

HOG-NOSED PLUCKED PSALTERY

KIT



MUSICMAKER'S KITS, INC

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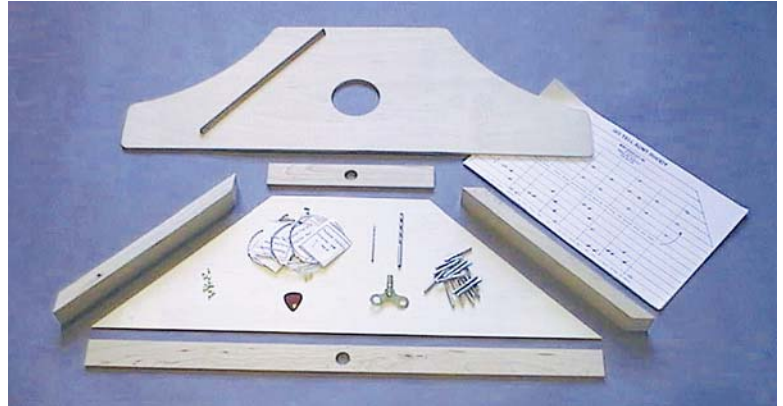
HOG-NOSE PLUCKED PSALTERY

Wooden Parts:

- 1 Plywood top (holes pre-cut)
- 1 Plywood bottom
- 2 Pin blocks
- 1 Short side
- 1 Long side
- 1 Bridge
- 1 Scrap of plywood

Hardware:

- 1 L-handle tuning wrench
- 1 Drill bit 3/16"
- 15 Tuning pins
- 15 Brass eyelets (small)
- 15 Strings:
 - 3 -.018
 - 4 -.016
 - 4 -.014
 - 4 -.012
- 1 Flatpick
- 1 Set of Song Sheets
- 1 Set Assembly Instructions



ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

___ **1.** Please take time right away to check over all the parts to your kit. If anything is missing or unsatisfactory, don't hesitate to notify us so we can correct it promptly.



___ **2.** Find the **PLYWOOD BOTTOM** and place the best surface facedown on your work table. Measure up 1/4" along the long edge and draw a straight line near that edge, as shown.

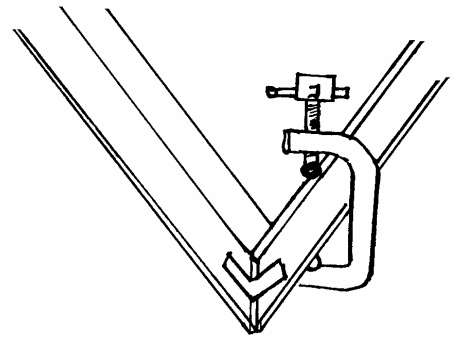
Test-fit the **PIN BLOCKS** on either side, flush with the edges, and just touching the

line you drew. Check the fit of the **SHORT** and **LONG SIDES** also.

___ **3.** Begin by gluing the **PIN BLOCKS** to the **BOTTOM**. Use woodworking glue (such as Elmer's Carpenter's Glue) and some weights or clamps to fasten the **PIN BLOCKS** to the **PLYWOOD BOTTOM**. You want enough glue so that a little bit squeezes out around the joints as they are clamped together. Take care to prevent the **PIN BLOCKS** from sliding out of position when clamped.

