

Guitar making at Dawson School

Day one reflections:

Why did I sign up for this workshop?

With my position at Evergreen Country Day, there aren't a tremendous amount of opportunities for professional development courses that really relate to what I do at school. I have enjoyed teaching wood shop, and this opportunity will help improve the structure of my classes. I love playing guitar, and this course has provided me with an opportunity to design and build an awesome, unique instrument, which is something that I've always wanted to do. It has also given me the opportunity to use some new tools that I have never used before, like a CNC machine and the computer program associated with it.

More reflections for day one:

I am not savvy with computers, but I can get by well most of the time. The introduction to the Autodesk Fusion program was fascinating though, and I am thrilled to use it.

Reflections for day two:

My lack of computer savvy created a bit of frustration for me on day two. The program is amazing, but navigating through a program like this is not something that I have a lot of experience in. Chris is great and both Jeff and Chris have a tremendous amount of patience when going through the steps in this program. I, however, always seemed to miss a step along the way and found myself falling behind and trying to catch up. The notes in the worksheet are very helpful and assisted me in that endeavor. All that said, I think a program like this might be a helpful tool when teaching my shop class. We make tensgrity tables and design them in a very old fashioned way; with graph paper and pencils and rulers, and I make my poor students use the Pythagorean theorem, which brings me joy. It would be cool to have them create a 3d model of their tables before building them.

I am very much looking forward to day three. This whole process has been fun so far and I'm excited to see the results.

Reflections for day 3:

The CNC machine is awesome. The final portion of the fusion program went way better for me than on day two. I was able to keep up a little better and the process made more sense to me. I would love to work with it more and actually become relatively proficient at the process. Watching the machine do its work was the coolest thing ever, even if it did burn my project a little bit. This guitar is really taking shape, and I am beyond excited to play with the finished product.

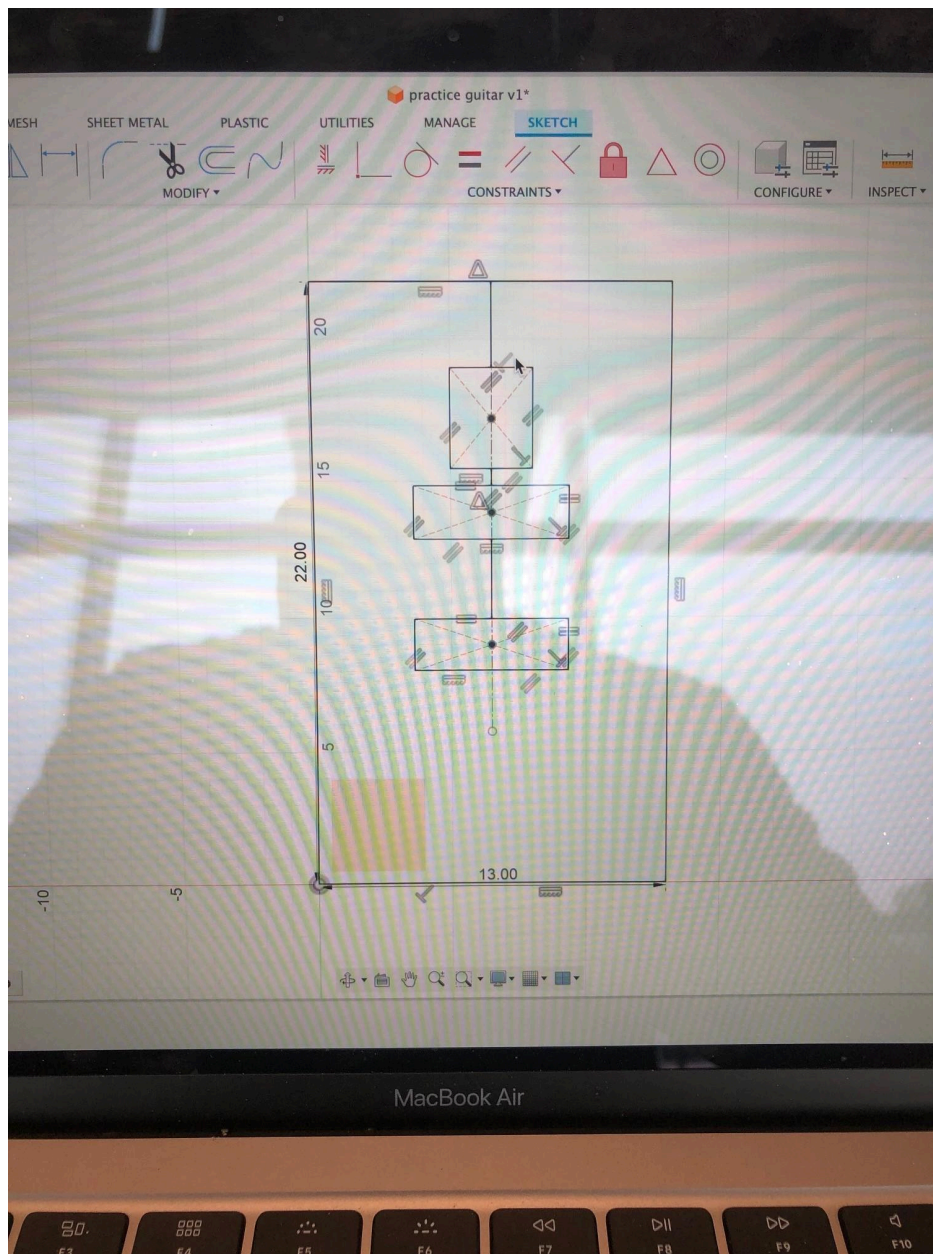
Day 4 reflections:

