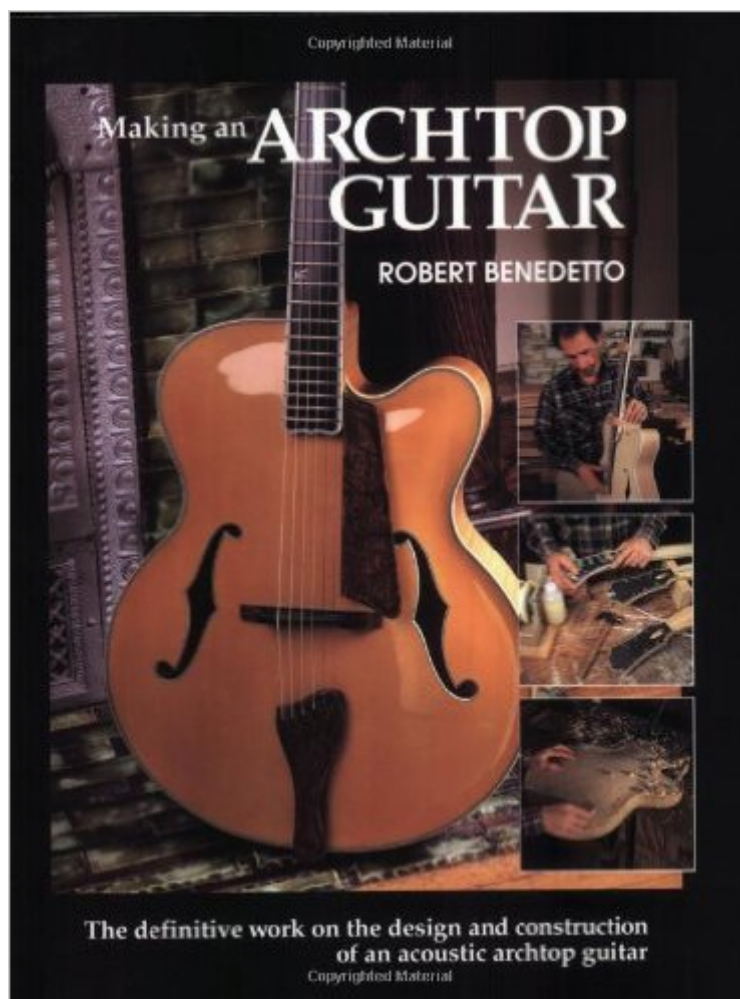


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Making An Archtop Guitar



Synopsis

(Guitar). The definitive work on the design and construction of an acoustic archtop guitar by one of the most talented luthiers of the twentieth century. Benedetto walks the reader through all aspects of construction through to marketing your finished work. Includes a list of suppliers to acquire all the tools and materials listed; a list of serial numbers for Benedetto guitars; full-color plates featuring the author's models; photos from the author's personal scrapbook of players who endorse his guitars; and fold-out templates for construction. 8-1/2 x 11 .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I would recommend this book, even to a motivated novice, I would caution those who are hoping that everything will be completely spelled out, and you'll be warned of all the things that could go wrong. This isn't an "Idiot's Guide to Building an Archtop." Benedetto is a bit vague in some rather crucial areas. That said, it is the best book on the subject. Admittedly, if he were to try to anticipate every wrong turn a reader might make, the book would not read as well. Part of me appreciates his lack of condescension. The other part of me, though, felt unprepared to move forward in a few spots. I make my living as a woodworker, so I didn't really have any problems with the carving, joinery or finishing parts, but I imagine that a novice woodworker might run into some trouble. Since this was my first guitar, the more lutherie oriented parts gave me a bit more pause. I don't think I would have gotten the quality of result that I did without the outside sources to which I referred. The sections on fretwork and set up are, for example, barely adequate. The basic

information is there, but there is a dearth of any hints, and I discovered that fretwork and set up are areas in which one needs hints. Again, I recommend the book, but with the caveat that you'll want to read more elsewhere.

I almost didn't get the book because of the last review by the man who felt the book should have taught him how to tap tune a top. I am afraid in this generation we expect to get it all from books where once we could only learn by sitting at the masters feet. So far I have found a lot of help in this book and I recommend it to anyone interested in learning to make a guitar

I agree that this book is not for someone who is interested in seriously studying archtop design and construction. But It's a GREAT book for someone with a little experience under their belt, who wants to try something different. If you want to become the next "Greatest American Luthier", find a good mentor and apprentice yourself to him/her. If you want to build an archtop, this book is a comprehensive guide that will get you there.

I'm a skilled cabinetmaker, with no experience at all in guitar or instrument making. After a lot of thought, I've decided to make a pair of archtop guitars - one for my son as a college gift, one for myself (he gets the one which turns out best). I've made a lot of woodworking projects, and every one of them has started with a materials list. I was sort of amazed to find that missing here. No measurements for the top, back or sides, no list of anything. Strange. And then I started reading the construction method, and got as far as page 15, where it says "The guitar is now positioned in the holding cradle..." WHAT holding cradle? There's a picture of one, but no description. How much of a "lip" should the holding cradle have? How deep should it be? Nothing. Anyhow, I'm impressed at a lot of what I read, and I'm sure I'll be able to build a guitar based on the book, but there are really missing parts. Third peeve: The last 63 pages of the book are of no value to the reader at all - just promo BS for the author. Why does he feel he needs this?

I don't know who Charliem thinks he is, but on the subject of making archtop guitars (amongst others), Benedetto's book is the most informative of its kind. As far as not giving enough info. goes, there is everything one needs to know from go to whoa. If he doesn't spell it out then it can either be worked out with a little basic math. or it doesn't effect the overall outcome. It is the best book on archtop guitars and should be in every collection.

As an archtop owner and player for nearly thirty years, I would call this book a must read for anyone who is interested in purchasing a vintage archtop or buying a new one. Benedetto leads the reader into a deep appreciation of the painstaking detail that goes into The Making of an Archtop. He describes the level of attention that should be evident on each component of the guitar, and how it effects the player (and the price) in the end. The significance of learning the process of material selection, construction sequencing and design considerations might well lead the reader towards a custom made instrument. This book is a credit to all the independent luthiers out there whose trade is no longer a secret.

There aren't too many books on building archtops, maybe because this book does such a good job; it covers the major aspects very well, provides handy hints, and dispels a few urban myths along the way. This book explains the concept of tone tapping - although a newcomer to guitar making has no terms of reference to what the desired tone should be at each stage of the process - maybe in the future Bob could provide MP3's or a CD? The book does use a large font face - but it's the quality of content that matters most, and on face value there's pretty much a lifetime of learning that Bob has poured into text. I really like this book, areas like binding, bracing, neck joins etc are thorough, and the diagrams + b+w photos are generally good. There's a couple of sketchy areas - mainly the process of creating the arch using a pillar drill to various depths before you start carving - this is a key area as specific depths are required at different points of the timber, but this is very lightly talked about, and instead refers to a non-existent diagram for further information. As it stands it's not too far away from a 5 stars. with a bit

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