STUDENT HANDOUT · SESSION 7

Close the body

Goal: fit the braces into the rim, complete the interior, and glue the back and soundboard without losing alignment.

Class: 3 hr | Home: about 2 hr | Two irreversible glue-ups



Even perimeter pressure during a body glue-up.

WORK SEQUENCE

1. **Dry fit the back.** Center it on the rim and mark brace locations. Cut lining pockets two at a time so errors do not multiply.
2. **Fit every brace end.** The plate must contact the rim and linings without rocking or being forced down.
3. **Glue the back.** Follow the demonstrated clamping pattern. Confirm centerline and overhang before the adhesive grabs.
4. **Finish the interior.** Clean glue, add approved side reinforcements, apply the maker's label, and use interior shellac only if included in the class plan.
5. **Dry fit the soundboard.** Mark and cut top-brace pockets in the linings. Recheck centerline and full perimeter contact.
6. **Glue the soundboard.** Bring pressure up evenly; inspect the seam all the way around.
7. **Trim flush.** After full cure, use the demonstrated downcut bearing-bit setup or approved hand-tool method. Sand sides evenly to 180 grit.

STOP & ASK

Before cutting each pair of brace pockets, before both glue-ups, and before routing either plate flush.

PRE-GLUE CALLOUT

- [ ] Centerlines agree at neck and tail.
- [ ] Plate rests without spring pressure.
- [ ] No brace end holds the plate above the lining.
- [ ] Label faces the soundhole and is signed.
- [ ] Clamps/cauls are laid out in order.
- [ ] Dry run completed with a buddy watching.

HOMEWORK

- After instructor approval, hand-sand routed edges and sides.
- Do not round the neck-joint area or plate edges.
- Inspect seams under raking light; mark gaps rather than filling them alone.
- Update label, reinforcement, and glue-up notes.

OPTIONAL MEASUREMENT

If the instructor's test rig and build sequence allow, record deflection or tap data as an observation. No tenor-uke pass/fail target is assumed.