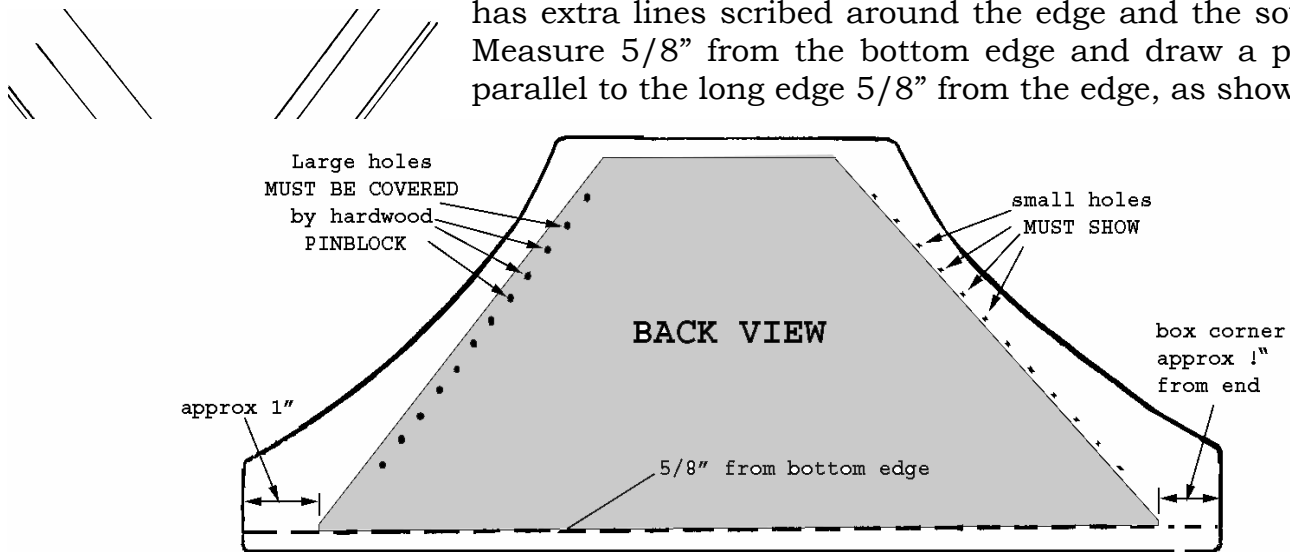
Wait at least 30 minutes before removing the clamps or weights.

___ **4.** To finish the box, glue the **LONG** and **SHORT SIDES** in place. It will be a bit of a challenge to apply pressure both at the corners **AND** downward so that the **SIDES** are securely attached to the **BOTTOM**. Use a combination of clamps and tape to hold the parts firmly together. Remember to try to get some glue to squeeze out of the cracks -- that's the sign of a tight joint. Check also to be sure the **SIDES** are nice and straight along the edges of the **PLYWOOD BOTTOM**. Allow at least 30 minutes to dry.



___ **5.** Sand the edges and corners of this **BOX** assembly before proceeding further. It will look best if all the sharp corners are rounded and the edges sanded smooth. You want to remove all glue spots too, as they will be ugly smudges in the finish if not thoroughly sanded out.

___ **6.** Place the **PLYWOOD TOP** on your work table with the front facing down (the front has extra lines scribed around the edge and the soundhole). Measure 5/8" from the bottom edge and draw a pencil line parallel to the long edge 5/8" from the edge, as shown.

