

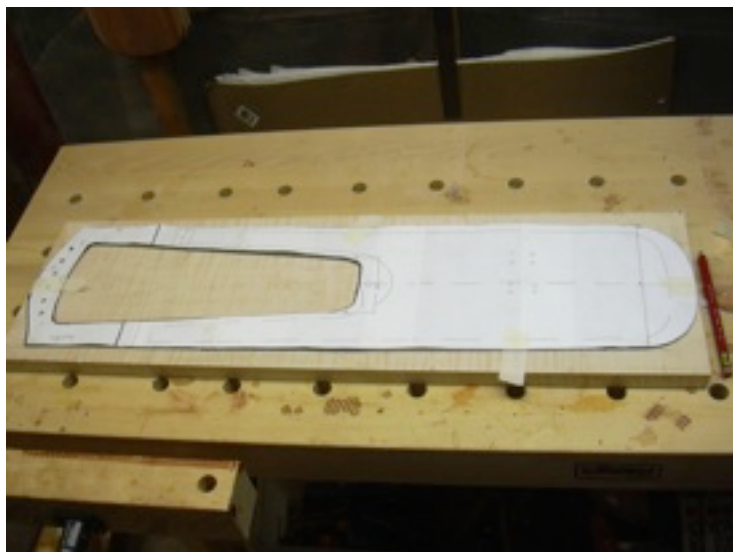
The Trossingen lyre

by Larry Miller
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I downloaded the plans, which had been made available by my fellow lyricists (??) on this website and made sure that I had printed them out to the correct scale. Then I acquired the wood. I got a piece of curly maple 5/8" thick for the body and a matching piece 1/4" for the soundboard. In the past I have made my lyres by taking two pieces 1/2" thick each, hollowing out the resonating chamber and then gluing them together. For this project, I decided to follow the more conventional structure. I got the wood for this from <http://www.curlymaplewood.com> who I highly recommend.



I took my printout of the plans and glued them to a piece of pasteboard to make a pattern template and traced out the design on the wood.



Drilling pilot holes, I used my hand jigsaw to cut out the opening.
I am staying with my usual plan to make the yoke of a piece with the arms and body,
to save the trouble of trying to attach a separate yoke.



Here's the body, ready to be hollowed out



Using the drill press, I carefully begin the hollowing out by drilling holes to the right depth, leaving about 1/8" thickness on the back side.



Here's the body ready to be routed and chisled.



I have removed the wood from the resonating chamber by routing, and the upper limbs by chiseling.



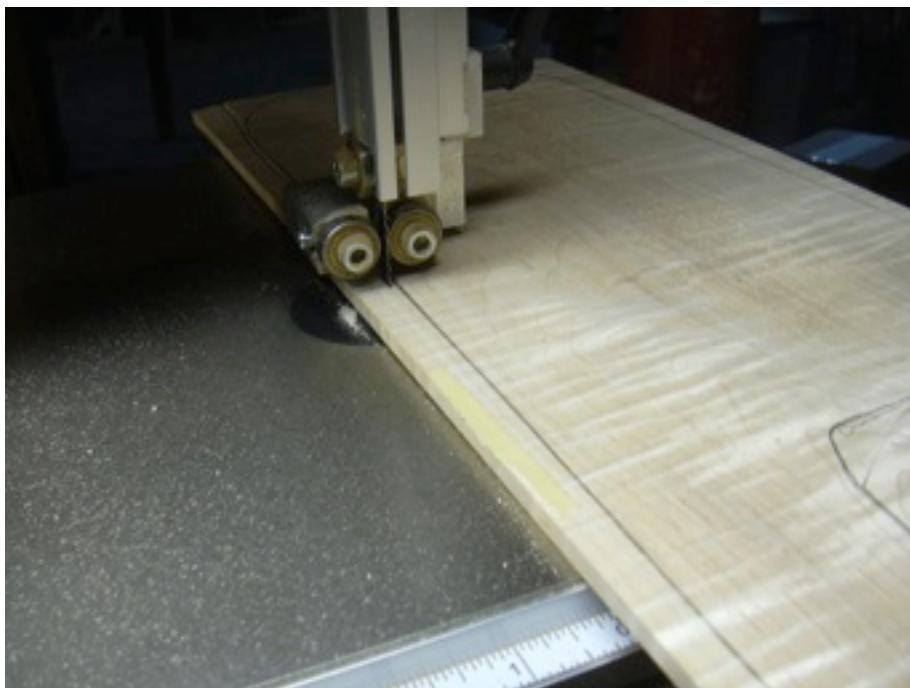
Here's the finished result of the hollowing out process.



