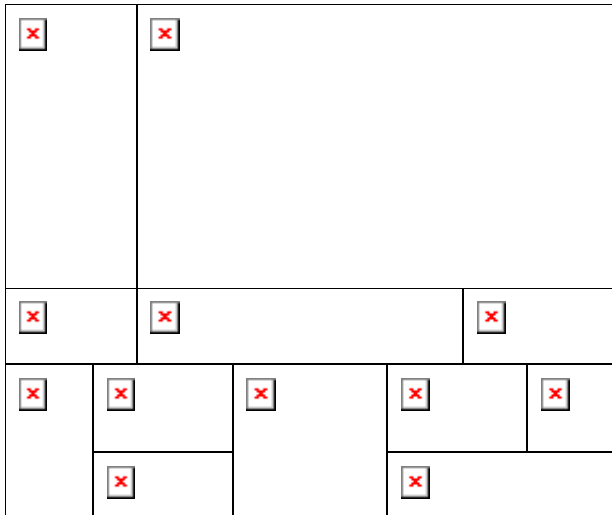


## What's New

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### TommyHawk Travel Guitar

Source: The New York Times Date: 06/27/99

...Other instrument makers, like Tom Barth of Succasunna in Morris County, Have set up shop out of storefronts giving music lessons and selling, their instruments to walk-in customers. Mr. Barth, a 47 year-old former rock guitarist who grew up in nearby Dover, specializes in a travel-size acoustic guitar called the TommyHawk, a six-string miniature about the size of a violin that he designed and that he makes, in part in the back of his store, the Music Box.

The TommyHawk, which Mr. Barth refers to as a laptop guitar, was once displayed at the Smithsonian Institution. Today a model costs from \$395 to \$1,000. "I need to be an instructor because I love it," Mr. Barth, TommyHawk in hand, said in an interview in his store. "I learned to play from sitting next to the needle on the record player and figuring out everything that was going on with that guitar player. And now I want to pass on everything I know."

Mr. Barth also makes an electric guitar - called the Barth Vader - and regular-sized acoustic instruments, but he says he concentrates on the smaller TommyHawk because they are special.

While TommyHawks are not typically used in performances because of their diminutive size, they serve as portable toys for music fanatics. He said he has sold them to such musicians as Allan Woody of the Allman Brothers Band and Tony Mattola, Frank Sinatra's former guitarist.

Mr. Barth said he came up with the idea for the TommyHawk when he was stuck in traffic. He said he thought to himself, "If I only had a guitar under my seat, I could take it out and play along with the music on the radio." He added: "To survive in this business you have to always be thinking - what do people need? As long as you're prepared to grow and are willing to walk away from the artistic end of it, you can make it work."

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