



Hello and thank you for your interest in these videos! Please be sure to read this entire document so you can fully understand exactly what is included on the disc before you actually decide to make this purchase. This document is formatted in the way of frequently asked questions or FAQ, and it will hopefully answer all of your questions on this video series. If something here is not answered, please do not hesitate to send me an email and ask: cyborgcnc@gmail.com. I will also welcome all your comments, good or bad, as well as ideas for improvements. Finally, I really would love to see models that you are creating with my methods and instructions, as well as guitars you have built! You can also find me on the CNCZONE (<http://www.cnczone.com>) and Luthiers forums (<http://www.luthiersforum.com>). Stop by and say hello!

Frequently Asked Questions

– What is the length of the video series?

There is over 6+ hours of video instruction on the archtop disk, and anywhere between 3-4 hours on the other disks. On average each disk has 8-10 lessons or so.

– What is the version of Solid Works used?

The version of solid Works used is 2011. You can use any previous version, as the commands which are shown in the videos are similar. **It should be noted, that if you create a model in a newer version of solid Works you cannot open this model in an earlier version of solid Works.** However, models created in earlier versions of solid Works can easily be opened in more recent versions. So for example, if you create a model in solid Works 2009, you can easily open this model in solid Works 2010. Again, the commands which are used in the videos are similar to many versions of solid Works. In fact, you could probably build this guitar even if you had a version as early as 2007. So Solidworks is FORWARDS compatible, but NOT BACKWARDS compatible.

– Is there any previous experience required for Solid Works?

There is no previous knowledge required for solid Works. If you are completely new to the software, I would recommend that you watch the training videos that come with the software (go to help, tutorials). There are some very good introductory videos that come with the software, including one called "building your first part."

-I have another CAD software (Rhino, BobCAD, Autocad, 3DSMax, Modo...insert your own here), will this work for these?

-The methods which I show on these videos are very SPECIFIC to Solidworks. Are there similarities between Solidworks and other software packages? Yes, there are. However, you will probably not be able to adapt the methods I show here to any other package. So if you are purchasing this so that you can get some idea, and hope you can use it for what you have, do not send me a message telling me it does not work. Solidworks is referred to as a "parametric" modeler, as compared to a nurbs or spline modeler. You might want to do a google search to find out these differences. I have an engineering background, and the precision of Solidworks is what is natural to me, hence why I use the program.

– What are the requirements for playing these videos on my computer?

The only requirement is that you have a computer capable of running a web browser like Microsoft's Explorer or Mozilla Firefox or Chrome. The videos have been encoded with h.264 encoder, so the video file will play on practically anything. As you would see, the video menu is simply a local html file. So once you bring that up in a browser, you can easily navigate to each video, or if you want, you can simply point a video player to the .mp4 file and play that. Very simple really.

What exactly is shown on the videos?

The complete process of building an archtop acoustic guitar is shown in the video series. I show the process of building the top plate, and a bottom plate. I then show how to build the guitar sides, and I go through a video, on how to build the guitar neck. I also show a process of how the neck extension, typical to an archtop acoustic guitar can be very precisely fitted, to the top carved plate. Every possible detail is shown. Again, you can use the method shown to build any archtop instrument, in case you do not want to build an acoustic for example, and you wanted to build a Les Paul guitar. I also do not just show a typical command in solidworks, but I also explain why I use it, and how it can be used better! The videos on Neck and Guitar machining, show the process of toolpath creation in MasterCAM.

Yes, Mastercam can be quite expensive. I have an old version, but that is all I need to machine these guitars. Look around. Another path you can follow, is many of these vendors, including Solidworks, will offer a student version of their software for a FRACTION of the price. All you need is a student ID, or a relative that has one. You might also do a search for cheaper CAM packages. Again, a CAD software is for the design, and a CAM software is for machining. Again, a google search will allow you to find many of these, which are very reasonably priced.

-Is the machining of the Archtop guitar on the CNC machine shown?

The machining of the guitar on the CNC machine is not shown. My previous videos on how to use mastercam to machine a neck and a guitar body can be used for this. In essence, this video series focuses on how to use solidworks to completely model an archtop acoustic guitar. The process shown in my previous videos on how to machine a guitar can easily be used to also machine this model. This is a series on how to model an Archtop guitar. It is not a series on how to build and Archtop guitar!

