

# Basic Detail Report

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## Mandolin

### Date

1937

### Primary Maker

Gibson, Inc.

### Description

The Century Model A-C mandolin was one of three models (the other two were guitars) made by Gibson to commemorate the 1933-1934 Century of Progress Exhibition in Chicago. Based on Gibson's popular pear-shaped Model A, the A-C featured a special pearloid fretboard and maple back and ribs. Stringing: eight steel strings Soundboard: two-piece spruce: medium grain broadening slightly toward the flanks Back: flat, one-piece, slab-cut maple: irregular broad curl descending from treble to bass Ribs: two-piece, slab-cut maple: plain on bass side; faint, broad curl on treble side Head: mahogany veneered with white pearloid and T-shaped rosewood piece, bound in white celluloid with black celluloid purfling strip; rosewood inlaid with mother-of-

pearl notched diamond and mother-of-pearl "Gibson"; pearloid, bell-shaped truss rod cover secured with nickel-plated steel slot-head screws Neck: mahogany; integral with head Heel cap: none; neck heel flush with back Binding: white celluloid; no additional trim Fingerboard: white pearloid bound in white celluloid with black celluloid purfling strip; 20 nickel-silver frets; rosewood block inlays behind 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th, 12th, and 15th frets; three mother-of-pearl diamonds inlaid in rosewood blocks behind 3rd, 10th, and 15th frets; two mother-of-pearl diamonds inlaid in rosewood blocks behind 5th, 7th, and 12th frets; single imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 3rd, 5th, 7th, 10th, and 15th frets; double imitation tortoise-shell celluloid side dots behind 12th fret Nut: bone Bridge: two-piece ebony with brass screws Tailpiece: nickel-plated brass with decoratively cut upper edge; secured to lower rib with three nickel-plated steel, dome-headed screws Tuners: two sets of chrome-plated steel worm-gear machine tuners; nickel-plated brass heads Endpin: ebony with mother-of-pearl eye Rosette: oval; three ply (white-black-white) celluloid purfling strips set in from inside edge; edge bound in white celluloid Pick guard: imitation tortoise-shell celluloid Lacquer: dark brown sunburst with fine craquelure Linings: kerfed maple Neck block: mahogany, curved to fit upper bouts End block: mahogany Top braces: one spruce top brace with tapered ends Back braces: one spruce back brace with tapered ends

## Dimensions

Total mandolin length: 651 mm (25-5/8") Back length: 347 mm (13-21/32") Upper bout width: 62 mm (2-7/16") Lower bout width: 256 mm (10-1/16") Rib height (including edging) at heel: 47 mm (1-7/8") Rib height, at waist: 45 mm (1-25/32") Rib height, at end block: 47 mm (1-7/8") Head length: 162 mm (6-3/8") Head width, top: 73 mm (2-7/8") Head width, bottom: 58 mm (2-9/32") Neck length (nut to ribs): 153 mm (6") Neck width, nut: 30 mm (1-3/16") Neck width, heel: 38 mm (1-1/2") Soundhole height: 41 mm (1-5/8") Soundhole width: 65 mm (2-9/16") Vibrating string length (nut to bridge edge): E: 353 mm (13-29/32"); G: 354 mm (13-15/16")