

MOUNTAIN DULCIMER BLUEPRINT GENERAL OVERVIEW

Building the Mountain Dulcimer from scratch using our blueprint will give you some interesting challenges. You will need a shop full of power tools, including table saw, planer, jointer, band saw in addition to normal hand tools. The project involves bending the sides, which we do by gluing two 1/16" thick layers of nice hardwood together in a curved clamping jig, because wood that thin will bend without heat or water required. Once the lamination is dry, the side will hold its shape quite well. The scroll-shaped peghead is another nice challenge, and you can customize it with routing or carving (like a violin "scroll") if you like. We recommend using nice hardwood such as cherry, walnut, maple, etc for most of the instrument, and a softer wood for the top (soundboard), such as spruce, cedar, redwood, or mahogany. The back can be either 1/8" solid hardwood or a thin plywood.

BILL OF MATERIALS (WOOD)

QTY	PART	TYPE OF WOOD	ROUGH SIZE	NOTES
1	Soundboard (top)	Good Softwood	1/8" X 9-1/2" X 31"	Spruce, Cedar, Redwood, or Mahogany work well
1	Back Panel	Hardwood or Plywood	1/8" X 9-1/2" X 31"	
1	Fretboard	Good Hardwood	5/8" X 1-1/2" X 31"	
2	End Blocks	Good Hardwood	1-3/4" X 2" X 12"	Can be made by stacking thinner pieces
1	Peghead	Good Hardwood	1-1/8" X 3" X 24"	Stack pieces as shown on drawing
2	Sides	Good Hardwood	3/4" X 2-1/2" X 35"	Need to be sliced to thin layers and bent while gluing 2 layers
1	Braces	Softwood	3/8" X 3/4" X 13"	Cut to make two different lengths
1	Bridge	Good Hardwood	1/4" X 1/4" X 1-1/2"	
3	Spacers	Plywood scrap	1/4" X 2-1/2" X 24"	Cut to make three different lengths