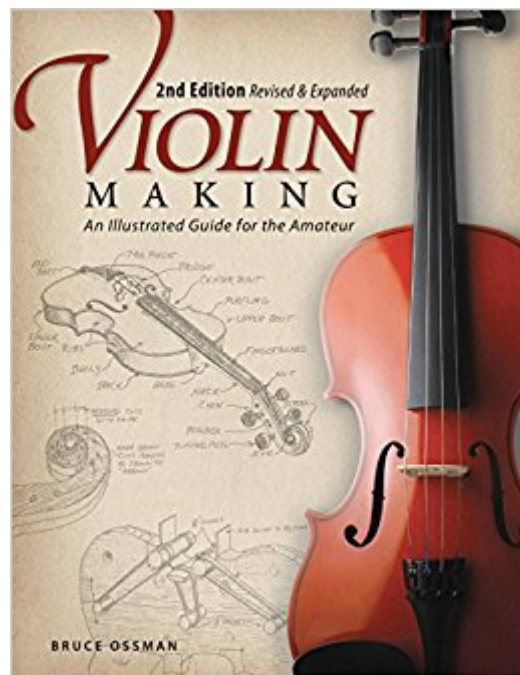




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# Violin Making, Second Edition Revised And Expanded: An Illustrated Guide For The Amateur



## Synopsis

Author and lifelong teacher Bruce Ossman uses his simple techniques and clear instruction to guide you through every single step of making a violin. With a complete list of tools, full-size patterns, detailed illustrations, and templates for every piece all included, you'll craft an instrument fit for an orchestra.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I suspect that the book that Bruce Ossman has written, is the book he wishes he had available to him when he first fell in love with the violin while a student at Penn State University in the 1950s. It wasn't long before he self-taught himself to make his first instrument. As the sub-title of the book indicates, this book is not intended for the serious luthier making concert level instruments.

Ossman's book is aimed at the average woodworker or motivated musician wishing to build a decent sounding, playable violin on his or her first attempt. The book begins with an overview of the entire 30-step building process utilizing many line drawings and sparse text. It's an excellent way to convey, to the novice builder, the violin in its deconstructed state and the logical sequence of steps necessary to pull it all together. This is followed by a gallery of color photos of the work of five makers, some amateurs and some professional. If one needs some inspiration before beginning a project, this section will provide it. The first chapter is devoted to the violin's anatomy and acoustics. Although there is enough literature on these topics alone to float a battleship, Ossman manages to cover the absolute bare-bone basics in just a few pages. The second chapter covers the materials

which go into a violin as well as some of the preparatory steps necessary to build an instrument, including the fashioning of some simple tools like spool clamps, the body form and carving table. However, the discussion of tone woods, which one would expect in almost any other book on violin making, is almost non-existent here. The author's focus is definitely on construction. The heart of the book is chapter three, where Ossman takes the builder through the nuts and bolts of building a violin. He relies on a great many line drawings and straightforward text. Being so brief, there is no room for an in-depth discussions of why he opted for one method, approach, or material over any number of other options available to him. For example, the matter of finish is a topic about which countless books, articles, and scientific papers have been written, but Ossman simply instructs the builder to apply several coats of varnish with a sanding between coats. That's it. Still, he knows that if the reader follows his instructions, the end result will be a decent instrument, first time out. The appendix includes templates and full-sized plans, some of which are printed over two facing pages with the binding down the middle, but with registration marks so that when photocopied at full-size, they can be taped together. There is no instrument which is more steeped in mythology and lore than the violin, where grown men and women swear that the best instruments are made by the light of the August Moon, using 100 year old German spruce, harvested from the leeward sides of mountains and finished with shellac using some approximation of Stradivarius's mysterious recipe. Serious luthiers like these can discuss ad nauseum the merits of absolutely any aspect of the violin from the shape of the f-holes, to the types of strings used, to the glues employed, to the placement of the sound-post, and more. This is a different kind of book. For the first time builder, there is much to be said for Ossman's straightforward approach, where he has avoided many of the kinds of issues that more experienced builders delight in debating, but which might distract the novice from simply getting on with it. Packed with full-size patterns, step-by-step instructions - a nice departure from the usual use of photographs - you too can craft a wonderful instrument.

