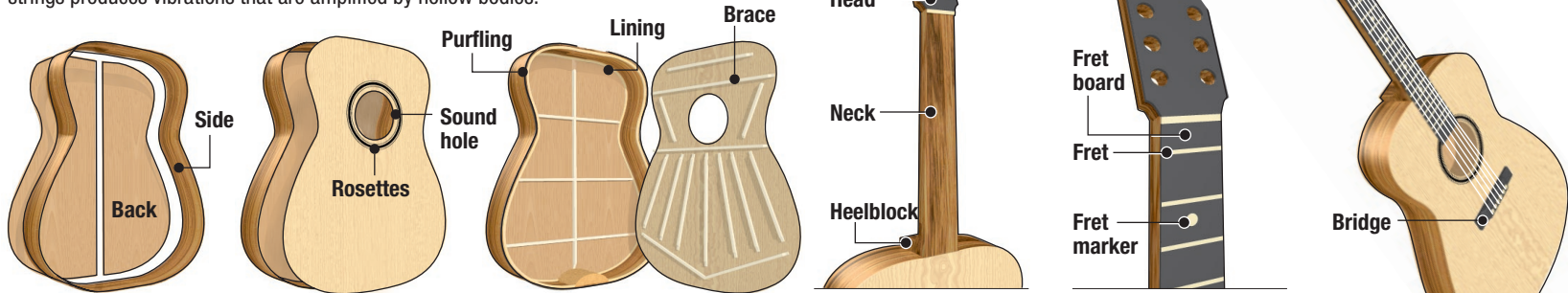


THE MAKING OF A GUITAR

The art of building guitars is called luthiery. Guitar makers, or luthiers, build one of the most easily recognized instruments in the world. Here is how an acoustic guitar is put together:

➤ Acoustic guitars have hollow bodies and six or 12 strings. Plucking or strumming the strings produces vibrations that are amplified by hollow bodies.



➤ Body

The guitar's back is made from two identical thin pieces of wood that are glued together. Its side is made from a thin piece of wood that is bent over a hot pipe to form the curved shape.

➤ Top

The top is made from a template of the back. It is a symmetrical version of the back but with a sound hole cut into it. Rosettes are added around the sound hole. They add a decorative touch to the top of the guitar.

➤ Bracing, lining and purfling

Braces are glued to the top and back to add strength. Lining attaches the sides to the top and back. Purfling is alternating strips of wood that are shaped to the contour of the guitar.

➤ Neck and head

The neck and head are made from a single piece of wood that is sawed apart at an angle and glued back together. The heel block attaches the neck-head connection to the guitar body.

➤ Fret board

Fret slots are sawed into a separate fret board that is glued onto the neck. The frets and fret markers are then hammered into the fret board.

➤ Finishing

The guitar is sanded and varnished. Tuners are inserted into the tuner holes. The bridge is glued to the body, and the guitar is strung and tuned.