

I have purposely never included a tool list with my courses because I didn't want folks to feel they had to purchase the tools I use in order to build their instrument. There are also so many ways of doing things that perhaps all of the tools I use are not necessary for you when building. I ask that you watch my videos from beginning to end before purchasing anything. This way you can see what I actually use and how I use it. You will also see what tools you may already have, what tools or jigs you could possibly make and finally, what you may actually need to buy. I think you will save a lot of time and money this way and avoid purchasing things you didn't even need in the first place.

I get my tools from several sources including Amazon, LMI and Stew Mac. Here is the link to a tool list I have set up on the Lutherie Academy Amazon Store Page. It is a great starting point to most everything used in my shop and most items below can be found on the list, unless noted otherwise.

→ <https://www.amazon.com/shop/obrienguitars>

I get a commission from these sales and it helps keep the lights on at the Lutherie Academy/O'Brien Guitars and also helps me continue putting out great content.

The tools I get from LMI can be found at www.lmii.com and the tools I get from Stew Mac are available at stewmac.sjv.io/Ea65Wn.

This list is quite extensive and includes everything I use in my shop when building a guitar in six days with my students. Feel free to use it as a starting point when making your own list.

Happy Building!

The materials I use in the 6 Day Classical Guitar Building Course come from [Luthiers Mercantile International](#) and can be purchased as item KLCRO. It is called a kit but the only things pre-done are the rosette, the binding and purflings and the kerfing. Basically it is just a box of raw lumber and you still will have to do everything while making the guitar except the items I listed above. There is still plenty of fun to be had and my 6 Day Acoustic Guitar Building Course will guide you every step of the way.

Materials

- Item KLCRO from www.lmii.com
- AAA grade Indian Rosewood back and sides
- AAA grade Englemann spruce soundboard
- Spruce and mahogany or cedar bracewood
- Spanish cedar neck blank
- Rosewood bindings with maple purfling line
- Black/white purflings (top)
- Maple purfling (back)
- Ebony fretboard,
- Rosewood bridge and peghead veneer
- Fretwire
- Bone nut and saddle blanks
- Gotoh Tuners
- LMI Instrument makers glue
- Binding tape
- O'Brien Classical guitar plan - PL79



Power tools

- Drill press
- Band saw
- 6 inch joiner
- Homemade and commercially made thickness sanders – optional
- Miter saw
- Small table saw
- Disc sander
- Vacuum pump
- Cordless drill
- Router table with router
- Laminate trimmer with ¼ inch spiral bit, flush trim bit
- LMI Binding cutting jig and bit
- Spindle sander

Hand tools

- 12 inch stainless ruler in inches and metric
- Digital protractor
- plastic drafting square (triangle)
- Pencil
- Machinist square
- Block plane
- Lie Nielson – No. 4 smoothing plane
- C – clamps
- Wooden cam clamps
- Card scraper
- LMI precision sanding bar
- Small plane (example: Ibex finger plane)
- Lie Nielson - violin makers plane
- Hand saw (dozuki saw)
- ¼ inch chisel
- 1 inch chisel
- French curve
- 2mm chisel
- Utility knife blade
- Knife file
- Veritas Spokeshave
- Lie Nielson Low angle jack plane
- Microplane (round)
- Dragon tail rasps (Stew Mac) or Nicholson rasps (no. 49 and 50)
- Dead blow hammer
- Fret nippers
- Precision triangle for checking fret level – LMI and Stew Mac
- Nicholson Course flat file
- Hand held fret saw with depth stop
- Triangular file – beveling fret slots
- Precision triangle for checking for fret level
- Fret end file
- Fret slotting blade
- Sliding square
- Sliding bevel
- Burnisher
- Contour gauge



- 2mm drill bit
- Thickness calipers

Jigs/Templates

- Peghead template – made from the plans
- Solera/workboard – Made from a ¾ inch piece of MDF
- Classical building form – Made from the plans
- Homemade bender or LMI Side bending jig with blankets, temp controller bending form etc.
- Shooting board
- LMI plate joining jig
- Peghead drilling and slotting jig from LMI or other suppliers
- 15 ft radius dish with sandpaper
- O'Brien Classical Guitar acrylic template – LMI
- LMI 650mm Laser template and fret slotting blade
- Radius dishes – 15ft.
- LMI(or other brand) circle cutter with Dremel rotary tool
- Go bar deck with 30 - 3/16 by 24 inch fiberglass rods
- Peghead template shape – make your own
- LMI manual circle cutter – for soundhole cutout
- LMI Vacuum bridge clamp

Other tools and supplies

- O'Brien Classical Guitar Plans - LMI
- Safe T Planer – Stew Mac
- Thickness calipers from LMI or Stew Mac
- .7mm colored pencil
- 6 inch/MM ruler
- Digital protractor
- Marking gauge
- 24 inch/MM ruler
- Bench vise
- Drill bit stock for cutting out peghead
- ¼ inch spiral bit
- drill bit for drilling tuner holes
- thin kerf circular saw blade (approx. 2mm kerf)
- Spray bottle with water
- Sandpaper – 80 – 320 grit
- Sticky back sandpaper
- LMI Instrument makers glue
- 3/16 inch drill bit
- Shellac – LMI shellac3
- 24in sanding bar
- Sandpaper – 80 – 320 grit
- Sticky back sandpaper
- Square
- 12 – small c clamps
- Small spring clamps – approx. 80
- 1/16th drill bit
- 1/4 inch spiral downcut bit
- 3/16 drill bit
- Marking gauge
- Pencil
- Long precision straightedge



- 36 inch or 1 meter ruler
- 3 - 18 gauge finish nails
- Sharpening stones – diamond and water
- Plastic drafting square
- Shellac, olive oil and 1000 or 1200 grit paper
- Double sided tape
- 30 ft. convex radius dish
- String spacing ruler – Stew Mac
- Small exacto saw
- Nut files
- LMI string height gauge

