Thank you!
Posted by tomzooki - 2012/06/15 15:26

I just wanted to thank everyone of you, for that fantastic forum and for giving me the opportunity to share my love for my future alto guitar :cheer:

As probably the majority here I am alone on my planet. Here most people, when I say that I play classical guitar, they reply "Cool, me too I like Francis Cabrel!" (a french singer playing fingerstyle guitar) :unsure: And when I say I play the viola da gamba they just don't understand at all, even after explanations. So I just don't talk about my 11-string guitar project :S

I am lucky, my husband is a former harpsichordist. He is tired to hear me play non-baroque music. Now it is worse, I work on Domeniconi's Turkish variations, and he can't support the finale :laugh: He is the trigger of my project; he wanted me to play baroque music, and I answeared I hate to play it on my modern guitar, he told me to buy a baroque guitar, I answeared I would not like to play it either and the repertoire is limited and not the one I love, I just passed some times on internet looking for something suitable for me and here I am!!!

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by Toffe - 2012/06/15 20:03

Lovely! Thank you for sharing your passion in the forums. This community has really turned into something special the last few years!

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by wagnersen - 2012/06/15 23:14

I agree. These pages are a feast to read through. Lots of knowledge and enthusiasm.

And to you,tomzooki: I have just ordered my first alto a few weeks ago. I went for 11-strings, from Mr.Heikki Rousu. It will be finished in september! I can't wait!! And though I haven't actually played it yet- my hopes are high. Mr.Rousu is very professional, very open to suggestions and a pleasure to work with.
For a while I was contemplating 13-strings versus 11, but ended up with 11 because I think the sound is just right,the possibilities are great (I don't mind transcriptions,or changing keys) and so many people are getting so much out of their 11-strings (like mr.Sollscher).
Good luck with your choice!

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by tomzooki - 2012/06/16 04:44

Great! I plan to order a 11-strings from Mr Rousu too, I give me 2 or 3 weeks to decide exactly what I want. I exchanged several emails with him, and I agree with you about his professionnalism and the pleasure to work with him :cheer:

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by Toffe - 2012/06/19 16:18

Just a side note...

Today I had the opportunity to try out one of Heikki's alto guitars, for the first time. I'm giving lessons to one of his customers.

I have tried many different alto guitars over the years, from many builders (not all Swedish builders, but most). I think I've played at least 5 or 6 by George Bolin. And even though it's been a few years since I heard the Bolin ones...I have to say that Mr.Heikki's guitar was one of the best alto's I have ever heard! Actually better than any of the Bolin models I have

tried.

Very warm and deep tone, superb separation - and it struck me how light it was. My alto is rather heavy, but Heikki's felt very light and had a very fast response. It still has that compact alto guitar tone, but it adds a big part of the rich , open and more explosive character of a Spanish guitar. On Thursday I will get the opportunity to hear it in a larger room.

Bottom line... I would LOVE to own one of his alto guitars.

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Re:Thank you!

Posted by Glen - 2012/06/19 16:47

Toffe wrote:
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Bottom line... I would LOVE to own one of his alto guitars.

Thanks for that review. Honestly I would seriously consider ordering one from Mr. Heikki except for the scare I have been given importing guitars to the US, all the regulations and severe penalties for importing any wood (and other things) on the protected species list (even as small as the bridge), not having proper documentation from the luthier that it was harvested legally ... having the guitar confiscated and subject to severe criminal penalties. It's just not worth that worry. Perhaps if I knew what I was doing it wouldn't be so bad.

Mr. Heikki, have you ever had a purchaser in the US, especially recently after the Lacey Act and CITIES have been enforced so strongly?

Glen

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Re:Thank you!

Posted by tomzooki - 2012/06/19 18:38

Glen, I don't think there would be problems if you go with standard woods. European spruce has no problem, and it would be really surprising to have any problems with indian rosewood. Of course forget about Brazilian RW, and probably Madagascar RW will be protected soon. You can do a little web research about Cites protected species. But with indian rosewood there is really no problem at all. And Indian can't be mistaken with Brasilian.

Probably I will need papers for the Indonesian RW I am supposed to have for the side and back of my guitar. It has a strong spiderweb figure, and though it doesn't have the same coloration than brazilian, in fact it looks more like Ziricote, it could bring problems a zealous custom employee. I don't know here in Canada, but we tend to follow USA ways :S

I 200% agree with the reinforcement of the laws concerning endangered species. At the beginning I was considering Madagascar RW because Heikki has really nice sets, but I was not comfortable with it, I remember images of Madagascar with completely barren lands, except of lonely baobabs not cut down because they are sacred trees there, it is unacceptable, and can't be repaired...

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by Glen - 2012/06/19 18:48

I am wondering if aside from the larger pieces of wood (top, back & sides, neck) are there any small parts like the bridge that have Brazilian rosewood (or anything that could be mis-identified as such). I have heard that not all inspectors really know what they're doing, so even though you may not have any illegal woods they may think it is and it will be your responsibility to provide documentation that it's acceptable.

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by Heikki Rousu - 2012/06/19 19:19

Hello Glen.
I have only sold one guitar directly to Us. But that was some years ago.
But I think the problem can be solved in a way I have in maind.
If I buy all the wood from a US guitar wood supplier and then the sell the guitar to Us. I do buy a lot of my wood from www.alliedlutherie.com in Carlefonia.
Heikki Rousu

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by tomzooki - 2012/06/27 00:35

Toffe wrote:
....On Thursday I will get the opportunity to hear it in a larger room.

Bottom line... I would LOVE to own one of his alto guitars.

So.... have you tried it in a larger room?

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by Toffe - 2012/06/28 17:39

Yes. Superb! Very good projection of sound.

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Re:Thank you!
Posted by tomzooki - 2012/06/28 18:20

Can't wait to have mine!..... :)

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