

Basic Detail Report



Guitar

Date

1947

Primary Maker

John D'Angelico

Description

This Excel was the first cutaway guitar made by John D'Angelico. The instrument was sold on May 9, 1947, to a customer, Mirko, who does not appear elsewhere in the ledger books and is not otherwise identified. The rounded cutaway of the upper treble rib originated with the Gibson L-5 and Super 400 Premier models in 1939. The design facilitated access to the upper end of the fingerboard for solo playing. This guitar was once part of the extensive collection of Thomas G. Comeaux, who held dual careers as a pathologist and a celebrated Cajun musician. He performed for many years with BeauSoleil and other groups around Lafayette, Louisiana. Stringing: six steel

strings Soundboard: arched, two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: wide grain broadening toward the flanks Back: two-piece, slab-cut maple with faint medium curl descending from center joint; pith flecks; wooden pin through back into neck block on bass side of center joint Ribs: two-piece, slab-cut maple with irregular, medium curl angled to right on bass side, angled to left on treble side; some bird's eyes and pith flecks Head: three-piece (wing on bass side only) maple with black-stained maple veneer; broken pediment-style with turned, gold-plated brass ornament; white celluloid binding with two-ply (white-black) celluloid purfling trim; geometric mother-of-pearl "Excel" inlay; mother-of-pearl "D'Angelico / NEW YORK" inlay Neck: two-piece maple with irregular medium curl and bird's eyes; wood flaw on bass side near heel; integral with head; brown-stained maple strip of inlay along center line Heel cap: white celluloid with two-ply black-white celluloid trim layers on inside Binding: white celluloid; trim comprised of four-ply 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 blocks behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, and 15th frets; imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, and 15th frets Nut: bone Bridge: two-piece ebony (compensated) with brass screws for height adjustment 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 screws (one original gold-plated steel domed, slotted screw) 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: later translucent dark red-brown imitation-tortoise-shell celluloid, bound in white ivoroid with six-ply
(black-white-black-white-black-white) celluloid purfling strip trim, with two wider strips of white celluloid
along outside, mounted on guitar with later gold-plated brass bracket and three gold-plated steel screws;
rosewood volume adjustment knob with abalone eye and plug unit mounted on pickguard Pickup: later
gold-plated pickup; holes on side of fingerboard suggest a previous unit Lacquer: golden Linings: kerfed
mahogany Neck block: mahogany; chamfered corners End block: mahogany; chamfered corners Top
bracing: spruce X-brace Grafts: spruce block graft with beveled edges on inside of back near end block;
spruce grafts on inside ribs at center bout; spruce block graft with beveled edges on inside of top near end
block

Dimensions

Total guitar length: 1041 mm (41") Back length: 518 mm (20-13/32") Upper bout width: 304 mm (12")
Waist width: 258 mm (10-5/32") Lower bout width: 429 mm (16-7/8") Rib height (including edging) at heel:
79 mm (3-3/32") Rib height, at waist: 80 mm (3-1/8") Rib height, at end block: 80 mm (3-1/8") Head length:
186 mm (7-5/16") Head width, top: 102 mm (4") Head width, bottom: 78 mm (3-1/16") Neck length (nut to
ribs): 352 mm (13-7/8") Neck width, nut: 44 mm (1-23/32") Neck width, heel: 56 mm (2-3/16") Soundhole
length: 171 mm (6-23/32") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): high E: 630 mm (24-13/16"); low E:
636 mm (25-1/4")