



Neapolitan mandolin

Date

1900-1925 ca.

Primary Maker

Vega Company

Description

Soundboard: two-piece spruce: fine grain Bowl: 21 rosewood staves, 19 inner ribs narrower, divided by holly stringing Clasp: rosewood Head: mahogany or Spanish cedar; veneered with rosewood on front face; top of peghead has broken off [once formed a round hole at top of peghead] Neck: mahogany or Spanish cedar; integral with head Binding: ivoroid; trim comprised of nine-ply alternating ebony/maple stripes Fingerboard: black-stained hardwood; 18 nickel-plated brass bar frets under G course, 19 under D course, and 21 under A and E courses; imitation mother-of-pearl celluloid single-dots inlaid behind 3rd and 15th frets; pointed ovals with decorative black-ink-filled engravings behind 5th, 7th, 10th, and 12th frets Nut: bone Bridge: ebony with bone saddle on side facing fingerboard Tuners: two sets of worm-gear machine tuners with nickel-plated brass cover, nickel-plated brass rollers, and ivoroid heads; two decorative lines engraved around outer edges of cover Tailpiece: nickel-plated brass Rosette: elliptical; bound in ivoroid; trim comprised of abalone strip surrounded on either side by four-ply alternating ivoroid/ebony stripes Pick guard: imitation tortoiseshell celluloid with decorative flowering vine mother-of-pearl inlay Lacquer: slightly yellowed with craquelure Bowl lining: light-brown paper, lacquered Blocks: neck block covered with paper lining; end block either covered with paper lining or not present Top braces: spruce brace with tapered ends above

soundhole; spruce brace with tapered ends below soundhole and at widest point of soundboard Linings: kerfed Spanish cedar or mahogany

Dimensions

Total mandolin length: 598 mm (23-17/32") Top length: 301 mm (11-27/32") Maximum body width: 202 mm (7-15/16") Maximum bowl height: 150 mm (5-29/32") Head length: 145.4 mm (5-23/32") Head width, top: 65.3 mm (2-9/16") Head width, bottom: 51.1 mm (2") Neck length (nut to ribs): 147 mm (5-25/32") Neck width, nut: 28.2 mm (1-1/8") Neck width, heel: 38.1 mm (1-1/2") Soundhole height: 47 mm (1-27/32") Soundhole width: 74.3 mm (2-15/16") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): 328.5 mm (12-15/16")