

SHEPHERD HARP BLUEPRINT GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Shepherd Harp is a straightforward woodworking project to build from scratch. You will need a few power tools, including table saw, band saw, belt sander, and drill press, in addition to standard hand tools. The front panel (soundboard) of this harp should be cut from plywood because it has a large hole through it at the bottom (for the pillar) that can cause cracking if you use solid wood. Most plywoods we've tested fail under the string tension, but the one laminate we've found successful for the front panel is 3 mm thick "Aircraft Birch", made of 6 micro layers of hard birch (.5 mm per layer). This product is virtually indestructible and produces great sound! It comes from Finland and is difficult to find locally except in small pieces at hobby shops (for model airplane builders). If you cannot source a large enough piece locally, we offer it on our web site (search "Aircraft Birch"). We also offer 5/32" thick custom-made plywood for the back panel with either cherry or walnut face veneer (search "small back"). The rest of the instrument can be made from solid hardwood such as cherry, maple, walnut, or mahogany (but not Lauan).

BILL OF MATERIALS (WOOD)

QTY	PART	TYPE OF WOOD	ROUGH SIZE	NOTES
1	Soundboard	Aircraft Birch Ply	1/8" X 11-1/4" X 19-1/2"	6-ply, 3mm total thickness
1	Back	Any Plywood	1/8" or 5/32" X 11-3/8" X 29"	To match your hardwood
2	Sides	Good Hardwood	3/4" X 4-1/8" X 29-1/4"	cherry, walnut, maple, etc.
1	Curved Neck	Good Hardwood	1-1/2" X 7" X 19"	stronger if made with two layers of 3/4" stock
1	Pillar	Good Hardwood	1-1/2" X 4" X 31"	to match neck
1	Shoulder	Good Hardwood	2" X 2" X 4"	stack 3 pieces, 3/4" thick
1	Bottom	Good Hardwood	3/4" X 4-1/2" X 10-3/8"	
1	Base (Optional)	Good Hardwood	3/4" X 7-3/4" X 12-1/2"	adds stability for display
1	Outer Center Strip	Good Hardwood	1/8" X 1/2" X 25-1/4"	
1	Oval Overlay	Good Hardwood	1/4" X 1-1/2" X 4-3/4"	
1	Dowel for Shoulder	Good Hardwood	1" dia, 4" long	
1	Dowel for Neck/Pillar joint	Good Hardwood	1/2" dia, 1-1/2" long	