specify the store, pay on line and then go there and call when

I arrive. They drop it in your trunk and off you go.

AB, maybe not so lucky... he hasn't seen the bill yet!

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NauticalGent

AccessBlaster

Local time:	<u>Yesterday, 21:31</u>
Joined:	May 22, 2010
Messages:	1,612

Sunday at 2:07 AM

#62

Micron said:

AB, maybe not so lucky... he hasn't seen the bill yet!

lol

The_Doc_Man
Happy Retired Curmudgeon

Local time:	<u>Yesterday, 23:31</u>
Joined:	Feb 28, 2001

Messages:

16,367

Monday at 5:08 AM

#63

A keyboard challenge, I would take. But these days my music is strictly "no strings attached."

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M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:31

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

2,122

50 minutes ago

#64

Well, all is done. Not much in the way of pics for the final part but this might help a bit:



First, find how high above the fret board the first fret is. Since I can't rely on holding the caliper perfectly vertical, I measure to the top of the rule as it lies over a set of frets, then subtract the thickness of the rule (0.065"). That tells me how much I need to drop the strings at the first fret. I also measure at the 12th fret - the target is 3mm from that fret to the bottom of the strings. As I remove material from the saddle (the part that the strings ride on at the saddle, which is the wooden part anchoring the strings at the lower bout) this dimension will lower too. I also need to remove material from the nut (the part at the head end) and/or

file the individual string slots deeper to arrive at a clearance of about 0.010" from the bottom of the strings to the fret. This is a balancing act. If I take off enough material at the saddle to get my 3mm then drop the nut level, the 3mm will be lost, and vice versa. Because the saddle and nut were for a guitar, they are rather tall for this project, so there was a ton of sanding. Check out the pile of bone dust (pretty much the same amount at each end of the emery strip).



Having an issue uploading the last 2 pics, so will try doing so in a separate post.

M

Micron

AWF VIP

Local time:

Today, 00:31

Joined:

Oct 20, 2018

Messages:

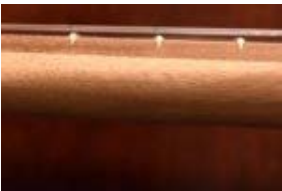
2,122

34 minutes ago

☐

#65

I think the setup turned out OK:
0.010" at the 1st fret



and 3mm at the 12th fret



The uke would probably sound a lot better than what I'm hearing if the player was any good!
That wraps up the build. I will see if there is a way to upload any audio, but I think it can only be done if there is a url to link to.

moke123

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