I have traced the outline for the sound board onto the 1/4" piece.



Here I am cutting it out with the bandsaw.



All ready to glue. I have been using Titebond hide glue with good results,



Here we get a look at my amazing collection of clamps.



Because the piece for the sound board was shorter than I needed, I had to improvise the yoke, and added a bit of cherry to fill in the gap.



I do the rough sanding with a power sander, the tricky areas with a Dremel, then the finishing by hand.



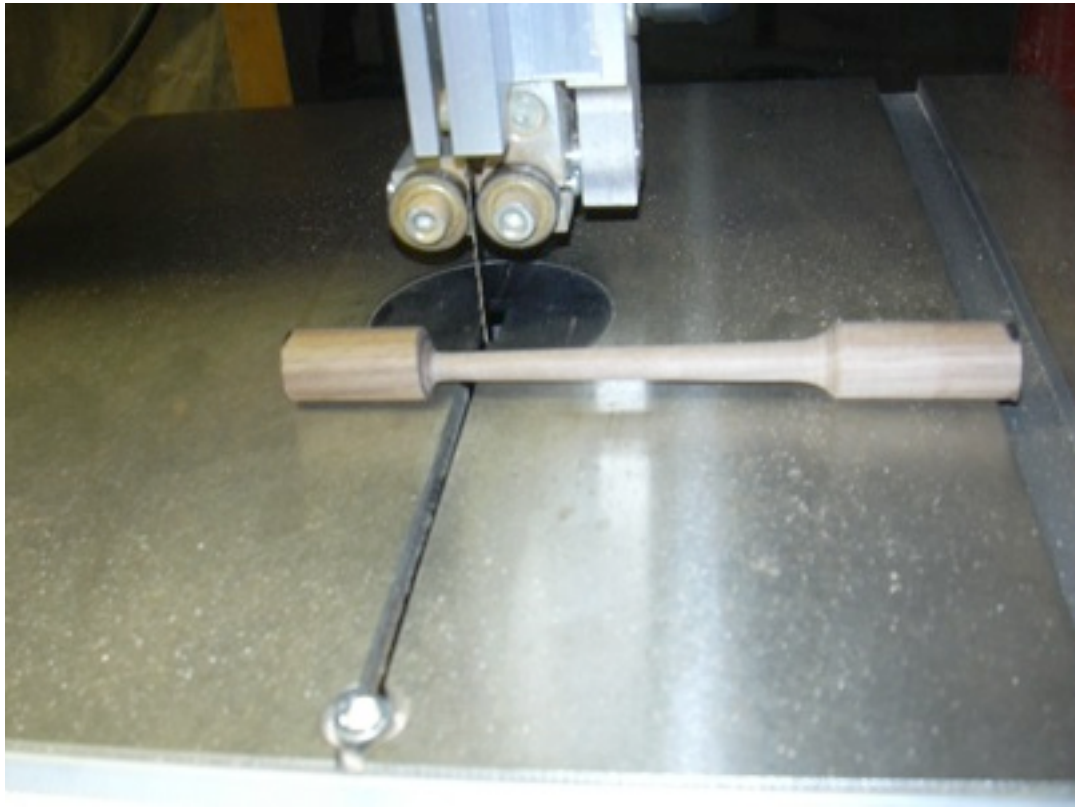
I used the belt sander to take the sound board down from 1/4" to as close to 1/8th as I can get it.



