STUDENT HANDOUT · SESSION 2

Join & thickness the plates

Goal: prepare stable, accurately thicknessed top and back plates, then transfer the body outline and brace references.

Class: 1.5 hr | Home: about 1.5 hr | Buddy work



A clear template keeps brace layout square to the centerline.

BEFORE THE DEMO

- [ ] Mark bookmatch faces, center joints, outside faces, and builder name.
- [ ] Confirm grain direction and inspect for cracks, runout, or severe warp.
- [ ] Record starting thicknesses on the build specification sheet.

WORK SEQUENCE

1. **Joint the plates.** Shoot the mating edges straight and square. Dry clamp; no light should show through the seam.
2. **Glue top and back.** Keep weight near, not directly on, the seam so air reaches both faces. Follow the instructor's clamp-release time.
3. **Thickness and flatten.** Work evenly and measure often. Use the instructor's final target for the actual wood set.
4. **Transfer the body outline.** Mark the centerline and cut roughly 1/4 in (6.4 mm) outside the plan outline.

STOP & ASK

Before gluing either center seam and before final thicknessing.

PLAN STARTING RANGES

Final values depend on species, stiffness, and instructor approval.

Spruce top	.080-.090 in 2.03-2.29 mm
Koa/mahogany top	.065-.075 in 1.65-1.91 mm
Back	.080-.090 in 2.03-2.29 mm

HOMEWORK

- Complete approved hand sanding only.
- Label every plate; update dimensions.
- Preview bracing locations on the full-size plan.

RECORD

Final top and back thicknesses; wood species; plate-joining adhesive; any crack repair.