Making A Beautiful Violin is Easier Than You Think You don't have to be a professional luthier to build a handsome hand-crafted violin. All you need are just a few common tools, wood, and the simplified violin-making process found inside the newly revised and updated Violin Making. The early version of this book helped many first-time instrument makers build their own stunning violins-and their beautiful work is displayed inside in a new color photo gallery. Author and lifelong teacher Bruce Ossman uses his simple techniques and clear instruction to guide you through every single step of making a violin. With the full-size patterns and detailed illustrations include, you will be on your way to crafting an instrument fit for an orchestra. Inside Violin Making, Second Edition: "

Helpful step-by-step instructions, featuring hundreds of detailed illustrations " Ready-to-use patterns and templates for every piece of the instrument " A complete list of the common tools and wood you will need " Stunning and inspiring color photos of violins made by readers of the first edition of Ossman's Violin Making

Very good book. Tons of illustrations. I'm currently building a guitar and thought it would be fun to give this a try. It has multiple pictures on every page of the book illustrating what it is talking about. You almost don't even need to read the book. The day I got it I tumbled through it and it makes building a violin look pretty easy. One of the other reviews said the the templates we hand drawn and they didn't feel comfortable using them. The templates are hand drawn, but they are actually pretty good. They don't bother me at all. The back of the book has some links for where to buy materials. All of them are out of date, but I think I can find the stuff eat enough.

I enjoyed this book on fiddle building. I like the hand drawn illustrations, and the photographs of some of the completed fiddles. I also enjoyed the go for it and don't be afraid to screw up attitude - just do it! Just start, and jump each hurdle as it comes ... The method of building was also somewhat unique, though perhaps a bit rough in certain regards, for a modern bench made fiddle (he used glued laminations in a mold for the bent ribs, and only touched on bending using a bending iron, etc). But keep in mind, I have played quite a few rough fiddles, and some of them sound great! Also, the book was fun to read, and you can tell that Bruce Ossman has a great personality, and loves to explore/create/travel and basically distract himself with pleasurable pursuits ... Definately worth the \$20 or so I spent on it! If you are already a pro builder, and looking for some new theories, you probably wouldn't get much more than a laugh out of this book (though I found the hand drawn illustrations very cool!)- and you've probably already read this book a long time ago anyway. If you want to build a fiddle, perhaps as a retirement hobby, this is a great book.

The book honestly is great. I love that the author was very honest about what truly makes a good violin. You get a lot of luthiers who consider themselves Stradivarius' next of kin and hold a pompous sacredness for materials that rivals that of the man himself. When in actuality science and blind sound tests have shown that the quality of a violin's sound comes from so many unknown variables that the best thing a luthier can do is assemble decent materials and concentrate on good construction techniques. Mr. Ossman does a great job of introducing amateur luthiers into the world of violin making. The only complaint I have is that the full size templates look to be hand drawn. I

was doing some of my cutting on a CNC machine and was hoping for crisper patterns to work from. Although I'm sure his sketches are accurate, the seemingly wiggly lines made me uneasy.

Seems very straightforward. Full size templates you need to photo copy so you can glue to stock and cut out. Simple to understand. You need a little understanding of woodwork and tools to get the best experience. If you have never built even a birdhouse or small jewelry box I would start there first. I have built other instruments before and now I'll try a violin with confidence.

Good book for first time violin building. Would father have had a "fold out" page of the patterns that take up two pages. The book contains enough information to do a reasonable first time build. Be it understood, carving the top and back requires a lot of effort and measuring with the patterns supplied, to get the end result desired for a precise violin.

Nice pictures and drawings but not enough details on some procedures to make your own violin. The pics of own author violin are sort of delusion of what you can construct. It can be the first step towards to plan your violin making but you will need more material on the subject to succeed. J!T

I've been looking at a number of books on violin making and I have to say that I'm glad I chose this one. The price was very reasonable, and the information and diagrams inside are very clear and easy to understand. While one reviewer stated that he uses a non-traditional method of making the sides of the violin by using laminations, the book does cover heat bending the sides with a bending iron. However unless a person is building a lot of them or hollow body guitars I doubt you're going to have a bending iron. So by putting in information on how to do it using laminated sides the author opens up the possibility to more beginners. I'm sure as a person advances in their violin making they'll want to refer to other books but for a beginner I think this book does a good job of laying out the information and steps in an easy to understand way.

Hubby loves it. He is learning to build a violin. This is a great gift for him. He recommends it highly.

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