

Basic Detail Report



Viola

Date

1957-1958

Primary Maker

Aldo Zani

Description

The filled cracks on the top suggest that Zani may have used old or recycled wood that he had to repair, or that the top cracked in the process of construction, though

before varnishing. Top: two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: wide grain Back: one-piece maple cut off-the-quarter: broad curl ascending from treble to bass Ribs: quarter-cut maple: medium curl angled to left; rib corners chamfered Head and neck: maple: prominent, medium curl; pegbox without shoulders Edging: full, rounded edges Purfling: wide center strip Varnish: dark red; lighter on edges; thick with deep, widely spaced craquelure Fingerboard: ebony; angled at C-string position Nut: ebony Tailpiece: varnished ebony; tulip-shaped; ridge on lower face; pointed lower end; ivory saddle Tailgut: coated copper electrical wire Pegs: four varnished ebony with ivory pins; convex, undercut heads Saddle: ebony; set into top; finished with same varnish as body Endpin: ebony with ivory pin; turned groove around edge F-holes: lower wings channeled; undercut; inside edges stained black Linings: poplar or willow; extend over corner blocks Corner blocks: spruce; hole drilled into each corner block Top block: spruce Bottom block: spruce Bassbar: very wide Other: numerous rectangular spruce cleats on inside of top at center of lower bouts to reinforce wood defects predating viola construction: these defects are slightly visible on under the varnish as filled cracks

Dimensions

Total viola length: 685 mm Back length: 420 mm Upper bout width: 194 mm Center bout width: 127 mm Lower bout width: 245 mm Upper rib height: 35-36 mm Center rib height: 35-36 mm Lower rib height: 36-37 mm Stop length: 223 mm Vibrating string length: 376 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 153 mm