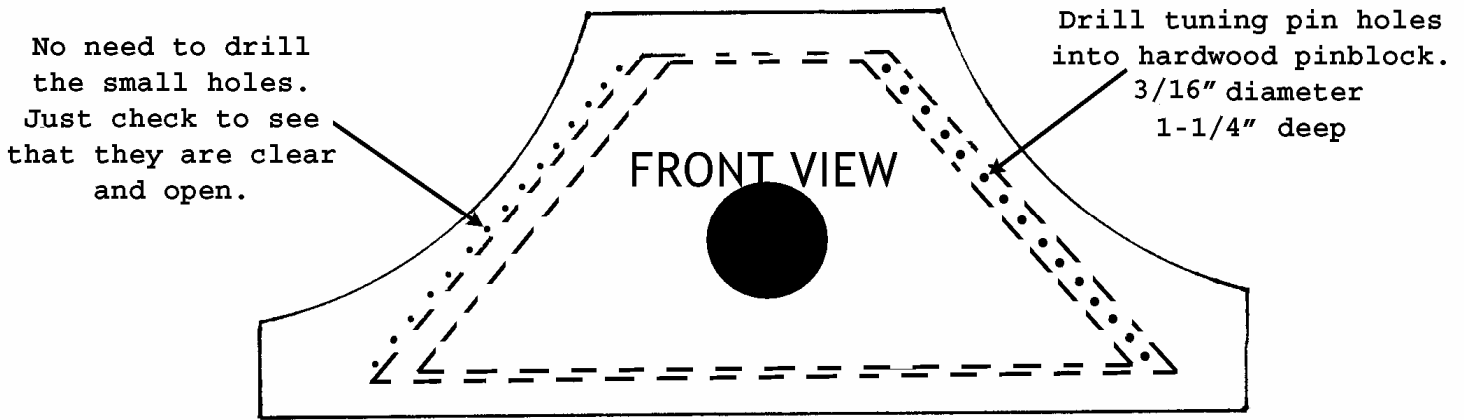


IMPORTANT! The **BOX ASSEMBLY MUST BE CENTERED PROPERLY ON THE BACK.**

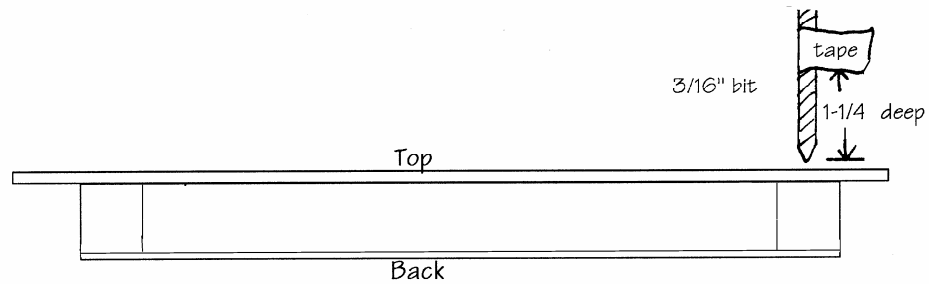
Test-fit the **BOX ASSEMBLY** to the backside of the **TOP** aligning it to your pencil line 5/8" from the bottom edge of the front panel. Center the box left to right – you should have about 1" space at each end. Note that the larger **TUNING PIN** holes (at the left) should be covered by the hardwood sides of the box, and the small **EYELET** holes (at the right) should fall just outside the other side of the **BOX**, as shown.

When you are satisfied with the position of the **BOX** assembly, outline it with a pencil so you can remove it and re-position it quickly and accurately. Then apply glue to all edges that will contact the **TOP**, and use weights or clamps to hold it firmly in place. Check to be sure that it does not slide away from the lines marked. Allow 30 minutes to dry.

___7. Now you are ready to drill the holes for the tuning pins. The positions for these holes are all pre-cut on the front of the instrument. You need to drill the larger tuning pin holes into the **PIN BLOCK**, using the 3/16" bit provided. The smaller holes for eyelets are done – just make sure they are not plugged with glue.



___8. Drill the 15 tuning pin holes vertically to a depth of 1-1/4 inch, using the 3/16" bit provided. Put masking tape on the drill bit to mark the proper depth (1-1/4"), and hold your drill as steadily as you can, so all 15 holes are clean and straight. Take care not to wobble the drill, or the tuning pins may not fit tightly.



___9. Make one last pass around the instrument with 150 grit sandpaper (medium) or finer. Check for any rough edges or sharp corners. Your fingers will tell you when the wood feels smooth. Check again for any blotches of glue residue -- sand them out completely!



___10. If you wish to decorate the soundhole, we recommend adding one of our laser-cut **ROSETTES** (more styles available at www.harpskit.com). If you ordered a rosette with your kit, we should have provided you with a “stepped” soundhole that has a ledge for gluing the rosette flush with the surface. If the rosette does not quite fit, sand the outer edges of the rosette until it fits.

The instrument will look very nice without a rosette too. The hole has a nice outline around it.

___ **11.** Now you are ready to apply the finish. Here are some ideas to consider:

STAIN -- STAINS are coloring agents used to darken wood. This project lends itself nicely to staining for decoration. A nice dark reddish-brown color looks very rich. Do your staining before applying any other sealer or top coat. **HINT:** If you have a rosette for the soundhole, we recommend leaving the rosette un-stained. We've not liked the appearance of the stained rosettes we've seen. Rosettes stand out nicely on their own, without extra color.

