



Monarch Kit Manual

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CA**
HurdyGurdyCrafters.com



visit us at
www.Hurdygurdycrafters.com

Mel & Ann Dorries
4043 Snook Rd.
Metamora, MI. 48455
Ph. 810-797-5407
e-mail at
mel@hurdygurdycrafters.com

Welcome to our wood shop and our passion for fine instruments. We trust you will enjoy your building experience. When we build a hurdy-gurdy here at Hurdy-Gurdy Crafters many things are done behind the scenes to build a long lasting, well made instrument. Each builder needs to look at all aspects of the building process for a success final product. Here are some insights that will help you do what we do to make a quality instrument.

Use quality woods and parts: The final product can be even greater than “the sum of the parts” if you begin with quality wood and parts, but if you start with poor wood and poor parts the end result is most likely to be poor even with the best assembly methods. If we are going to invest up to 200 hours (as some suggest that it takes to make an instrument), let’s insure success by using high quality materials to begin with. This is especially important in the area of shaft, wheel, bearings, and properly acclimated wood. Our goal is to offer quality woods and parts here at Hurdy-Gurdy Crafters. If we don’t live up to your expectations, please tell us so we can fix it. We constantly evaluate our products in light of new materials and methods and we invite you to be a part of this.

Room temperature and humidity: We maintain the temperature between 64-80 degrees F and the humidity between 40-50%.

Wood acclimation: Wood is stored in a temperature and humidity controlled environment before use for many months and sometimes years. When you get your kit bring it up to room temperature before opening the box and if possible put it into a controlled environment. Wood is moisture tested before use to assure limited shrinkage so that cracking does not occur when the instrument is taken to a less humid environment. We do this especially with thick woods that are relatively new to our shop. We have had a piece of very dense Brown Ebony that we have been acclimating for 3 years and it is finally usable for instrument building. Had we used it earlier, it would have cracked badly or distorted what it was glued to as it continued to shrink and dry on an instrument.

Tools: We sharpen and test our tools before use in the building process. This way we eliminate problems when that critical cut on very expensive wood is made. In other words do all you can to insure success the first time, rather than spending your time trying to repair a mistake.

These manual instructions are in the order we recommend doing them. Experienced builders may vary the steps for their own reasons. The delight of building from a Hurdy-Gurdy Crafters kit is that you can build your instrument according to your desires with quality parts and have back up when needed. Feel free to contact us with any comments or questions. We can be reached at Mel@[hurdygurdycrafters.com](mailto:mel@hurdygurdycrafters.com) or by phone at 810-797-5407, between 7 am and 8:30 pm EST. We look forward to partnering with you in your adventure.

The following manual contains instructions and pictures. The best results will be obtained by first reading it through. Our goal is to offer the best kit and most user friendly instructions available. Some things are just our personal preference such as glue choices, drilling and sanding techniques, and even the order in which we do the building. After wrestling with the key chest lid while trying to install the tangents, we decided that the lid could just as easily go in after the tangents were installed. We usually put the lacquer finish on the body, key chest, and other small parts at different times and then assemble the finished parts but this does mean that the lacquered surfaces that need to be glued must be scrapped clean before gluing! Think ahead visualize the process and then make the decisions that are best for you and your shop.

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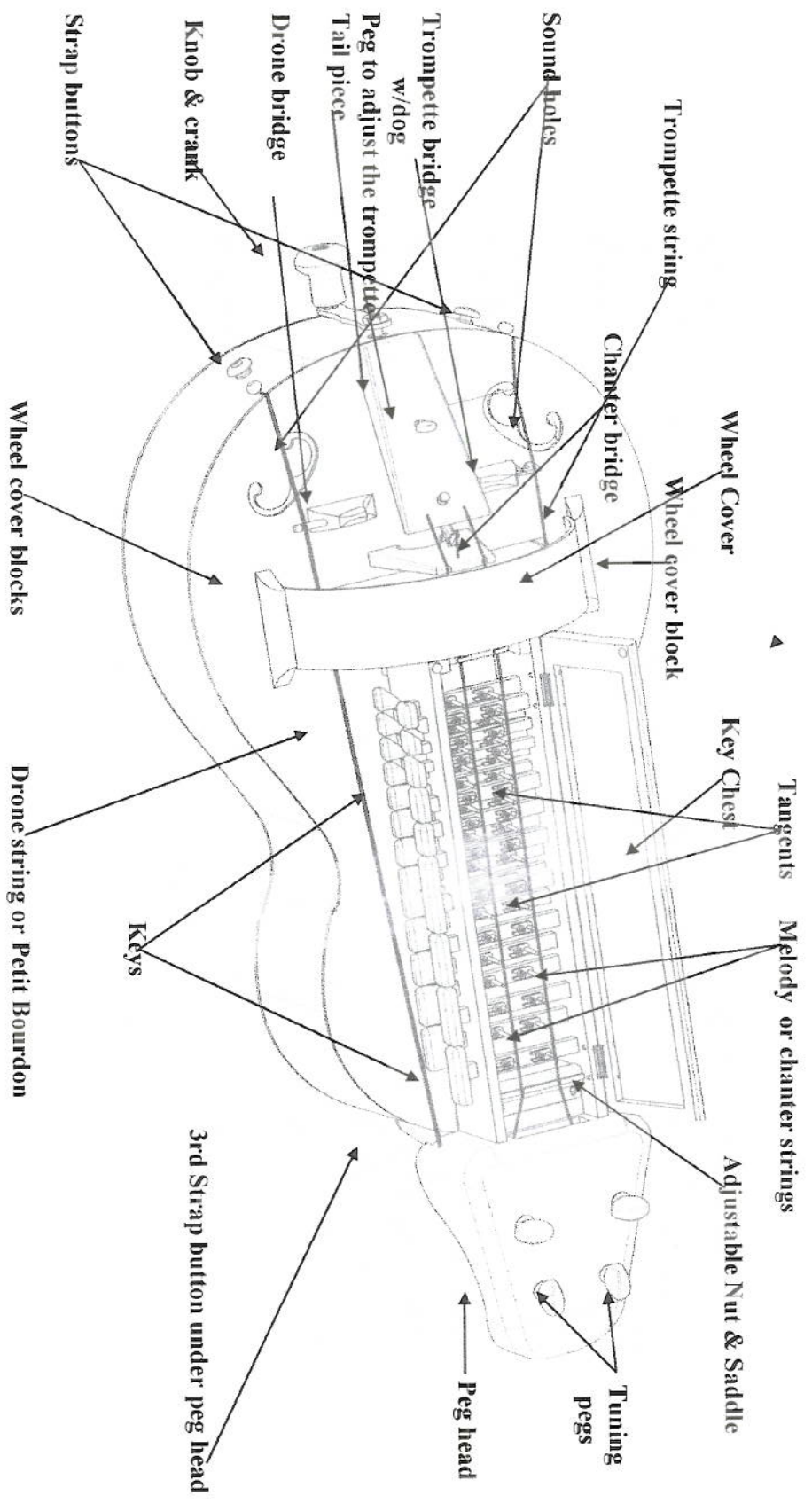
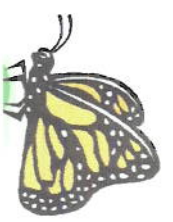
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4 string Monarch Hurdy-gurdy





6 string Monarch Hurdy-gurdy

