

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](http://www.lmii.com) and the tools I get from Stew Mac are available at [stewmac.sjv.io/Ea65Wn](http://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 Acoustic Guitar Building Course come from [Luthiers Mercantile International](#) and can be purchased as item KLSRO. 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 KLSRO from [www.lmii.com](http://www.lmii.com)
- AAA grade Indian Rosewood back and side
- AAA grade Sitka spruce soundboard
- Spruce and mahogany bracewood
- Mahogany neck blank
- Flame maple bindings and end wedge material
- Ebony fretboard, bridge and peghead veneer
- Mother of pearl fret markers
- Bone nut and saddle blanks
- Ebony bridge pins
- Gotoh Tuners
- OM plan – PL34

## Power tools

- Drill press
- Band saw
- 6 inch joiner
- Safety planer
- Disc sander



- Small table saw
- Homemade and commercially made thickness sanders - optional
- Vacuum pump
- Cordless drill
- Miter saw
- Router table with router
- Laminate trimmer with ¼ inch spiral bit, flush trim bit
- Plunge router

## Hand tools

- LN Low angle jack plane
- Block plane
- LN – No. 4 smoothing plane
- ¼ inch chisel
- 1 inch chisel
- Card scraper
- Spokeshave
- Hand saw (dozuki saw)
- Course flat file
- LN violin makers plane
- Utility knife blade
- Sliding square
- Sliding bevel
- Burnisher
- Contour gauge
- Microplane (round)
- Thickness calipers
- Dragon tail rasps or Nicholson rasps
- Dead blow hammer
- Fret nippers
- Hand held fret saw with depth stop

## Jigs/Templates

- OM form
- LMI Side bending jig with blankets, temp controller bending form etc.
- Shooting board
- LMI plate joining jig
- OM acrylic template – LMI
- LMI Laser template and fret slotting blade
- Radius dishes – 30ft and 15ft.
- LMI 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
- O'Brien Neck Angle Jig
- LMI Vacuum bridge clamp
- O'Brien Bridge slotting jig – You can make this

## Other tools and supplies

- 24 inch/MM ruler
- .7mm colored pencil
- 6 inch/MM ruler



- Bench vise
- Shellac – LMI shellac3
- Spray bottle with water
- 24in sanding bar
- Sandpaper – 80 – 320 grit
- Sticky back sandpaper
- LMI Instrument makers glue
- Digital protractor
- Square
- 12 – small c clamps
- Small spring clamps – approx. 80
- 1/16th drill bit
- ¼ inch drill bit
- 2mm drill bit
- 1/16 inch spiral downcut bit
- ½ inch straight cut bit
- 3/16 drill bit
- Glue injector
- Marking gauge
- ¼ router straight cut bit for truss rod slot
- Fret nippers (also for cutting off bindings)
- 10mm drill bit
- Pencil
- 5/8 inch OD guide bushing
- Long straightedge
- 3 - 18 gauge finish nails
- Sharpening stones – diamond and water
- 16 inch Radius block
- Triangular file – beveling fret slots
- Precision triangle for checking for fret level
- Fret end file
- Plastic drafting square
- Shellac, olive oil and 1000 or 1200 grit paper
- Double sided tape
- Drill press sanding spindle with bearing
- 30 ft. convex radius dish
- String spacing ruler
- Small exacto saw
- Nut files
- 3 degree bridge pin reamer
- Small saw for cutting string slot in bridge pin holes
- Radius gauge
- Tuner wrench
- LMI string height gauge