OIL -- An oil finish will give your wood a low luster appearance, bringing out the natural color of the grain, but it tends to soak into the wood and appear dry and "thirsty" after awhile. The principal advantage of an oil finish is that it can be applied and wiped dry immediately, so you can proceed with installing hardware (and strings) right away. The disadvantage of oil is that it usually does not give much surface protection or sheen, although there are some brands that include waxes and/or varnishes to give more surface build-up and luster.

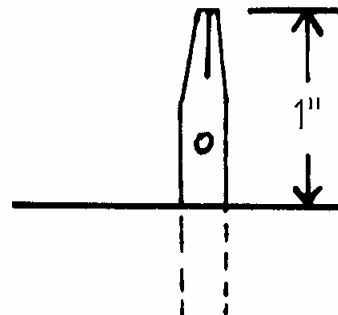
VARNISH -- Any regular varnish will work fine on this project, but we recommend our wipe-on gel urethane called MUSICMAKER'S INSTRUMENT FINISH. Our complete finishing kit includes detailed instructions, sandpaper sheets, and a half-pint can of wipe-on gel urethane varnish. The advantages of this finish are its simple application, durability, and deep, soft luster. It makes a great top coat over stains too.

LACQUER -- Many professional instrument makers still use lacquer for their finish. The most readily available lacquer is called Deft Clear Wood Finish. It is best to purchase a can of liquid to brush on as a sealer coat first, and then use an aerosol can of the same product to spray on the final coats. The advantage of this finish is its quick drying time, but the disadvantage is the strong odor of the toxic lacquer fumes.

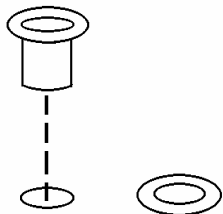
Be sure to varnish the wood **BRIDGE** also!

___ **12. PAINTING DETAIL EDGES** -- You'll notice that our catalog photos show a nice gold edging around the perimeter of the psaltery. This is not difficult. Wait until the other stains & finishes are completely dry. Then you can hand-paint the edges with silver or gold paint from an art store, using the laser-engraved line as your guide. If you don't have a rosette on the soundhole, you might outline that with gold paint too.

___ **13.** Locate your bag of 15 tuning pins. Use a hammer to pound in the pins until they are well seated, leaving about 1 inch above the wood. Use the tuning key to turn them clockwise to go deeper, or counter-clockwise to raise them up to an even height.

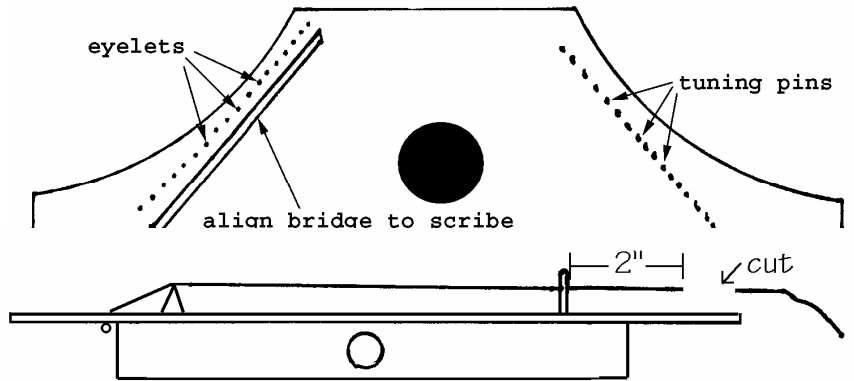


___ **14.** Push the small **BRASS EYELETS** into the other holes (from the front side of the instrument). They will prevent the strings from cutting into the wood.