– Is the model included on the disc?

Yes, the complete model along with the neck, the fret board, the bridge and all the other parts are included on the disc.

– What are the references used for this video series?

The references used for this video series to model the guitar, are taken directly from the blueprints of an archtop model. The reference material which I used is included on the disc. As I mentioned in the introductory video, it is recommended that someone who wants to build an archtop guitar, should go out and acquire the text which is shown in the introductory video, as well as a full set of plans which will aid in the final building of the instrument. I want to emphasize again, that this video series is about the modeling of a guitar, and not the complete building of the guitar! This is a guitar modeling course, NOT a guitar building course, especially one that focuses on archtops. Did I mention that you should really go and acquire the book shown in the Intro video, as well as a full set of plans?

– How will this Guitar sound?

That is a really good question! I am confident, that if you use the model, which is also included on the disc, and you simply put this guitar together, it will sound great. However, it is highly recommended that you purchase the text mentioned before. The art of tap tuning is something that must be fully mastered, before one can achieve greatness in building archtop instruments. Again, this is explained in the book recommended earlier. It should also be noted, that once the top plate is carved on the CNC machine, it will require bracing. It is the careful placement of this bracing, and then the careful tuning by the carving of the bracing, that will produce a great sounding instrument. A CNC machine, although quite capable of carving the top and bottom, leaves a lot to be desired when it comes to tap tuning :-). Maybe someday we will have a machine that tap tunes a guitar, then sands it, and then spray finishes it, so that no human would need to touch it! ☺

– After I purchase, can I download the videos?

Yes you can! In fact, this is the method I would recommend. If for some reason you MUST have a disk, send me an email. I will burn a disk for you and send it out, but I will need to charge for shipping.

– This instructional video is a very expensive, why?

There is over six hours' worth of video training on some of these discs. Following the instructions on the disc, you will not only be able to build a guitar, but you are in essence learning how to use SolidWorks and MasterCAM. Have a look around for similar training material, and see how much they cost. This video series will teach you how to become a very proficient surface modeler in SolidWorks. I have put quite a lot of effort into producing these, and I could easily be charging a lot more for them. I wish I could offer these for a cheaper price, but the effort involved in producing these keeps me from doing that.

– Why are you charging for shipping and handling?

Because the post office will not deliver for free. If this is an issue, use the direct download option and save the shipping!

– Are there any discounts available?

Please feel free to contact me, if you are interested in acquiring more than one video. If this is the first video that you want to purchase, and you are also interested in my machining videos or the more detailed neck modeling videos, please send me an e-mail and tell me which ones you like to purchase, and we can work out a discount structure depending on the number you want to buy.

– I have purchased your previous videos, is there a discount to purchase this one?

Thank you very much for your purchase of by previous videos. But as you can see from the description on this video, it is a completely new and different series, specifically focusing on how to model archtop instruments. This video is not a continuation of any previous videos and as such, this is new material and not material that can be considered as an add-on to previous instructions. Again, please send me an e-mail if you have further questions before you purchase.

– Will you ship internationally?

Yes, I will ship internationally. Depending on your location around the globe, it could take up to three weeks to receive the disk. It should also be noted, that there is an additional charge for international shipping. I use a postal priority package to ship around the world. This is the most economical and most efficient method that I have found. If you have a specific requirement and you like the package to be shipped via a faster or express method, again do not hesitate to contact me, before placing an order. Again, the DIRECT DOWNLOAD of the files after purchase is the easiest way to obtain this material.

– What if I get stuck and I have further questions?

Please send me an e-mail describing the problem. I usually respond within hours and I will try my best to help you through the given issue. I do not offer private instruction. If you are in need of this, let me know, and maybe we can work out an hourly rate.

-Can I send you some wood, so you can build a Guitar for me?

I know you are thinking that this is a silly question, but you would be amazed at how many people have asked me. The answer is no. I hardly have enough time to cut my own guitars, let alone cut one for others. If this is what you want, Warmoth (warmoth.com) might be able to help you out.

-Can I have the plans for your CNC machine?

Those plans are not currently for sale. I am planning on putting up a lot more information on the process I used to build my CNC machine, and possibly offer these plans in the future. Stay tuned.

-What is the best CAD package to use for Guitars?

This is a VERY EASY question: Solidworks off course! 😊