



Resonator banjo-ukulele

Date

1922-1926 ca.

Primary Maker

Lyon & Healy

Description

See banjo-ukulele with similar alternating light and dark wood rim, NMM 10,665. This banjo ukulele appears to be identical in every feature to one offered in the 1925 Lyon & Healy Counter Sales Book, catalog no. 4469. However, a very similar, though not identical, instrument appears in the 1925 Wurlitzer catalog as No. 759. This instrument has a slightly different head design, with a shield-shaped upper edge rather than the figure-8 head. In that catalog, the materials described are Oregon cedar, mahogany, and magnolia inlay. It is not clear who manufactured the instrument. NMM 10,665 has a groove on the inside of the rim that appears to be without a function. In NMM 3320 this groove accommodates six brackets of the Rocco A. Carlucci tension hoop patent (U. S. Patent No. 1,409,078, awarded March 7, 1922). It is possible that this instrument was designed to have either type of tension hoop, or that the Carlucci patent took advantage of a groove that was already part of the manufacturing process for this type of instrument. Neck: three-piece Oregon cedar-mahogany-Oregon cedar Peghead: figure-8 with pointed upper edge; no veneer Fingerboard: integral with neck; seventeen nickel-silver frets; white plastic dots inlaid behind 5th and 7th frets Heel cap: none Rim: alternating 29 mm-wide pieces of Oregon cedar and mahogany, the grain running perpendicular to the head; light wood inlay along top edge of rim, possibly magnolia; groove on inside diameter at

midpoint into which tension hoop fits Head: calf-skin Tension hoop: nickel-plated steel with six brackets set into groove in rim, with screws to increase tension Back: arched maple with pith flecks; two f-holes; affixed to rim with eight nickel-plated steel dome-headed screws Nut: rosewood Tuners: nickel-plated steel pegs with tension screws and black bakelite heads Bridge: Grover bridge with black composite transverse

support, U. S. Pat. N. 769,649, Sept. 6, 1904. Tailpiece: nickel-plated steel sheet metal affixed to body with small steel screw Finish: clear varnish

Dimensions

Total instrument length: 525 mm; 20-5/8 inches Vibrating string length: 340 mm; 14-3/8 inches

Fingerboard length: 217 mm; 9-35/64 inches Fingerboard width at nut: 32 mm; 1-1/4 inches Fingerboard width at body: 43 mm; 1-11/16 inches Head diameter: 138 mm; 6-7/16 inches Rim depth: 53 mm; 2-3/16 inches