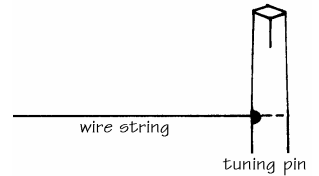
___ **15.** Use masking tape to hold the **BRIDGE** temporarily in place, just to the left of the line scribed into the wood. Once a few strings are installed, you may remove the tape.

___ **16.** String the instrument as follows:

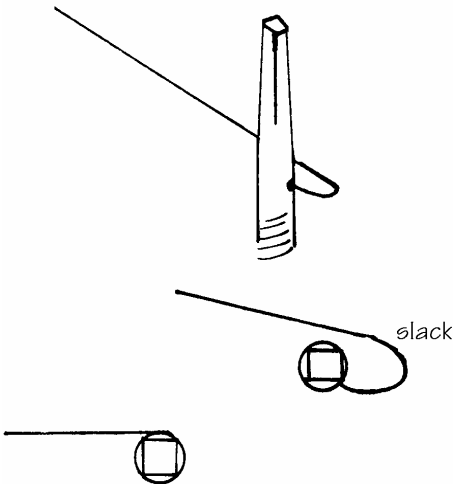


a) Beginning with the longest string on the instrument, take one .018" string and poke it through the first string hole from the backside of the instrument, pulling it all the way until the ball end contacts the wood underneath. Stretch it across the instrument to the farthest **TUNING PIN** and clip off the excess length of wire so that it measures only about 2 inches beyond the **TUNING PIN**.

b) Put the wire into the pin so that the end just shows through the other side of the pin.



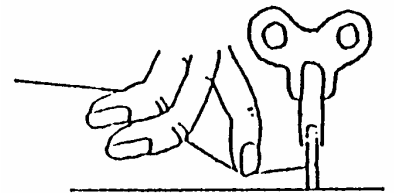
c) Use the **TUNING KEY** to turn the pin clockwise about one-half turn before putting tension on the wire.



d) Pull on the wire to "set" it in the pin. This puts a sharp kink in the wire where it enters the tiny hole. If the wire jumps out when you pull, you may need to clip off the kinked end and try again.

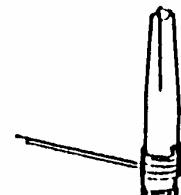
NOTE: This may seem like a silly detail to worry about, but we like to hide the ends of the wires inside the **TUNING PINS** so they don't poke your fingers or catch on your clothes when you handle the instrument. Verily, verily, this does make a difference!

e) Keeping tension on the wire at all times, turn the pin clockwise until you take up all the slack. You should be able to make about two or three complete turns of the pin before the wire is tight.



f) Install the remaining strings, using this chart for string size placement:

The three longest:	.018"
The next four:	.016"
The next four:	.014"
The four shortest:	.012"



___17. Tune your **PSALTERY**, beginning with middle C for the lowest string. Then go up the scale matching the white keys on a piano, for two octaves above middle C. Refer to the songsheets included in your kit -- each note is named along one edge.

Congratulations! We hope you have enjoyed making this project and that someone in your family will enjoy many hours of musical pleasure by playing it.

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Other items available for the Hognose Psaltery

Please check our website or catalog for current prices

HGOBAG	Padded Gig Bag
HOGSTANKIT	Hognose Psaltery Display Stand KIT
HOGSTANFIN	Hognose Psaltery Display Stand – FINISHED
HOGSONG2	Set of 7 Christmas Songs
HOGSONG3	Set of 6 Folk Songs

HOGNOSE PSALTERY

HOGSTRG	FULL SET OF 15 STRINGS
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STRING	NOTE	GAUGE	CODE
1	Middle C4	.018	BALL018
2	D4	.018	BALL018
3	E4	.018	BALL018

4	F4	.016	BALL016
5	G4	.016	BALL016
6	A4	.016	BALL016
7	B4	.016	BALL016
8	C5	.014	BALL014
9	D5	.014	BALL014
10	E5	.014	BALL014
11	F5	.014	BALL014
12	G5	.012	BALL012
13	A5	.012	BALL012
14	B5	.012	BALL012
15	C6	.012	BALL012

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