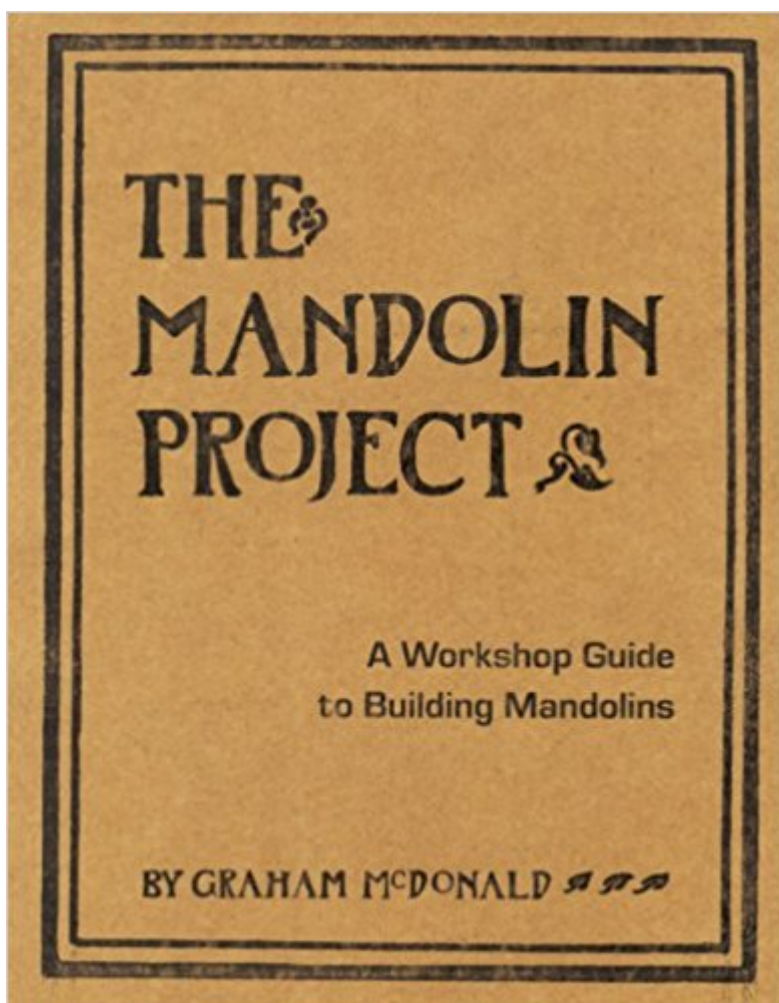


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# The Mandolin Project: A Workshop Guide To Building Mandolins



## Synopsis

Suited for first-time builders with limited woodworking skills as well as those looking for a challenge, this workshop manual features four mandolin projects that range from a simple flat top and back model to the more complex, fully carved "A" style mandolin. The accompanying narrative offers step-by-step instruction in a relaxed, conversational style that not only explains what and how something should be done but also why it's executed in that particular manner. A set of full-size, detailed plans pairs with photographs, diagrams, and illustrations to round out the instruction materials. The manual's informative introductory section featuring a comprehensive history of the mandolin, construction techniques through the ages, and color illustrations of rare instruments; some of which have never been previously published; enhances the appreciation of this ancient string instrument.

## Book Information

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#3627 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies

## Customer Reviews

"An attractive piece of work, well thought out, and clear in its instruction. It's obvious that McDonald is open-minded about the possibilities of the mandolin and what it might be made from, and the reader won't be beaten over the head about specific details 'because that's the way Orville did it!" #151; John Calkin, contributing editor, American Lutherie

Graham McDonald is a mandolin and bouzouki artisan and the author of The Bouzouki Book.

A little vague on some parts of the text. Not a "how to - follow along" for sure. Interesting supplement to other more chronologically precise construction manuals as it may fill in another's lacking text or unclear concepts.

This book is packed with information useful in building a mandolin. It has step by step instructions for 4 different kinds of mandolins, along with patterns. My favorite chapter so far is the first chapter, which is a history of the mandolin (and lute and guitar). There is a section on selecting woods, one on different ways to apply a finish. One section I liked showed how to carve a mandolin top quickly, using modern tools. If I didn't have access to another book, I think there is enough information in this one. More than many builders must have had historically. One thing it didn't have that I was hoping for was a section on tone tapping.

I didn't give this book 5 because I thought it needs more pictures in regards to some of the processes and also some of the jigs that it outlines. This made it a little unclear at times. I generally thought it was easy to read and I feel confident to be able to make the mandolins in the book. It comes with 4 plans which are great and the book is printed on nice paper. The section on the history of mandolins was inspiring and had some nice photos. The book left me feeling excited about making mandolins which is a good sign.

First off, please understand that this book is not for the construction of a bluegrass mandolin. There are complete plans for four mandolins, the fourth being a carved top A style mandolin. This book however does provide a complete construction overview for making the mandolins. The author has provided a lot of detail and plans are included. This book is very complete and the tone is friendly and informative. Overall, an excellent book and you can make the mandolins with the information provided.

This book is great, yes he does cover four instruments so you have to skip around a little bit for any one of them. I am working on my second carved A style, I love the first one so much!

Great information!

I purchased this book with the intention of making a carved top and back "A" style mandolin. I think

the information is definitely in this book, but, unfortunately, the organization is confusing. In an attempt at brevity, and to avoid repeating the same information four times for the four different instruments in this book, the author talks in general terms and uses pictures without labeling which instrument he is referring to. So, right off the bat, something as simple as constructing the outside mold confused me because it's not clear how it should be shaped. The plans don't immediately answer this either. Now, I should clarify: I'm sure that once I pour over this for a few days, I'll sort it out because, I'm sure this info is there. My reason for rating this a three is that I've been a professional woodworker for 20 years, and I'm pretty familiar with building from plans. These plans ought to be just obvious, but, again, I'm immediately unsure, and I'll have to dig around to figure out what the author means. I'm not a professional luthier, but I have built several archtop guitars, and I am a bit confused. I would think that someone who had never built an instrument would also be doing some head scratching. I purchased this book to save having to do a lot of brain work, but it looks like I will end up having to spend a fair amount of time trying to sort out what the author is trying to describe, which may just be more time consuming than just building from scratch, from my own plan.

a good book for beginning mando builder like me..

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