

Basic Detail Report

5-string resonator banjo

Date

1935 - 1950 ca.

Primary Maker

Fred Gretsch Manufacturing Company

Description

Neck: two-piece maple divided thin maple strip Peghead: two-piece maple divided thin maple strip, integral with neck; veneered with pearloid, with engraved decorative design and signature, painted with sheer orange and green paints, the engraved lines filled with gold paint Fingerboard: ebony bound in ivory celluloid; 22 nickel-silver frets; mother-of-pearl "bowtie" inlays of individually varied forms behind 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th, 12th, and 19th frets; mother-of-pearl foliate inlays behind 1st, 15th, and 17th frets; single red celluloid side dots behind 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th, 15th, 17th, and 19th frets; double red celluloid side dots behind 12th fret; nickel-silver, bent-wire capos under 5th string behind 2nd, 4th, and 5th frets, counting from 5th string nut Heel cap: pearloid with engraved flower decoration, painted in orange and green sheer paints, the engraved lines filled with gold ink Head: clear plastic; metal flesh hoop Tone ring: nickel-plated Rim: 7-ply maple; inside painted silver Bracket hooks: 25 chrome-plated steel Tension hoop: chrome-plated brass with 25 notches Resonator: arched, maple plywoodbound on lower edge with pearloid; inside painted silver; chrome-plated steel flange with abstract, lobed openings Armrest: chrome-plated brass Nut: white plastic; domed, slot-head steel screw under 5th string Tuners: nickel-plated, enclosed geared pegs with ivory plastic heads; later 5th string tuner chrome-plated with pearloid head Tailpiece: chrome-plated steel Finish: very dark brown to medium red-orange shaded lacquer

Dimensions

Total instrument length: 935 mm (37-13/16") Vibrating string length: 672 mm (26-15/32"); 5th string: 494 mm (19-15/32") Fingerboard length: 482 mm (19") Fingerboard width at nut: 26 mm (1") Fingerboard width at body: 45 mm (1-25/32") Head diameter: 279 mm (11") Resonator diameter: 342 mm (13-15/32") Rim and resonator depth: 100 mm (3-15/16")