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## **Tremblett Archtops**

Tremblett Archtops is a company focused on handcrafted, solid wood, archtop guitar building. Mark and Darlene Tremblett have a combined experience of more than 8 years in the guitar manufacturing industry, and they bring their knowledge and creative perspective to the process. Tremblett Archtops is dedicated to offering a variety of affordable guitars targeted for everyone from the hobbyist to the professional artist. Each Tremblett Archtop is customisable for you. Tremblett Archtops offers solid wood archtop guitars comparable to laminated wood prices. Some of the options for your Tremblett Archtop can include your choice of rosewood, maple or ebony fingerboards and tailpieces, gold or chrome hardware, and electronic pickup model upgrades.

The carefully chosen details involved in archtop building, from scale length to wood selection, all affect the tone and quality of the instrument. As each of these details create different sound, cosmetic, and ergonomic qualities, Tremblett Archtops will cater to the your preferences and allow you to design the archtop you've always wanted.

## **History of the Archtop**

An acoustic guitar is defined as a guitar that is not dependent on any external amplification. There are many types of acoustic guitars, from the classical style with nylon strings, to the flat top guitar that has a narrower neck and is designed to have more structural strength.

The archtop (also called a jazz guitar) has a body that was designed by the Gibson Company based on a violin structure. This means that instead of having a flat piece of wood on the top and back of the instrument, these parts are carved with a curved shape to create a completely different sound. The bracing of an archtop can be adapted to create a brighter tone with greater projection, or positioned in such a way as to dictate both the thickness of the top and it's structural integrity. Manufacturers typically use two different kinds of wood for their guitars, laminated wood and solid wood. Laminated woods are inexpensive to use, but because of the nature of what essentially can be called plywood, the sound vibrations from the strings are restricted. This results in a weaker, muted sound. As a consequence, the tone and clarity that are sacrificed by these laminated bodies create a reputation for the solid wood bodies as a desirable luxury. Unlike flat top and classical guitars, the pick guard, electronics, and tailpiece are fixed to the guitar without resting on the top, therefore also adding to the advantage of uninterrupted sound vibrations. The archtop was originally designed in the Big Band era, when amplification was not yet an option, but it was necessary for the guitar's sound to be heard over an orchestra or brass section. The bell shape of the body allowed the sound to be acoustically amplified for this purpose, as opposed to the flat top acoustic previously used. Archtops became very popular with jazz musicians in the early 20th century because of their natural amplification, and soon country musicians picked up on the benefits of this type of guitar and it became a staple for them, as well. Today the popularity of archtop guitars is moving into the mainstream market. Not only are jazz and country musicians like Bucky Pizzarelli and Chet Atkins using them, but pop and rock artists like My Chemical Romance and Nickelback have all recently taken to using them in their videos and recordings.

## **About the Luthier: Mark Tremblett**

| At the age of 12, Mark picked up his first guitar and taught himself to play. He began repairing his own instruments, and then those of his fellow musicians he was still very young. After high school Mark finished his Computer Studies Degree and moved back home where he got a job at the local music store/electronics retailer to be around the instruments and music he loved so much. Mark's jobs included repairing electronics in both guitars (acoustic and electric) and other electronic instruments, adjusting guitar set-ups, restringing guitars, and troubleshooting end user problems. When the opportunity arose to work at Garrison Guitars, he jumped at the chance. But there his education had only just begun, as he eagerly worked in as many departments as he was able to, absorbing every step of the guitar building process. His main area of expertise became Final Assembly, where he learned the finer points of guitar assembly. He went from neck and body mating, to gluing the fingerboard and bridge in place. His reputation for being a hard worker with impeccable quality control grew. Mark also developed methods for fixing problems periodically caused by humidity and unpredictable circumstances. His knack for trouble shooting made him popular in the warranty returns department, where he could locate a problem and recommend the proper method of fixing it in almost no time.

Mark continued to grow with his playing outside of work as well. His new interest in jazz music had him looking everywhere for an affordable archtop guitar that wasn't made with laminated woods, or had cheap components. After finding himself unable to afford a seven-string archtop guitar he had been eyeing, Mark decided he could build one on his own for a much more reasonable price. He started working on building his own guitar, and as a consequence began developing his own workshop in his basement at home. Mark spent many hours researching tools and methods when he wasn't working on the guitar itself, using the same diligence he had so many years ago when teaching himself to play guitar. Mark soon became passionate about turning his love for music and guitar building along with all he had learned into his dream occupation. He put all of his energy into researching what turned out to be a very gratifying realisation of all of his talents, and so Tremblett Archtops was born.