



# Templates and Molds

*Plantilla*  
*Transparent Template*  
*Side Mold*  
*Lining Mold*  
*The Solera*  
*Headpiece Template*  
*and Drilling Jig*  
*Back Workboard*

AS WITH ANY CHALLENGING WOODWORKING PROJECT, MUCH PREP WORK IS NECESSARY BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN TO BUILD A GUITAR. There are a number of work boards, molds, and templates required, and the accuracy of the final product is a direct result of the accuracy of the fixtures, molds, and templates used in its construction. With this in mind, these things should be approached as projects in themselves, taking time to make them properly, and if you decide to make another guitar you will already have everything necessary to do the job.

Every guitar builder uses some combination or another of these things in their work. And there are probably as many different types of fixtures and molds as there are builders. None are right and none are wrong—they are just different. We all eventually end up working the way we feel most comfortable. The techniques used to make the fixtures, molds, and templates in this book have proven reliable over time, but you shouldn't feel compelled to do everything exactly as presented here. Use whatever means are most comfortable to you that yield the best results. There are many ways to build an instrument, so don't be afraid to incorporate some method seen elsewhere that appeals to you. Let the results be the judge.

All the work boards and molds have been made of medium-density fiberboard (MDF), because it is relatively inexpensive and easy to shape. This material is sold in 4-foot × 8-foot sheets at any local building supply store. Most building supply stores will cut the material down for you, which will make it easier to transport and handle once you get it in your shop. Approximately two sheets of ¾-inch and a half sheet of ½-inch MDF will be necessary to make all the workboards and molds required in this book.

The templates are made of thin plywood, clear acrylic, or Plexiglas. I prefer a clear material on any template where it is important to see the grain of the wood through the pattern for grain orientation. These are very stable materials that will not change dimension with