

LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

Advanced Violin Set-Up:

A Systematic Approach to Setting Up Instruments

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 12

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: Arriving on Sunday, you will spend a little time getting settled in before establishing goals. Monday will begin the process of setting up an instrument. Everyone will have their own project to work on. The class will be divided up into teams to allow the class to explore multiple set-up scenarios and openly discuss the projects in order to learn from one another. The participants will all contribute to a group notebook. At the end of the week everyone will receive a copy to take with them.

Course Objective: In this workshop the focus will be on developing carving techniques and observations that help build a greater understanding about sound, and enhance consistent results.

Qualifications: This workshop is for advanced participants who have been setting up instruments for at least 3 years and are working professionally as a maker or repair person in the industry.

RESOURCES AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Materials: Bring a violin or viola only (due to space), one that is already set-up and one that is not. Also bring pegs, end button, saddle, strings, and 2 bridges (preferably Aubert Deluxe).

Tools: Students are required to bring their own tools when possible. A precise list will follow as the workshop approaches. Some of these tools will require vetting with each participant in advance. They will include, a block plane, fingerboard plane, sound-post knife and two bridge knives, scrapers, files, sanding blocks and/or sandpaper, peg shavers, inspection mirror, sound-post adjuster, compass, templates, etc. Your instructor will provide sound-post measuring tools, crossing angle tools, sound-post cutting blocks, extra compasses, and extra peg shavers, etc.

Resource Materials: Your instructor will provide the repair worksheets and a general spec sheet for set-up.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Tom Croen is happy to answer any questions after the workshop. Please contact Tom at tcroenini@gmail.com.

PARTICIPATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Participation: Some participants have previous experience and are attending workshops to refine their skills. Newer students are expected to communicate with the instructor as a learning resource, not other students.

Instruction: Both time and supplies are valuable, if you do not understand the instructions, please ask for clarification before beginning work.

COURSE CONTENTS

Contents: The contents of this course include the following topics:

Observation and Documentation - Measurements will be taken and recorded using repair worksheets. This is important before beginning set up work to help develop a full picture of the condition of the instrument. It makes defining the scope of work and forming a strategy for proceeding much easier.

Acoustic Impact and Specs - The focus on learning what effect sound-post position, fit and tension have on tone as well as bridge design. We also will employ “practical acoustics” that require little investment in equipment.

Developing, Measuring and Carving Techniques - Time spent on tools and carving techniques will help to achieve the desired outcome.

WORKSHOP GROUND RULES

Syllabus Changes: While every attempt has been made to prepare this syllabus and class schedule in final form, it will be at the instructor’s discretion to make any changes as he/she may deem necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course.

General Policies: The instructor expects attention to detail and meeting course expectations, including participation in discussions and addressing technical problems immediately.

Phones: Please be courteous to your bench partners by silencing your cell phone during work hours and taking calls outside the workshop when necessary.

Tools: Do not borrow tools without permission. Everyone should have all the tools and supplies they need; if not, please ask your instructor. Students are prohibited from using any power tools or equipment in the machine room without direct instructor supervision.

Safety Concerns: A First Aid and Eye Wash Station are available should injury occur.

Work Hours: Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Evening hours may be available for informal discussions on related topics. Check with instructor for additional work time availability.

COURSE CALENDAR

These topics and milestones are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

DAY	TIME	AGENDA/TOPIC	MILESTONES
SUNDAY	5:00pm	Students arrive and get settled in	Get comfy and get to know other students
	5:30pm	Pizza Party!	
	6:00 - 8:00 pm	Workshop prep for Monday Knife shaping and sharpening	All tools are shaped and properly sharpened for Monday
MONDAY	8:00am–5:00pm	Introduction and Overview	
		“Having a System, Not a Recipe” Reviewing tools	Discussion of acoustic impact and specs - ongoing through workshop
		Assessing instrument condition and defining scope of work	Observing and documenting - filling out an instrument repair worksheet
		Form teams and begin work	
TUESDAY	8:00am–5:00pm	Sound-post - position, tension, and fit using angled blocks Begin bridges	Cut new sound-post and fit
WEDNESDAY	8:00am–5:00pm	Continuing bridge and sound-post work	Explore multiple scenarios in groups
THURSDAY	8:00am–5:00pm	Continue bridges and set-up instruments Adjusting sound-post Unstringing if necessary	Finish bridges, and in some cases modify Check string heights and string spacing
FRIDAY	8:00am–5:00pm	Review and Questions After 3:00 pm, pack and clean workshop	Make copies of group notebook
SATURDAY	5:00pm-6:00pm	Workshop is over and clean up	Enjoy your trip home. We were glad to have you!