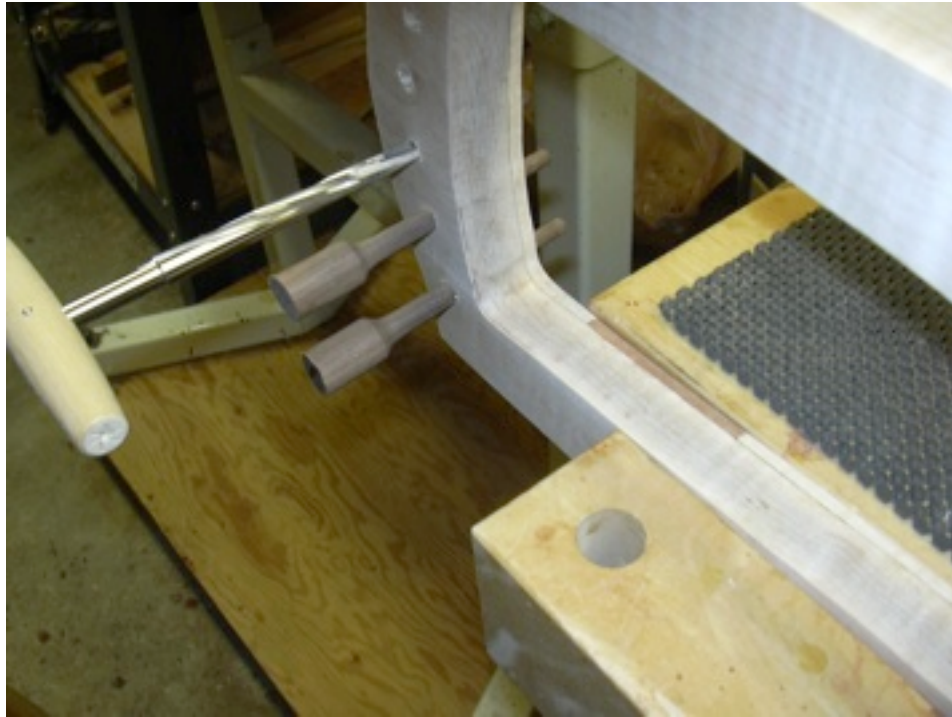
I make my tuning pegs on the Jet mini-lathe. I try to get the taper just right by making the holes on the yoke, opening them with the tapered #4 reamer, and then using calipers to shape the pegs to the correct amount of taper.



After trimming the pegs to the desired length, I flatten the key by trimming and then sanding with the belt sander.



I then set the pegs by using the tapered spiral reamer to further open the peg holes.
I prefer to have them come up through from the bottom side of the yoke,
with the strings attached above.



No matter how careful I am, each peg and hole is slightly different, so I make sure to
mark the peg number on the peg as I continue with the finishing process.



Having completed the sanding process, I apply a coat of Honey Maple stain, to bring out the grain of the figured maple. Wipe on, let set, wipe off, steel wool lightly and then a second coat. I then use several coats of Norwegian oil for the final finish.



Using a couple of templates from earlier lyre projects, I cut out the bridge and tailpiece from matching curly maple leftovers.



After the final shaping and sanding, I stain them to match.



To get a good fit, I make a tapered end pin on the lathe.



Ta-da! The finished lyre. I use nylgut strings, which in their latest version, more closely resemble real gut. The tuning I use is the a minor pentatonic a to a'

I get the strings for about \$24 a set from Boston Catlines
Olav Chris Henrikson **Boston Catlines**
34 Newbury Street Somerville, MA 02144 USA.
Tel/Fax: (617) 776-8688 catlines@aol.com



It should be noted that I have passed on trying to do the very complex decorative carvings found on the original. I know my limitations, although I may try some other decorative embellishments in the future.



For further information or inquiries
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