

Basic Detail Report



Guitar

Date

1947

Primary Maker

John D'Angelico

Description

John D'Angelico's New Yorker model is famous for its sumptuous Art Moderne styling. It features gold-plated Grover Imperial tuners with chevron-shaped heads and D'Angelico's signature "stairstep" tailpiece. This guitar, number 1744, has a natural finish that highlights the beautifully quilted maple back. In 1947, a young man, Mario Bagnoni (1922-2005), commissioned this custom-made guitar from D'Angelico. Bagnoni traveled on the road performing in hotels (see photo below), though after he joined the Erie Police Department in 1949, his career as a professional musician began to take a back seat to public life. Bagnoni went on to become an Erie City

Councilman, serving for thirty-two consecutive years, until his retirement in early 2004. In an interview with Michael Feldman on public radio in 2001, Bagnoni called his years as a professional musician "a great joy in my life." Stringing: six steel strings Soundboard: arched, two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: wide grain Back: two-piece, slab-cut maple with quilted figure and pith flecks; wooden pin through back into neck block on treble side of center joint; wooden pin through back into end block on bass side of center joint Ribs: two-piece, slab-cut maple with irregular, narrow curl Head: four-piece maple with black-stained maple veneer; white celluloid binding with eight-ply (black-white-black-white-black-white-black-white) celluloid purfling trim; two pieces of geometric white celluloid inlay; mother-of-pearl "D'Angelico / NEW YORK" inlay Neck: maple with medium curl; integral with head; brown-stained maple strip of inlay along center line Heel cap: two layers of white celluloid separated with thin black-white-black-white celluloid layers Binding: white celluloid; trim comprised of eight-ply (black-white-black-white-black-white-black-white) celluloid purfling strips on top and back and two-ply (black-white) celluloid purfling strips on ribs Fingerboard: ebony bound in ivoroid with single black and white celluloid purfling strips on each side; end terminating in a point, with rounded edges on the sides; 20 nickel-silver frets; mother-of-pearl block behind 17th fret; split mother-of-pearl blocks behind 1st, 5th, 9th, and 15th frets; double-split mother-of-pearl blocks behind 3rd, 7th, and 12th frets; imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 15th, and 17th frets Nut: bone Bridge: two-piece ebony (compensated) with brass screws for height adjustment; rectangular mother-of-pearl inlays on each bridge foot Tailpiece: gold-plated brass with

“stairstep” upper edge, geometric cut-outs, engraved line decoration, contrasting polished and matte texture, and hinged lower end, secured to lower rib with three gold-plated steel domed, slotted screws
Pegs: six Grover Imperial gold-over-nickel-plate worm-gear machine tuners with chevron-shaped heads
Endpin: white celluloid
Soundholes: f-holes bound in white celluloid with single black and white celluloid purfling strip trim
Pick guard: translucent dark red-brown celluloid with alternating lighter and darker bands, bound in white ivoroid with eight-ply (black-white-black-white-black-white-black-white) celluloid purfling strip trim, mounted on guitar with gold-plated brass bracket and three gold-plated steel screws
Lacquer: golden
Linings: kerfed maple
Neck block: mahogany; chamfered corners
End block: mahogany; chamfered corners
Top bracing: spruce X-brace
Grafts: spruce block grafts with beveled edges on inside of back near neck and end blocks; spruce block graft with beveled edges on inside of top near end block

Dimensions

Total guitar length: 1094 mm (43-1/16”) Back length: 542 mm (21-11/32”) Upper bout width: 358 mm (14-3/32”) Waist width: 303 mm (11-15/16”) Lower bout width: 467 mm (18-3/8”) Rib height (including edging) at heel: 86 mm (3-3/8”) Rib height, at waist: 85 mm (3-11/32”) Rib height, at end block: 83 mm (3-1/4”) Head length: 203 mm (8”) Head width, top: 107 mm (4-7/32”) Head width, bottom: 84 mm (3-5/16”) Neck length (nut to ribs): 356 mm (14”) Neck width, nut: 42 mm (1-21/32”) Neck width, heel: 54 mm (2-1/8”) Soundhole length: 173 mm (6-13/16”) Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): high E: 644 mm (25-11/32”); low E: 646 mm (25-7/16”)