

# LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

## Frog & Button Making

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 12

### Course Information

**Course Description:** This course will demonstrate classic French frog construction. The method uses a minimal number of hand tools. Construction of a violin and cello frog, and a button will be demonstrated over the week. The emphasis will be on a system and order of work using traditional hand tools and gouges. The work will be demonstrated in the morning with afternoons and evenings for students to work, with the instructor available for questions.

**Course Objective:** The course objective is to understand and replicate the method and order of work for making a frog and button, however, tool skill will determine how much is accomplished during the week.

**Pre-requisite:** There are no pre-requisites for this course, however, an understanding of bow construction and tool skills is necessary, so do your homework.

**Course Topics:** The following topics will be discussed during the week:

- Basic frog & button measurements
- Wood choice and grain alignment
- Design and shaping
- Soldering metals
- Polishing

**Materials:** Materials will be supplied for one frog, including wood, pearl, silver, a pre-made ferrule for those

### Materials & Tools

without soldering skills, screws and eyelets.

**Tools:** Some tools are available for use during class\*\*, however, you must bring your own knives, block plane, gouge, and files. Don't feel like you have to buy everything listed, just bring basic tools listed above.

- In-cannel gouge of approximately #5 sweep (Diefenbacher - item #500-1126)
- Knives
- Block plane
- Grobet hand files 8" #00, #2, #4 (Otto Frei - item #131.140)
- 1/2 round needle files #00, #2 (Otto Frei - item #131.516)
- Small engineers square\*\* (MSC - item #79267936 or Dictum Tools - item #707274)
- Small adjustable bevel square (Amazon - 4.5" adjustable bevel)
- 6" caliper, the cheap digital from Harbor Freight is fine\*\* (Harbor Freight item #61585)
- Jewelers saw with #2/0 blade for pearl and silver (Rio Grande German Saw - item #110039)
- and a coarser wood cutting blade\*\* (Kit Assortment with saw and lube - item #110328)
- #63 twist drill bit for pins\*\* (MSC - item #78520012 minimum order of 12)

## Instructor Information

**Rodney D. Mohr**, bow maker, will be available to answer questions during the workshop. After the conclusion of the workshop, please send follow-up questions to his email at [Rodney@rodneymohr.com](mailto:Rodney@rodneymohr.com). Questions will be answered by him after the workshop as time permits.

## Participation and Instructions

**Participation:** With varying degrees of background experience in the class, please try to keep questions and communication during class time directly with your instructor. If you do have something important that you would like to share with the class, try to arrange a time with your instructor so all students can benefit from the information at the same time.

**Punctuality:** Please be respectful of all students attending, and arrive no later than the expected class start time set by your instructor. If an emergency arises or another start time needs to be arranged, please be sure to communicate that directly with your instructor.

**Digital Data Policy:** Cell phone pictures will be allowed. They are for your own use and reference. Please no posting on social media platforms. Any pictures to be used to help promote a future *Frog & Button Making* class will need to be pre-approved and shared with Learning Trade Secrets LLC. Out of respect to your fellow students who have spent large sums of money to attend this class, ***no video will be allowed during class time.***

**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.

## Course Ground Rules

**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. Minimum texting will be allowed if it does not interfere with lecture time or others around you.

**Tools:** Do not borrow tools without permission.

**Safety Concerns:** A First Aid and Eye Wash Station is available should injury occur. Should an injury occur, please see your instructor immediately and then dial 9-1-1. Any injury requires a completed *Injury Form* located on the clip board next to the eye wash station. Your safety and well-being are our number one priority.