



**Introduction
to
Kit Acoustic
Guitars**

**(or)
Life Is Short...
Build A Guitar**

Bill Cory

www.KitGuitarManuals.com

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(or)

**Life Is Short ...
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**By
Bill Cory**

**www.KitGuitarManuals.com
www.KitGuitarForum.com
www.KitGuitarBuilder.com
www.KitGuitarTools.com**

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About The Author

Bill Cory (that's me) is a 59-year old writer and kit guitar builder who lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his family, and a cat. During a midlife search four years ago (not exactly a crisis), I discovered kit acoustic guitars, and a part of my life changed. It was the part where I have fun. I've built ten guitars since that day about four years ago, and is currently working on a scratch design for a 13-fret Small Jumbo.

My "day job" is publishing a wedding magazine, but I'm very ready to sell the magazine and go into guitar building. Anyone interested in owning and publishing a successful regional wedding magazine? (Send email: kitguitar@gmail.com)

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CONTENTS

Introduction ... pg 5

Guitar Construction ... pg 11

What's In A Kit? ... pg 17

Tools and Supplies ... pg 23

Where To Build ... pg 29

Finishing ... pg 33

Summary ... pg 41

Appendix ... pg 43



Two Stewmac Triple-0's Adirondack and Cedar



INTRODUCTION

Thinking about building a guitar? Or encouraging someone to do it? Thousands of men and women all over the world are building them, and they're excited about their home-built guitars!

This little book will give you a snapshot of kit acoustic guitars. If they sound interesting to you, read detailed reviews and building guides the *Complete Guide To Building Kit Acoustic Guitars*, described on the last four pages of this book.

So, what are kits all about? If you don't know as much as you want to know, then in the next few pages, you'll find out more. This book will help if you want to build a guitar, or you are the friend, relative, offspring, spouse, or sibling of someone who would like to build one, and you want to give a kit as a gift.

A guitar kit can make a *great* gift, if you want to give a big one! It's like giving a good book: Many hours of enjoyment that are worth more than the cost of the gift.

Why Build A Guitar, Anyway?

To someone who loves the acoustic guitar, this question is already answered. But if you just know someone who loves acoustic guitar, and you are wondering: Here's one answer.

Many guys like to tinker and build with wood. I was never one of them until I discovered guitar building: I could never get interested in making a chair, for example. (Not to downgrade chairs: I plant myself on several of them every day and almost always enjoy the experience.) But, creating a *musical instrument* that could sound beautiful, look great, provide joy beyond its material substance? *That*, I could get into! And, the guitar is such an *intimate* instrument. When we play it, we hold it close, stroke and strum it, move with it, and feel its vibration. It is an organic instrument in many ways, reflecting our moods as much as our skills. The music it creates can be wild or mellow, sensuous or irritating, in any style imaginable. It's a unique instrument, and that must be why it is the most prevalent musical instrument on the planet Earth.

Building one just brings the acoustic guitar lover into closer relationship with the instrument he or she loves to play and hear. It's so much more rewarding, in so many ways, than a chair!

What A Kit IS NOT

A kit acoustic guitar is not a perfectly matched set of parts that you just put together with glue. Being made of wood, a kit's components are subject to changes in response to dryness or high humidity. They might expand, contract, warp, or even crack!

(If they have warped or cracked when you inspect the kit, you can get replacements free, so don't worry. Besides, it happens only rarely.)

The point is, a wooden acoustic guitar kit is real wood, requiring some real woodworking. It calls for a bit of patience—like what you try to teach your kids: To read instructions, to work slowly and carefully and not to be in *too* big a hurry. (You know, things we frequently ignore as adults.)

But, the kit is not like a model car kit or Legos[®]; it isn't just a bunch of perfect parts ready to glue or press together.

Then, What IS A Kit?

It's a bunch of mostly wood parts, ready for you to work into the form of an acoustic guitar.

In a guitar factory, one part is made here, another over there, and another is made downstairs. They aren't all perfect, though they are very close to being exactly right. All the parts come together at various points, where they are perfected by human beings, fashioned into bodies, necks, etc., and put together as assemblies. The assemblies are all put together. A new guitar is born.

Well, the kit builder is the human point at which all the parts come together. You receive parts that are close to right, but not perfect in some cases. Your job

is to test fit them, make them just right for each other, and glue them together. Hopefully, in your hands they will create an instrument that can last for decades in normal use and provide enjoyment to those who play it and hear it played.

It's not just a slap-it-together process, and because of that, it is *so* much more rewarding than you expect it to be. I know this for a fact: Building an acoustic guitar that plays easily and sounds good is immensely fulfilling. And, yes, it can be done with a guitar kit!

An acoustic guitar kit can create a very real, very good guitar. Not a toy, but an instrument to be taken seriously. Many are the people who have been amazed to find out that guitars I've built from kits are not mid-level factory guitars from the big factories. I say that not to brag, but to help you realize that guitar kits can create an excellent guitar. Compared to some factory guitars, their intonation can be better, their tone can be richer and louder—or whatever you want them to be. Their playability can just as good (often better), and their finish can be just as good (yes, *can be* — as soon as the builder masters this last, difficult, process).

So, read on. A kit of some kind might be just what you want!

An Apology?

Now, this bit might sound odd, but bear with me.

I must apologize to those of you for whom some of this text is too elementary and is somewhere beneath your level of knowledge.

Please understand this: It's written as an introduction for those who don't have your knowledge or confidence ... those who need a nudge in the direction of knowing that they *can* build a guitar from a kit.

It's also written for their spouses, whom they will need to convince that they can build a kit (which is true), that it's worth the expense (which is true), and that it will be good for their inner soul (which is true).

Maybe your spouse, too?

(By the way, I don't sell kits; I just build 'em.)