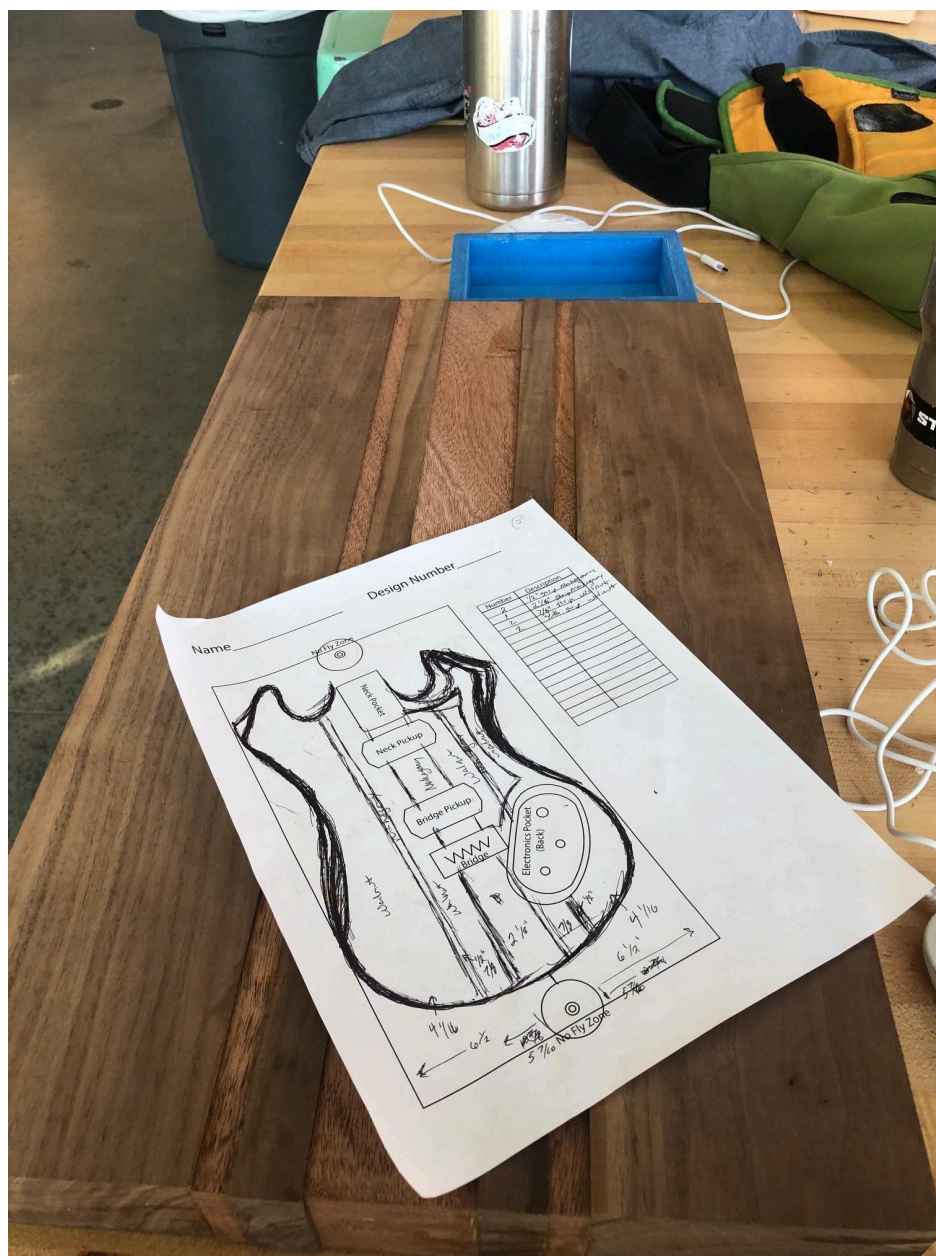
We're moving along quite well with this process. Soldering the components was interesting. The process is a bit tedious, but I've always been curious about the inner workings of a guitar so there's a certain fascinating aspect to the task. I'll do a little more today to finish and I feel like it'll be a little easier the second time around. I did get to use a laser cutter as well. It was a last minute addition to my project but I'm glad that I decided to do it; the lyrics look fantastic on the front of the guitar and it really pops. I'm looking forward to finishing this thing and making some loud music.













There is a road, no simple highway, between the dawn and the dark of night

And if you go, no one may follow, That path is for your steps alone.

